

ANNEX Q

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL 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/Soc Rep

**REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL 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,

Your Excellencies,
Honourable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour to submit the following Report of the Committee on Social Matters.

1. The Meeting was held virtually on 24th August 2021 at 4.30 pm GMT +8. It was presided over by Honourable Ms. Khairunnisa Haji Ash'ari, Member of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam as the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson from the next host country, Cambodia was appointed for the meeting.
2. The following Parliamentarians from 9 AIPA Member Parliaments attended the meeting.

Brunei Darussalam

- a) Hon. Mr. Ong Tiong Oh
- b) Hon. Pehin Dato Haji Judin Haji Asar
- c) Hon. Mr. Iswandy Ahmad
- d) Hon. Mr. Haji Tahamit Haji Nudin
- e) Hon. Mr. Haji Abdul Wahab Apong
- f) Hon. Mr. Haji Emran Haji Sabtu

Cambodia

- a) Hon. Mr. Yang Sem
- b) Hon. Mrs. Nin Saphon
- c) Hon. Mrs. Lork Kheng
- d) Hon. Mrs. Un Sokunthea
- e) Hon. Mrs. Mak Vansitha
- f) Hon. Mr. Long Bunny

Indonesia

- a) Hon. Mr. Putu Supadma Rudana
- b) Hon. Mr. Arkananta Akram

Lao PDR

- a) Hon. Mrs. Thoummaly Vongphachanh
- b) Hon. Mr. Bounelome Keobouahome

Malaysia

- a) Hon. Mrs. Dato' Sri Hajah Rohani Abdul Karim
- b) Hon. Mr. Wong Chen
- c) Hon. Mr. Ahmad Fadhli Shaari

Philippines

- a) Hon. Ms. Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas

Singapore

- a) Hon. Mr. Sitoh Yih Pin
- b) Hon. Ms. Hany Soh
- c) Hon. Mr. Don Wee

Thailand

- a) Hon. Mr. Jetn Sirathranont
- b) Hon. Mr. Chakkrapan Pornnimit
- c) Hon. Ms. Pechdau Tohmeena

Vietnam

- a) Hon. Mr. Nguyen Tuan Anh
- b) Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai
- c) Hon. Mr. Dinh Cong Sy
- d) Hon. Mr. Pham Phu Binh

3. In the spirit of friendship, solidarity and cooperation, the Committee on Social Matters discussed and approved three (3) Resolutions:

- a) **Resolution on the Adoption of the 4th AIPACODD Report and Resolution on Prevailing the Contemporary and Responsive Challenges Towards Drug-Free ASEAN**

4. The Committee considered and adopted the Report of the meeting of the 4th AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) and the Resolution on Prevailing the Contemporary and Responsive Challenges Towards Drug-Free ASEAN which was held via videoconference on 24th May 2021, hosted by the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam at the International Convention Centre, Berakas, Brunei Darussalam.

5. The Resolution emphasised on commanding the AIPA Member Parliaments to reaffirm its stance of zero tolerance approach, introduce effective measures, reinforce existing policies, promote further cross-border cooperation and strengthen cooperation with drug law enforcements agencies, national authorities and other institutional bodies to ensure the commitment of AIPACODD in its strive towards a drug-free ASEAN.

b) Resolution on Strengthening Cooperation and Enhancing Digital Inclusion to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change

6. The resolution reaffirmed the importance of climate change as a regional challenge that has been highlighted in several Resolutions adopted at the previous AIPA General Assemblies.
7. During the deliberation, the delegates shared the same concern on the vulnerability of the region to the climate change threats that could affect the vital yet vulnerable segments of the economic sectors including agriculture, natural and built environments, biodiversity, food supply, food security, and public health. The delegates acknowledged the importance of regional cooperation and the role of digital technology in advancing climate action and reducing the risk of climate change in the region.
8. Realizing the importance of regional cooperation, the Committee unanimously agreed to collaborate in utilizing digital technology as an effective enabling tool for the management, monitoring, warning, reporting information on climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation. Hence through the resolution, the Committee called upon the ASEAN Member States to establish a network of information exchanges in climate science, research, and systematic observation and data sharing. Further, the delegation also urged the ASEAN Member States to strengthen climate financing and enhance opportunities for technical assistance in terms of capacity building and technology transfer among one another.

c) Resolution on Localising the Sustainable Development Goals for Effective National Implementation

9. Taking into consideration the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015, the Resolution emphasized the need for Parliamentarians of the AIPA Member Parliaments to play a progressively crucial role in driving forward effective national implementation of the Goals and Targets. The Resolution further emphasized that localizing the SDGs will accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to be relevant and beneficial to the people of ASEAN.
10. The Committee agreed that as the people's elected representatives, Parliamentarians should play an active role to ensure laws and policies contributed to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Committee also stressed the importance of coordination, cooperation, and communication between the decision-making bodies at all levels of government and the private sector for effective implementation. Thus, the Committee considered setting up a mechanism of communication with various

stakeholders to enable Parliamentarians to have a wide range of perspectives in reviewing the national priorities and policies, which further enhance the role of local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda in their local context.

11. Aside from that, the delegates acknowledged that digitalization offers an opportunity to improve interaction, coordination, and cooperation among stakeholders. The delegates also believed that digitalization is critical to support timely data availability, data accessibility, and data quality. It is also critical to effectively monitor the progress of the implementation of the action plan. Thereby, the Committee agreed to call on Parliamentarians of AIPA Member Parliaments to review policies that will develop innovative and coherent programs for upskilling and reskilling that assure digital connectivity and participation of the local citizen in implementing and monitoring the SDGs.

d) Draft Resolution on Technology to Facilitate Greater Election Participation

12. Malaysia, as the proposing country, presented a brief explanation on the Draft Resolution on Technology to Facilitate Greater Election Participation. As elections are considered as an internal affair of each ASEAN Member State, there was a concern that the Draft Resolution is not in harmony with the principle of non-interference. As suggested by some AIPA Member Parliaments, the Committee decided to defer the Draft Resolution to the next AIPA General Assembly.

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

Thank you.



HON. MS. KHAIRUNNISA HAJI ASH'ARI
CHAIRPERSON



**42ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
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(Res 42GA/2021/Soc/01)

**RESOLUTION ON
THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 4TH MEETING
OF THE AIPA COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS (AIPACODD) AND
THE RESOLUTION ON
PREVAILING THE CONTEMPORARY AND RESPONSIVE
CHALLENGES TOWARDS DRUG-FREE ASEAN**

The Forty-Second AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling Resolution 23GA/2002/Soc/07 on the *Terms of Reference of the AIPO Fact-Finding Committee (AIFOCOM) to Combat the Drug Menace* which stated that the AIFOCOM shall meet at least once a year, preferably in the country where the AIPA General Assembly is to be held that year, and Resolution 40GA/2019/Org/17 which resolved that the 41st General Assembly shall be held in Viet Nam;

Further recalling Resolution 38GA/2017/Soc/02 on *The Terms of Reference of the AIPACODD* which stated the transformation from AIFOCOM to AIPACODD as a parliamentary tool to fight dangerous drugs and mandated the AIPA Secretariat to ensure legal and mutual cooperation and the sharing of information and best practices among AIPA Member Parliaments to fight the drug menace;

Noting that the 4th AIPACODD Meeting was held via videoconferencing on 24 May 2021 hosted by the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, and the report of the 4th AIPACODD Meeting including the Resolution on Prevailing the Contemporary and Responsive Challenges Towards Drug-Free ASEAN;

Recognizing that the Report of the 4th AIPACODD Meeting and the Resolution on Prevailing the Contemporary and Responsive Challenges Towards Drug-Free ASEAN demonstrated unified concern and action by AIPA Member Parliaments of achieving a drug-free ASEAN region.

Hereby resolves to:

Adopt the Report of the 4th AIPACODD Meeting and the Resolution on Prevailing the Contemporary and Responsive Challenges Towards Drug-Free ASEAN.

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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ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
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(Res 42GA/2021/Soc/02)

**RESOLUTION ON
STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND ENHANCING DIGITAL
INCLUSION TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Sponsored by Brunei Darussalam

The Forty-Second AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling AIPA Resolution 28GA/2007/SOC/07 on Climate Change as a Regional Challenge; AIPA Resolution 31GA/2010/SOC/01 on Climate Change, Disaster Management and Pandemic Prevention; AIPA Resolution 37GA/2016/SOC/03 on Enhancing Cooperation in Response to Climate Change in ASEAN; and AIPA Resolution 40GA/2019/SOC/05 on Regional Parliamentary Initiative for Enhancing Climate Change in ASEAN;

Noting the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted in 2015, which aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, committed to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degree Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels and committed to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;

Acknowledging ASEAN's commitment to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of different national circumstances;

Reiterating the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 25th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25) adopted in Bangkok on 2 November 2019;

Recognising the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change Action Plan (2016-2025), ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation Phase II (2021 – 2025) and ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2021-2025);

