

2017 ASEAN DECLARATION ON THE GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2025 AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Adopted in Manila, Philippines on 13 November 2017

WE, the Heads of States or Governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely: Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 31st ASEAN Summit;

UPHOLDING ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and guided by the Blueprints of the ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC) and ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), which envisions a rules-based, people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community, where our **peoples enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms**, higher quality of life and the benefits of community building, reinforcing our sense of togetherness and common identity, and guided by the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter;

UPHOLDING the general principles and decisions enshrined in the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region adopted on 5 July 1988; ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children adopted on 29 November 2004; Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted on 28 October 2010; ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD adopted in at the 21st ASEAN Summit on 18 November 2012; Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN adopted on 09 October 2013; and other relevant declarations, such as the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community, Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN, Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institutions: Caring for the Elderly, ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth, and the ASEAN Plus Three Statement on Active Ageing;

REAFFIRMING the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which is the basic and foundational framework for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, to the Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) and to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);

FURTHER REAFFIRMING the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences, by which gender mainstreaming was established as a major global strategy for promoting gender equality;

RECOGNISING the complementarity of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

ACKNOWLEDGING that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are at the center of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that gender equality is recognised and affirmed as a precondition for the realisation of sustainable development;

UNDERSCORING the need to work towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, by the promotion of women's leadership, elimination of gender stereotyping, elimination of violence against women, economic empowerment of women, and protection and empowerment of women in vulnerable situations through gender mainstreaming across the three pillars;

MINDFUL of the fact that the promotion of sustainable development and gender equality requires multi-sectoral interventions and the involvement of dialogue and development partners, international organizations, sub-regional organisations, academia, local governments/local authorities in provinces, townships, municipalities and cities, private-public partnerships, community engagement, tripartite engagement with the labor sector, social enterprises, government organisations, media, non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, inequality and violence to which all women and girls continue to face;

TOGETHER, WE DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO the gender-responsive implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 with the three ASEAN Blueprints and the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure the realisation of a people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN where all women and girls are able to reach the fullest of their potentials, through the following:

- A. **Enhance the ASEAN Member States' capacity in strengthening national and sub-national sex-disaggregated databases and analyses** on all Sustainable Development Goals, and consider establishing reliable regional gender statistics, including sex-disaggregated databases for key sectors to support ASEAN policies and programmes in the three ASEAN Blueprints towards ASEAN Community Vision 2025;
- B. **Collect, manage, analyze, disseminate and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely data** disaggregated by sex, age, and socio-cultural and economic characteristics relevant in national contexts, to the extent permitted by their respective domestic laws and policies;
- C. **Strongly encourage the monitoring and evaluation** of existing policies, plans and programmes on women and girls, including assessing the contribution of women in the economy and the economic costs of gender-based violence including violence against women and violence against girls (VAW and VAC) on the family and the State;
- D. **Reaffirm the need to mainstream a gender perspective and analysis, which may include targeted actions and investments, and gender-responsive budgeting**, in the formulation and implementation of policies, plans and programmes of all relevant sectors in the three ASEAN Community Pillars for the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- E. **Encourage more investments to close resource gaps** for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, particularly in a changing world;
- F. **Promote women's equal access to and full participation in decision-making bodies and mechanisms** involved in the implementation of all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in policy, plan and programme formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation;
- G. **Promote the engagement of men and boys** as agents and beneficiaries of change in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and as strategic partners and allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence including violence against women and violence against children (VAW and VAC);
- H. Encourage ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to engage and establish mechanisms for **engagement with women's groups and organisations**, in joint efforts to ensure the gender-responsive

implementation of policies and plans and for the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

- I. Support the development and implementation of **gender mainstreaming** initiatives across all sectoral bodies in the three ASEAN pillars.

WE ENCOURAGE relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in the three ASEAN Pillars to promote the implementation of this declaration, and task the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW), with the support of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) to review, coordinate, monitor and report its progress through appropriate instruments and actions with the support of ASEAN Member States.

ADOPTED in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines on this Thirteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.