

ANNEX O

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL MATTERS



**42ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Brunei Darussalam, 23-25 August 2021**

*Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion
Towards ASEAN Community 2025*

Doc.42GA/2021/Pol Rep

**REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL MATTERS**

His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia
Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib,
The President of 42nd AIPA and Speaker of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to submit the following Report of the Committee of Political Matters.

1. The Meeting was held virtually on 24th August 2021 at 09.30 am GMT +8. It was presided over by Honourable Ms. Nik Hafimi Abdul Haadi, Member of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam as the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson from the next host country for the 43rd General Assembly of AIPA, Cambodia, was appointed for the meeting.
2. The following Parliamentarians from 9 AIPA Member Parliaments attended the meeting.

Brunei Darussalam

- a) Hon. Ms. Khairunnisa Haji Ash'ari
- b) Hon. Pehin Dato Haji Judin Haji Asar
- c) Hon. Mr. Haji Umarali Esung
- d) Hon. Mr. Haji Abdul Hamid Arsad
- e) Hon. Ms. Siti Rozaimeriyanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman
- f) Hon. Mr. Iswandy Ahmad
- g) Hon. Mr. Naim Haji Kamis
- h) Hon. Mr. Pengiran Haji Mohamed Pengiran Haji Osman

Cambodia

- a) Hon. Mr. Chheang Vun
- b) Hon. Mr. Mam Bunneang
- c) Hon. Mr. Loy Sophath

- d) Hon. Mr. Kep Chuktema
- e) Hon. Nim Chantara

Indonesia

- a) Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon
- b) Hon. Mr. Ichsan Firdaus
- c) Hon. Mr. Muslim

Lao PDR

- a) Hon. Mr. Sanya Praseuth
- b) Hon. Mr. Amphay Chitmanonh

Malaysia

- a) Hon. Mr. Dato' Mohd Rashid Bin Hasnon
- b) Hon. Mr. Dato' Seri Shahidan Kassim
- c) Hon. Mr. Yusuf Abd Wahab
- d) Hon. Mr. Wong Chen
- e) Hon. Mr. Datuk Hasanuddin Mohd Yunus

Philippines

- a) Hon. Deputy Speaker Rufus B. Rodriguez
- b) Hon. Ann K. Hofer

Singapore

- a) Hon. Mr. Lim Biow Chuan
- b) Hon. Ms. Raeesah Khan
- c) Hon. Mr. Zhulkamain Abdul Rahim

Thailand

- a) Hon. Mr. Kitti Wasinondh
- b) Hon. Gen. Thawip Netniyom
- c) Hon. Assoc. Prof. Rong Boonsuaykhwan

Vietnam

- a) Hon. Vu Hai Ha
- b) Hon. Don Tuan Phong
- c) Major General Nguyen Minh Duc
- d) Hon. Pham Phu Binh

3. Ahead of the discussion, the Chairperson reminded the meeting on the principle of consensus in the decision-making mechanism of ASEAN and AIPA. From this perspective, the Chairperson stressed that any non-agreement on one item should not affect the other items in the agenda.

4. The Committee met and discussed at length various issues related to the five draft resolutions.

a) Resolution on the Adoption of the Report of the 12th AIPA Caucus Held via Video Conference Hosted by the Parliament of Singapore.

5. The Committee unanimously approved the Report of the 12th AIPA Caucus, and agreed for its adoption.

b) Resolution on Enhancing Cybersecurity and Data Protection Towards a Resilient Cyberspace in ASEAN.

6. The Resolution was introduced in recognition of growing electronic commerce (e-commerce) which significantly contributes to the global economy but in parallel poses a threat to cybersecurity and data protection.

7. The Committee also recognized the importance of cyber security to maximize the benefits of digitalization for socio-economic and political development. In this regard, the Committee agreed that AIPA Member Parliaments play a vital role in ensuring cybersecurity and data protection in the region through the laws, policies, and regulations of ASEAN Member States. Through the Resolution, the Committee called upon AIPA Member Parliaments to: 1) urge ASEAN Member States to further engage with relevant-led ASEAN mechanisms on cybersecurity, 2) encourage ASEAN Member States leverage on regional institutions to enhance cybersecurity through various measures, and 3) urge ASEAN Member States to strengthen cooperation on cybersecurity and data protection.

