

2025 ASEAN LEADERS' DECLARATION ON THE USE OF SPORTS FOR PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26 October 2025

WE, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (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, gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the occasion of the 47th ASEAN Summit on 26 October 2025;

RECOGNISING sports as an enabler of sustainable development and its growing contribution to the realisation of peace, the promotion of tolerance, respect, and social inclusion, as well as the empowerment of women and youth, person with disabilities, individuals and communities;

RECALLING the "Pact for the Future", and its annexes, that, inter alia, recognises the protection and promotion of culture and sports as integral components of sustainable development to pursue a future free from terrorism;

UNDERLINING that sports offer individuals and communities an opportunity to foster social cohesion, enhance resilience, and provide positive alternatives to violent extremism, particularly among youth, by fostering critical thinking necessary to counter radicalisation;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that sports is one of the most effective instruments in bringing about friendship, development, peace and integration through greater interaction and understanding among the ASEAN peoples;

REAFFIRMING our shared commitment in the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 to implement the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Strategic Plan which underlines ASEAN's commitment to enhance cooperation in addressing violent extremism, as well as the ASEAN Socio-Cultural (ASCC) Strategic Plan where youth's role in addressing contemporary and emerging challenges must be strengthened, and support a Community that advances sports to contribute towards the growth of ASEAN as a sporting hub for excellence to promote peace, health, education and socio-economic development;

RECOGNISING the necessity to strengthen cross-sectoral and cross-pillar cooperation among relevant existing ASEAN mechanisms to comprehensively address the threat of violent extremism, complementary to the law enforcement efforts under the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC);

RECALLING the ASEAN Declaration on Leveraging the Role of Sports in ASEAN Community-Building and Achieving SDGs, Vientiane Declaration on Sports Cooperation in ASEAN, ASEAN Work Plan on Sports 2021-2025 and its successor document, as well as the United Nations Action Plans on Sport for Development and Peace;

NOTING the commitment of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS) reflected in the Vientiane Declaration on Sports Cooperation in ASEAN to promote community-based, non-discriminatory, affordable, accessible programmes, sports, and physical activities for all facilities;

BEARING IN MIND that sports can foster a sense of solidarity, and develop integrity, leadership, and life skills among the youth of ASEAN, which are essential for ASEAN Community-building;

COGNISANT of the significant socio-economic benefits of sports, including its potential to improve physical and mental health and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

AWARE that sport manifestations represent a good of humanity, generating large public attention and economic impact, thus requiring protection and safeguard;

BUILDING UPON the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (ASEAN PoA PCRVE) 2018-2025, and the Work Plan for the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (Bali Work Plan) 2019-2025 as well as their successor documents;

EMPHASISING the role of sports in building social cohesion, enhancing resilience, and providing an alternative remedy to countering violent extremism, particularly among youth;

INSPIRED by the Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events and the Use of Sports and Its Values for Preventing Violent Extremism conducted by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism;

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. **PROMOTE** sports as a key tool to prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE) by fostering a culture of peace, respect, and understanding among ASEAN communities, particularly focusing on youth and people in vulnerable situations;
2. **STRENGTHEN** regional cooperation among ASEAN Member States by working closely to develop and implement sports-based initiatives that engage youth, empower communities, and build resilience against violent extremism, especially through grassroots programmes;
3. **SUPPORT** the integration of sports-based PCVE programmes, as far as possible, into national policies and frameworks, while ensuring that they align with existing efforts to address the drivers of violent extremism. **ENCOURAGE** the active involvement of sports federations and associations, local communities, schools, educational institutions, and civil society organisations in these efforts;
4. **UTILISE** sports events and activities as strategic platforms for promoting positive messages of peace, tolerance, and non-violence, and as opportunities to raise awareness about the consequences of violent extremism. **ENSURE** that these events are inclusive, accessible, and serve to strengthen cross-cultural understanding;
5. **FACILITATE** the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices between and among ASEAN Member States on the effective use of sports for PCVE, with an emphasis on scaling successful models across the region, and promote regional collaboration with key stakeholders, including international organisations, sports federations, and the private sector;
6. **EMPOWER** youth by prioritising sports as an effective platform for young people to develop key life skills such as teamwork, tolerance, leadership, resilience, and communication.

These skills contribute to their personal development and provide alternatives to engaging in violent extremism;

7. **SAFEGUARD** sports practices, to the best of our ability, against any risks of misuse and manipulation, including illicit funding of extremist activities through sports organisations or events;
8. **PROTECT** sporting events from safety and security risks in order to promote sport manifestations as a vehicle for positive messages towards large audiences;
9. **PROMOTE** equal opportunities and inclusion by using sports to foster respect for different cultures, experiences, and backgrounds. Ensure that sports programmes promote gender equality and women empowerment, encourage participation of vulnerable communities, and create safe, inclusive spaces for all individuals, regardless of their sex, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status;
10. **STRENGTHEN** social cohesion by leveraging sports to build networks of trust and collaboration across ASEAN communities. **EMPHASISE** that sports will serve as a unifying force, helping people connect and strengthen community bonds, ultimately reducing divisions that may fuel violent extremism;
11. **ADDRESS** root causes of extremism by integrating sports into broader strategies, to combat the ideologies and grievances that lead to violent extremism. **ENSURE** that sports will be used to engage individuals in constructive and positive activities as well as promote shared values of peace, tolerance, and social justice;
12. **PROMOTE** innovative partnerships across government, civil society organisations, the private sector, sport federations and international organisations to amplify the reach and impact of sports-based programmes. These partnerships will help ensure sustainability, scalability, and broader engagement in PCVE efforts;
13. **LEVERAGE** technology by utilising digital platforms and social media to promote sports-based messages of peace and inclusion. Ensure that these platforms are used responsibly to counter harmful ideologies and provide young people with positive and constructive content; and
14. **TASK** the AMMTC to coordinate with the AMMS in overseeing the overall implementation of this Declaration, including but not limited to:
 - a. Explore resource mobilisation and innovation of financing mechanisms to support sports-based programmes for peacebuilding and conflict prevention;
 - b. Organise regional training, capacity-building workshops, and seminars aimed at strengthening the skills of stakeholders involved in sports-based PCVE initiatives;
 - c. Encourage research and evidence-based policymaking on the role of sports in preventing violent extremism, including regular data collection and impact assessments; and
 - d. Strengthen collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to ASEAN partners and other external parties, such as the United Nations and other international organisations, sport federations, civil society organisations, and the

private sector, to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of sports-based PCVE initiatives.

ADOPTED on this Twenty Sixth Day of October in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, in a single original copy in the English language.