EXPLANATORY NOTE

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON

FOSTERING HUMAN SECURITY IN DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR ASEAN

The concept of human security dates back to adopting the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1945. In addition, the 1994 Human Development Report described seven areas in which human security could be threatened: economic, health, environmental, personal, community, political, and food security. Therefore, in its broadest term, human security means freedom from want, freedom from fear, and a life of dignity (freedom from indignity).

A digitally inclusive society in ASEAN is part of ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 desired outcomes. However, there are four main barriers to achieving access to digital services for everyone in ASEAN - lack of digital skills, high prices, lack of relevant services and content, and lack of available connectivity[1]. By fostering Human Security, these barriers can be overcome.

Digital inclusion addresses the digital divide[2] and digital literacy. Digital inclusion[3] has been explicitly articulated to address issues of opportunity, access, knowledge, and skill at the level of policy – where Parliamentarians can play their roles at a local level. Whereas discussion around the digital divide tends to focus on the access available to individuals, digital inclusion is meant to focus on a practical, policy-driven approach that addresses the needs of communities as a whole. In short, digital inclusion is a framework for assessing and considering the readiness of communities to provide access to opportunities in a digital age[4].

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[1] ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025. https://asean.org/storage/ASEAN-Digital-Masterplan-2025.pdf
[2] the digital divide to consist of multidimensional aspects of technological inclusion: "an access divide, a skills divide, an economic opportunity divide, and a democratic divide" - Mossberger, K., Tolbert, C. J., & Stansbury, M. (2003). Virtual inequality: beyond the digital divide. Washington DC: Georgetown University Press.
[3] Bradbrook and Fisher (2004) advocate the '5 Cs' of digital inclusion: connectivity (access), capability (skill), content, confidence (self-efficacy) and continuity. Bradbrook, G., and Fisher, J. (2004). Digital Equality: Reviewing Digital Inclusion Activity and Mapping the Way Forwards. London: CitizensOnline.
[4] https://digitalinclusion.umd.edu/content/what-digital-inclusion

"The digital divide is a simplistic phrase used to explain the gap between people who can easily use and access technology and those who cannot. The term digital divide has been in common use to refer to the sense of technological haves and have-nots for over a decade.[5]"

Therefore, Digital Inclusion efforts can foster Human Security adoption in ASEAN via discussion & cooperation among Parliamentarian. Human Security ethos of freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom from indignity ensure digital inclusion implementation can bridge the gap in the digital divide.

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[5] West, J. C. (2011). Without a net: librarians bridging the digital divide. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited.