

THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN ASEAN

WE, the Heads of State or Government 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 ___ ASEAN Summit;

UPHOLDING the goals, purposes and principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015);

REAFFIRMING the goals and commitments of ASEAN to eliminating violence against women and monitor their progress as reflected in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 37th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) on 30 June 2004;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING the commitments of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration adopted at the 21st ASEAN Summit on 18 November 2012; the ASEAN Leaders’ Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia adopted at the 18th ASEAN Summit on 8 May 2011; the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17th ASEAN Summit on 28 October 2010; the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children adopted at the 10th ASEAN Summit on 29 November 2004; the Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN adopted at the 4th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare (AMRSW) on 2 August 2001; the Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children adopted at the 3rd AMRSW Meeting on 2 December 1993; and the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 21st AMM on 5 July 1988;

ACKNOWLEDGING the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) that have been ratified by all ASEAN Member States; the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Vienna Declaration); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), BPFA+5 Outcome Document; the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Child Survival, Protection and Development; A World Fit For Children Declaration; and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); as well as

the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), and 1889 (2009) on Women, Peace and Security;

WELCOMING the adoption of the Terms of Reference and Work Plan (2012-2016) of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children in ASEAN, taking into consideration the different historical, political socio-cultural, religious and economic context in the region and the balances between rights and responsibilities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of intensifying efforts of ASEAN Member States to promote and protect the rights of women and children from all forms of violence particularly those who are in vulnerable situations, including discrimination against women and children in mass and social media, discrimination against women and children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, women and children in conflict with laws, women and children in armed conflict, cyber pornography and cyber prostitution, trafficking in women and children, domestic violence, corporal punishment of children, bullying, and others;

RECOGNISING that violence against women and children occurs throughout their life cycle as a result of discriminatory practices and shall be eliminated as it impairs human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children to live in peace, equality, justice, dignity and prosperity, as well as deprives their access to opportunities and rights to achieve their full potential;

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

ASEAN Member States, individually and/or collectively, shall promote and protect the rights of women and children from all forms of violence in the region through the following measures:

1. Enact and, where necessary, reinforce or amend national legislations to eliminating violence against women and children, and enhance the protection, services, rehabilitation, recovery and reintegration of victims;
2. Integrate legislations, policies and measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and children and to protect and assist the victims/survivors in the national development plans and programmes;
3. Strengthen a holistic, rights-based and gender responsive approach to eliminate violence against women and children in the region which includes effective legislations, policies and measures to:
 - Investigate, prosecute, punish and, where appropriate, rehabilitate perpetrators;
 - Protect women and children victims/survivors and witness;

- Provide victims/survivors with access to justice, legal assistance, protection, social and health services, rehabilitation, recovery, and reintegration;
 - Prevent re-victimization of women and children from any form of violence in their home, workplace, schools, and/or communities through various programmes including economic empowerment of women victims/ survivors; and
 - Promote education and public awareness of the nature and causes of violence against women and children towards active public participation in its prevention and elimination;
4. Develop appropriate mechanisms to assist, upon request by ASEAN Member States, in implementing, monitoring and reporting the implementation of the Concluding Observations of CEDAW and CRC and other Treaty Bodies related to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and children;
 5. Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officers, policy makers, social workers, health personnel, and other stakeholders to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate gender responsive preventive and protective legislations, policies and measures for women and children victims of violence;
 6. Promote research and data collection and analysis concerning all forms of violence against women and children to support the formulation and effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes to eliminate violence against women and children and for better protection of the victims/survivors in the region;
 7. Strengthen the provision of support social services to women and children victims of violence in ASEAN through the establishment of an ACWC network of social services to facilitate the promotion of best practices, sharing of information, exchange of experts and social work professionals, and training of staff and volunteers among ASEAN Member States, as well as through the work of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium;
 8. Strengthen partnerships with external parties at international, regional, national and local levels, including with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies, civil society, community-based organisations, academia, philanthropists and private entities, in the work for the elimination of violence against women and children in ASEAN and to mobilise resources to assist the victims;

WE TASK the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to promote the implementation of this Declaration, review its progress, and mobilise resources required for the implementation.

WE ENCOURAGE ASEAN Member States and relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to support, through appropriate instruments and actions, the accomplishment of this Declaration.

Adopted in __, this __ of __ in the Year Two Thousand and __, in a single original copy, in the English Language.