8. The Committee also shared the view that strengthening the capabilities of the respective national Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and cyber security law enforcement agencies, as well as encouraging the implementation of joint regional activities to enhance cooperation and collaboration in the field of cyber security and data protection, to ensure the effective and practical implementation of the 11 voluntary principles; the non-binding norms of State behaviours in cyberspace.

c) Resolution on Fostering Human Security to Achieve Digital Inclusion in ASEAN.

9. The Committee shared the views that digital inclusion is one of the key pillars of COVID-19 recovery and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and human security is an important approach in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of the people in the region.

10. The Committee discussed and explored the role of AIPA in addressing this issue. The Committee agreed that AIPA Member Parliaments shall maximize the utilization of AIPA as a platform in promoting human security to achieve digital inclusion through meaningful dialogues and exchange of best practices. Further, AIPA Member Parliaments shall reinforce parliamentary diplomacy to support and complement the diplomatic efforts by their States/Governments.
11. Realizing the importance and emergence of this issue, the Committee extended a request to the AIPA Secretariat to look for possibilities of cooperation with the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) and explore potential areas of cooperation.

d) Resolution on Promoting Parliamentary Diplomacy to Move the ASEAN Community Forward.

12. Referring to the aims and purposes stipulated in the AIPA Statutes to move ASEAN towards the achievement of ASEAN goals by offering parliamentary contributions to ASEAN integration, the Committee agreed that as representatives of the ASEAN peoples, the AIPA Member Parliaments shall serve as a strong link for the people-centered ASEAN Community through parliamentary diplomacy.
13. The Committee underlined that parliamentary diplomacy can play more roles in addressing multidimensional impacts due to the pandemic through among others exchange of views. The Committee also noted the need to complement the efforts by the ASEAN Member States in accelerating regional integration and community building through parliamentary diplomacy.
14. The Committee agreed to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy through all levels of AIPA activities to move forward the ASEAN Community. The Committee also agreed to enhance parliamentary diplomacy between AIPA and other international organizations such as IPU, APPF and other key parliamentary counterparts. Further, the Committee encouraged ASEAN Member States to actively join AIPA activities, to promote synergy between AIPA and ASEAN.

e) Draft Resolution on Parliamentary Support on the Situation in Myanmar

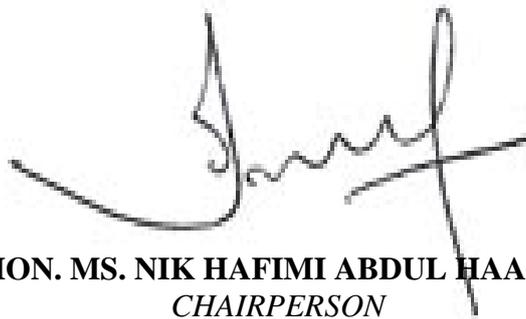
15. Indonesia presented the Draft Resolution on Parliamentary Support to the Situation in Myanmar, calling to bring peace, stability and democracy back to the country. The AIPA Member Parliaments in the Committee exchanged views on the Draft Resolution consequently. They expressed their deep concerns over the situation in Myanmar and called for efforts of all parties to seek a peaceful solution in the interests of the people. They also expressed their full support for the complete and immediate implementation of the Five-Point Consensus of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting and welcomed the appointment of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair to facilitate constructive and

inclusive dialogue among all parties' concerned towards a peaceful solution. In addition, the Committee also called for the delivery of humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre.

16. However, as consensus was not reached, the Committee decided to not further discuss the Draft Resolution. Indonesia, as the proponent of the Draft Resolution, respected the discussion, and for adoption of Resolutions (items 1 to 4) but affirmed its position for reservation on the Resolutions (items 1 to 4) of the Committee of Political Matters.

17. I hereby present the Report of the Committee on Political Matters to the 42nd General Assembly of AIPA.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NIK HAFIMI ABDUL HAADII', is positioned above the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent vertical stroke on the right side.

HON. MS. NIK HAFIMI ABDUL HAADII
CHAIRPERSON



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*Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion
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(Res 42GA/2021/Pol/01)

**RESOLUTION ON
THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 12TH AIPA CAUCUS
HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE PARLIAMENT
OF SINGAPORE**

The Forty-Second AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the Resolution No 28GA/2007/Pol/03 on the *Establishment of an AIPA Caucus* to provide a platform for regular interaction amongst AIPA Member Parliament;

Recognizing that the 12th AIPA Caucus monitored the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 41st AIPA General Assembly hosted by the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;

Acknowledging that the theme for Working Group discussion of the 12th AIPA Caucus was “Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Trade Connectivity”;

Appreciating the hosting of the 12th AIPA Caucus by the Parliament of Singapore via videoconference on 16 June 2021.

Hereby Resolves to:

Adopt the Report of the 12th AIPA Caucus held via videoconference hosted by the Parliament of Singapore.

Adopted on the Twenty Fifth Day of August Two Thousand Twenty One in Brunei Darussalam at the 42nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held virtually.



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(Res 42GA/2021/Pol/02)

**RESOLUTION ON
ENHANCING CYBERSECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION
TOWARDS A RESILIENT CYBERSPACE IN ASEAN**

Sponsored by Brunei Darussalam

The Forty-Second AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling AIPA Resolution Res.37GA/2016/Pol/04 on “Strengthening Cooperation to ensure Cybersecurity in ASEAN” adopted during the 37th AIPA General Assembly on 29 September – 3 October 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar;

Recalling further the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 adopted by the ASEAN Leaders during the 27th ASEAN Summit on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which envisions the establishment of a coherent and comprehensive framework for personal data protection in recognition that global electronic commerce (e-Commerce) has become an increasingly vital element of the global economy as part of a retailer’s multi-channel strategy;

Reaffirming the ASEAN Leaders’ Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation adopted during the 32nd ASEAN Summit on 27-28 April 2018 in Singapore, which recognized the growing urgency and sophistication of transboundary cyber threats and recommended the feasible options of coordinating cybersecurity policy;

Reiterating the commitment of the Heads of States/Governments of ASEAN Member States during the 35th ASEAN Summit on 2-3 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, which called for the need to address cybersecurity challenges in a holistic manner;

Recognizing the importance of cybersecurity for ASEAN Member States to maximize the benefits of digitalization for socio-economic and political development; and regional and international cooperation to address the growing threats to cybersecurity;

Acknowledging the work done in fostering greater regional cybersecurity cooperation and capacity building through cross-pillar cybersecurity initiatives such as the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC) and the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE);

Recognizing the vital role of AIPA Member Parliaments in ensuring cybersecurity in the region, in accordance with the domestic laws, policies and regulations of ASEAN Member States;

Fully Aware also that effective cybersecurity and data protection are not merely a matter of governments or parliaments, but should be addressed through prevention and supported throughout wider society.

Hereby resolves to:

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to urge ASEAN Member States to promote further engagement through relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms and sectoral bodies on cybersecurity such as the ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting (ADGMIN), ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity (AMCC), ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting on ICT Security, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus Experts' Working Group Meeting on Cyber Security and ASEAN Cybersecurity Coordinating Committee (ASEAN Cyber CC) for further enhancing cybersecurity cooperation in ASEAN;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to leverage on regional institutions related to cybersecurity such as the AJCCBC, ASCCE and other relevant regional collaboration frameworks to implement practical capacity-building and confidence-building measures and complement existing ASEAN efforts on cybersecurity towards the promotion of voluntary and non-binding norms of responsible State behaviours in cyberspace to enhance cybersecurity;

Urge ASEAN Member States to strengthen cooperation on cybersecurity and data protection within ASEAN and between ASEAN and its external partners and relevant stakeholders through exchanges, information sharing, collaboration mechanisms as well as Information and Communication Technology infrastructure development across strategic, policy and technical spheres; heading towards a common regional framework of cooperation to address issues of cybersecurity in conformity with relevant international laws and best practices;

Suggest that ASEAN Member States strengthen the capabilities of their respective national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERTs) and cybersecurity law enforcement agencies and encourage the undertaking of joint regional activities to enhance cooperation and collaboration in the areas of cybersecurity and data protection; and in supporting the relevant agencies in the efforts towards developing a long-term regional action plan to ensure the effective and practical implementation of the 11 voluntary, non-binding norms of State behaviours in cyberspace;

