



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

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

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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

**Background**

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly or AIPA, consisting of ten (10) parliaments of ASEAN Member States, has one of its objectives to promote cooperation and close relations among parliaments of ASEAN Member States parallel with ASEAN formed by their governments. According to AIPA Statutes, the organization has been focusing on increasing its potential to strengthen and integrate works of legislative branch in ASEAN into more concrete outcomes. Moreover, the AIPA Statues also aim to increase in relations among its member, restructure of the organization, and to reinforce cooperation between AIPA and ASEAN to work more closely through meeting channels. In order to reach such aim, the Informal Meeting between AIPA and ASEAN leader in 2009, is the first step of administrative and legislative sides of ASEAN to share and exchange views to support ASEAN and since 2009 the two parties has continued to meet annually during ASEAN Summits, except for the year 2018. In addition, the name of the meeting has change from The Informal Meeting into ASEAN-AIPA Interface Meeting. Moreover, AIPA caucus was established under AIPA meeting framework to be a forum for discussing ASEAN issues of common concern as well as to increase interaction between two organizations.

However, since 2009, the AIPA-ASEAN leader meeting has focused only on exchanging views between both sides and only a report but no further concrete action or common policy derived from the meeting. Furthermore, AIPA caucus also needs more intention (involvement/effort) from ASEAN because, at present, the topics of discussion were made alone by AIPA and there are a few times that ASEAN representatives joined the forum to share and exchange views to make the meeting's outcome reflecting common concerns from both sides.

**Recommendation**

The concept of Parliamentary diplomacy which aims to increase a role of parliament to support and work more closer with its government has been adopted and stated in resolutions of regional and global parliamentary forum for example Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum: APPF, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: Pace, and Parliamentary Union – IPU. This approach is focusing on increasing the role of Parliament by using legislative tools to help facilitate any unsettlement issues that the government cannot reach their international agreements. In fact, this concept has never been in any of AIPA resolution since its establishment

Therefore, in order to reaffirm aims and purposes in the AIPA Statutes to move ASEAN forward as well as to increase closer cooperation and interactions between AIPA and ASEAN, concept of Parliamentary Diplomacy should be applied in AIPA activities by

- Urging the Governments of ASEAN member states to join AIPA in ensuring that ASEAN-AIPA Interface during the ASEAN Summit will focus on concrete action to address issues of significant concern to all the peoples of ASEAN member countries;
  - Reinforcing cooperation between AIPA and ASEAN through the AIPA framework encompassing AIPA General Assembly, AIPA Caucus as well as AIPA observer countries to push forward harmonization of laws, regulations or practices among member countries;
  - Requesting AIPA Member Countries to increase their efforts in facilitating any issue related to laws or international agreements under the ASEAN framework in their national legislation process as well as monitoring and urging their governments to implement such issues;
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