



**THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE 42nd ASEAN INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
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23rd – 25th August 2021



Theme: Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion towards ASEAN Community 2025

**CONCEPT NOTE ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION
STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND ENHANCING DIGITAL INCLUSION TO REDUCE
CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS**
(Proposed by Brunei Darussalam)

The resolution reaffirms the importance of climate change as a regional challenge that has been highlighted in several AIPA General Assembly Resolutions in 2007, 2010, 2016 and 2019 respectively. At the 34th ASEAN Summit in June 2019, ASEAN Leaders shared a concern for the multi-faceted impact and risks of climate change and climate-related disasters on the people of ASEAN. ASEAN Leaders further reaffirmed the importance of advancing cooperation on environmental protection and conservation with great efforts to address cross-cutting issues for sustainable development, including climate change at the 36th ASEAN Summit in June 2020. At the 37th ASEAN Summit in November 2020, ASEAN Leaders underscored the increasingly pivotal role of digital technology in achieving an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic growth in the region. ASEAN is one of the most dynamic and fastest growing regions in the world, with high vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change. These pledges therefore present ASEAN's call for achieving regional climate-resilience through increased adaptation and coping capabilities, which could be accelerated through strengthened cooperation and enhanced digital inclusion.

Climate change is the most pressing environmental challenge that the world is facing today. The impacts are already observed worldwide, especially in countries vulnerable and exposed to sea level rise, warmer temperature and extreme weather. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that, if the current global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions rate continues without mitigation measures, the global average temperature is likely to rise by a further 4.0 degrees Celsius, triggering serious consequences including a sea level rise up to 60cm and more severe weather by end of the century. ASEAN is "particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as a large proportion of the population and economic activity is concentrated along coastlines; the region is heavily reliant on agriculture for livelihoods; there is a high dependence on natural resources and forestry; and the level of extreme poverty remains high."

ASEAN's concerns and responses to the threat of climate change and the urgency of addressing its impacts are expressed through various outcome documents which this resolution seeks to reaffirm. This resolution further seeks to iterate the importance of digital inclusion in strategies, policies, action plans and roadmaps for a greater implementation and enhancement of climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience to address climate change issues.

Climate change is projected to exacerbate the vulnerability and exposure of ASEAN community, natural environment and built environment to climate-induced disasters. The frequency and intensity of hydrological, meteorological and climatological disasters has been increasing over the last 50 years particularly compared to geophysical disasters, at least in part due to the impacts of climate change on disaster frequency and intensity. The changing climate

has given way to more frequent and severe climate-related phenomena such as flood, landslide, draught, forest wildfires, severe storms and rising sea level in the ASEAN region. These disasters are occurring at a higher rate and are more extreme.

It is, therefore, a crucial time for the ASEAN Member States (AMS) to enhance cooperation to reduce the risks and impacts of climate change by exploring the opportunity of turning digital technology innovation into climate action, through potential mechanisms such as a Disaster Risk Management **regional data centre; centralised system network; early warning system; online hazard mapping system;** Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a **monitoring and tracking tool;** as well as a **real-time online system for GHG inventory reporting.**

It is also important to recognise the importance of increasing communities' capacity to adapt and cope to impacts of changing climate, and enhance resilience particularly through public-private partnerships. These partnerships provide opportunity to narrow current capacity gaps, offer knowledge transfer, innovation, investments and resources in building digital technology infrastructure and achieve a common ASEAN goal that is to reduce climate change impacts.