Recommend that AIPA Member Parliaments support the strengthening of relevant national policies and legal frameworks, as well as explore the possibility of harmonisation of laws in ASEAN on cybersecurity and data protection to safeguard and enhance the capacity and readiness of ASEAN towards a digital economy;

Underline that cybersecurity and data protection have become a matter of importance to every human life. Therefore, AIPA Member Parliaments are expected to actively take part in increasing awareness about the importance of cybersecurity and data protection among the people;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to ensure that their respective domestic legislations on cybersecurity will serve the purpose of enhancing democracy, human rights, and good governance.

Adopted on the Twenty Fifth Day of August Two Thousand Twenty One in Brunei Darussalam at the 42nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held virtually.



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(Res 42GA/2021/Pol/03)

**RESOLUTION ON
FOSTERING HUMAN SECURITY TO ACHIEVE DIGITAL
INCLUSION IN ASEAN**

Sponsored by Malaysia

The Forty-Second General Assembly:

Recalling the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Community Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together, ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 adopted during the ASEAN Summit, East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), and ASEAN Plus Three to promote a rules-based, people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN community;

Recalling further the 1994 Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations General Assembly A/RES/60/1 or the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted on 16 September 2005, particularly paragraph 143 thereof, A/RES/64/291 adopted on 16 July 2010 and A/RES/66/290 adopted on 10 September 2012; and the Reports of the Secretary-General A/59/2005 dated 21 March 2005, A/64/701 dated 8 March 2010, A/66/763 dated 5 April 2012 and A/68/685 dated 23 December 2013 on a common understanding on the notion of human security, which is based on the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair, and entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want;

Reaffirming support for the 37th ASEAN Summit 2020 held virtually on 12 November 2020 chaired by Viet Nam; the ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on A Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN: Rising Above Challenges and Sustaining Growth adopted on 26 June 2020; the Joint Media Statement of the 1st ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings adopted on 22 January 2021, and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan;

Noting the outcomes of the virtual segment of 142nd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Virtual Assembly held on 24-27 May 2021; Annual Inter-Parliamentary Union Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations held on 17 February 2021; and the virtual segment of the Fifth World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held on 20 August 2020; which reaffirmed the commitment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Member Parliaments in supporting the continuing efforts in digital inclusion;

Highlighting that there is a significant progress in ASEAN Member States in realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, particularly in fostering human security and promoting innovations geared towards bridging the digital divide;

Reiterating that digital inclusion as one of the key pillars of COVID-19 recovery and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Acknowledging the importance of human security approach and the value of open, unrestricted dialogue and trust among parliamentarians in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of the people in the region;

Further Acknowledging that a lack of information and digital technology negatively impacts personal, political and economic capabilities;

Reaffirming that human security must be implemented with full respect of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights, including full respect of the sovereignty of ASEAN Member States, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs; and that human security does not entail additional legal obligations on the part of ASEAN Member States.

Hereby resolves to:

Recognise AIPA as an essential platform to explore and promote the common understanding on the concept and approach of human security through meaningful dialogues and exchange of best practices to achieve digital inclusion in the region;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to reinforce parliamentary diplomacy in supporting and complementing diplomatic efforts by States/Governments;

Call upon AIPA Parliamentarians to consider the needs of their respective communities in enhancing human securities of freedom from want, fear and indignity through cohesive and responsive measures in accordance with the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights and relevant ASEAN instruments;

Support the embodiment of human security ethos of freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom from indignity as part of AIPA's common commitment and aspiration;

Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments to actively collaborate on potential human security approach, including but not limited to ACRF and its Implementation Plan, that address social, political and economic matters at the regional and national levels;

Recommend the AIPA Member Parliaments to provide their stronger national legal instruments and other necessary strides aimed at accelerating the digital inclusion particularly in support of pandemic recovery and the SDGs by 2030;

Urge the AIPA Member Parliaments to support efforts by ASEAN Member States to effectively implement the Broad Strategy 4-Accelerating Inclusive Digital transformation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, the ASEAN Digital Master Plan 2025, adoption and realisation of the ASEAN 4IR Strategy, taking into account the human security approach;

Emphasise the importance of engagement between parliamentarians and their respective communities in raising awareness on digital inclusion and human security approach;

Request the AIPA Secretariat to work with the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) to explore potential areas of cooperation.

Adopted on the Twenty Fifth Day of August Two Thousand Twenty One in Brunei Darussalam at the 42nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held virtually.



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(Res 42GA/2021/Pol/04)

**RESOLUTION ON
PROMOTING PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY
TO MOVE THE ASEAN COMMUNITY FORWARD**

Sponsored by Thailand

The Forty-Second AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the Resolution on the “Contribution of Parliaments to Enhancing the Role of the United Nations and the Strengthening of Parliaments' Involvement in Foreign Policy through the Development of Parliamentary Diplomacy and Closer Collaboration between the Executive and the Legislative,” adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) during the 88th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Stockholm, Sweden on 12 September 1992, which states clearly that parliamentary diplomacy plays an important role in strengthening the United Nations to achieve its goals;

Acknowledging the Resolution on “Promoting Parliamentary Diplomacy for Peace, Security and Prosperity in the Region and The World” adopted by the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) during its 26th Annual Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2018, which provides the crucial role of parliament at the international stage and a platform for solving issues in many aspects, including political, economic and social issues;

Recognizing the Pattaya Declaration adopted during the General Assembly of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) which encourages parliamentarians to implement the concept of parliamentary diplomacy by increasing their participation in international affairs as well as working more closely with their respective governments on such area;

Emphasizing the importance to promote a rule-based, people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community bound by fundamental principles, shared values and norms, including the implementation of ASEAN declarations and agreements at the national level, to facilitate regional integration in moving forward the ASEAN Political-Security Community envisaged in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

Reaffirming the aims and purposes in the AIPA Statutes to move ASEAN towards the achievement of ASEAN goals and also by establishing and maintaining exchange and dissemination of information as well as coordination, interaction and consultations with ASEAN by offering parliamentary contributions to ASEAN integration;

Realizing that since parliamentarians are representatives of the people, the development of inter-parliamentary relationship through parliamentary diplomacy can serve as a strong link for the people-centered ASEAN Community;

Recognizing challenges posed by rapidly-changing geo-strategic landscapes, emerging complex traditional and non-traditional security challenges, unprecedented and multifaceted impacts of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;

Underlining that parliamentary diplomacy can play more roles in addressing multidimensional impacts due to the pandemic through inter-alia exchange of views on the formulation of necessary strides, which is consistent particularly with democracy and fundamental human rights;

Being convinced of the need to enhance parliamentary diplomacy to support efforts by the Governments of ASEAN Member States to move forward regional integration and Community-building amidst uncertainties and challenges, maintain ASEAN unity and centrality while enhancing ASEAN's capacity to effectively respond to emerging challenges as well as fostering a sustainable and resilient development path for the ASEAN Community.

Hereby resolves to:

Strengthen parliamentary diplomacy through all levels of AIPA activities to move the ASEAN Community forward in achieving regional peace, stability and security, dynamic and inclusive economic growth, green economy, equitable and sustainable development, human security and caring societies;

Enhance parliamentary diplomacy between AIPA and other international organizations, such as IPU, APPF and other key parliamentary counterparts;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to support the promotion and the protection of democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights;

Encourage the Governments of ASEAN Member States to join actively AIPA activities in ensuring that the Interface between Leaders of AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit will focus on concrete actions in addressing issues of concern to all people, stability and development of ASEAN Member States;

Reinforce cooperation between AIPA Member Parliaments and Governments of ASEAN Member States through the AIPA framework which encompasses the AIPA General Assembly, AIPA Caucus as well as AIPA observer countries to push for the harmonization of laws, regulations or practices among member countries;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to increase their efforts in addressing any issues related to laws or international agreements and promote ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms as well as principles of international law governing the peaceful conduct of relations;

Instruct the AIPA Secretariat to work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat in identifying legislative impediments to the realization of the ASEAN Community especially in areas of political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation, to prepare agenda for the annual Interface between Leaders of AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States.

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