Acknowledging with a deep concern the increasing vulnerability and exposure of ASEAN region to climate change threats, and the looming displacement of economically dependent residents living along the region's coastlines due to the rising sea levels, increasing temperature and extreme weather conditions, and exacerbating climate-induced disasters such as flood, flash floods, landslides, forest fires and transboundary haze pollution;

Acknowledging the importance of regional cooperation in the areas of sustainable utilisation of natural resources, enhancement of disaster management capacities and the adoption of capacity-building initiatives for disaster risk reduction, which includes but not limited to the enhancement of the preparedness and response for emerging multi-hazard and large scale disasters, to enhance ASEAN's capability to mitigate and adapt to climate change and reduce the adverse risks and impacts of climate-induced catastrophes to the vital yet vulnerable segments of key economic sectors like agriculture, natural and built environments, biodiversity, food supply and food security, and public health;

Realising the role of digital technology and the achievements of the 4th Industrial Revolution in socio-economic development in advancing climate action and reducing the risks of climate change in the region.

Hereby resolves to:

Encourage ASEAN Member States initiatives to align strategies, policies, action plans and roadmaps particularly on climate change mitigation, resilience and adaptation, while considering utilising digital technology as an effective enabling tool;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to strengthen policy coherence among several critical sectors development through digital technology adaptation;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to collaborate and provide guidance within ASEAN in utilising available resources towards integrating digital technology for the management, monitoring, warning, reporting information on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change mitigation resilience and adaptation as well as encouraging AIPA Member Parliaments to adopt and amend the relevant laws and regulations on climate change and disaster control;

Call upon ASEAN to establish cooperation and a network of information exchanges in climate science, research and systematic observation and data sharing between ASEAN Member States. In addition to setting up a harmonised regional data centre to coordinate the sharing of information between ASEAN Member States with a close link towards Disaster Risk Management, it may also be set up to carry out climate assessments, introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data as a monitoring and tracking tool, generate an online hazard mapping and early warning system;

Urge ASEAN Member States to explore, enable and strengthen climate financing and enhance opportunities for technical assistance; capacity building and technology transfer among one another to facilitate relevant and timely climate actions towards climate adaptation and resilience;

Emphasise the importance of enhancing digital inclusion in tackling climate change to improve the adoption of green technologies and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

Enhance public preparedness against climate-induced disasters through the promotion of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCA and DRR) programmes improve education, awareness-raising, human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning to build more disaster-resilient communities at all levels of society;

Strengthen public and private partnerships at national and regional levels to enhance community resilience and increase capacity to adapt and cope with the impacts of changing climate.

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/Soc/03)

**RESOLUTION ON
LOCALISING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR
EFFECTIVE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION**

Sponsored by Malaysia

The Forty-Second General Assembly:

Guided by the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on *ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together* and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 for a peaceful, stable, and resilient Community able to respond effectively to challenges;

Referring to the United Nations Resolution on “*Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015 in New York, and the Decade of Action announced in September 2019 for accelerating sustainable solutions to the world’s biggest challenges;

Also referring to Hanoi Declaration on “the Sustainable Development Goals: *Turning Words into Action*” adopted by the 132nd Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held in Hanoi on 1st April 2015, which aims to promote the parliamentary engagement in the implementation on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the IPU Self-Assessment Toolkit designed to assist Parliaments in assessing the effectiveness of their participation in implementing the goals in their own country;

Taking note of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on 20 October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador, as the key instrument for enabling national, sub-national and local government units and all stakeholders to achieve sustainable urban development, as well as the outcome of the ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium on “Localising the SDGs and realising poverty eradication” in Siem Reap, Cambodia in 2018, which states that strengthening the governance at the local level can make a significant impact in developing and implementing inclusive and coherent policies;

Fully aware that the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can uplift the standards of living of our peoples and that its implementation requires the involvement of the private sectors, especially the participation of parliamentarians;

Recognizing that strengthening governance at the local level can make a significant impact in developing and implementing inclusive and coherent policies;

Acknowledging that AIPA parliamentarians play an active role in this regard to ensure laws and policies contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda;

Stresses the importance of enabling institutional frameworks and structures for better coordination and cooperation as well as clear communication between and within decision-making bodies in all levels of government and the private sector for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

Further acknowledging that the challenges in designing mechanisms and strategies exist, and that it is necessary to ensure that the spirit of the 2030 Agenda trickles down and makes a real impact at the local level, integrating them into policies and governance frameworks;

Fully aware that digitalisation offers an opportunity to improve interaction, coordination and cooperation among stakeholders;

Noting with deep concern that the digital divide among the ASEAN Member States impact the flow of information across the region and affects the overall push towards social and economic integration;

Noting that the need to enhance capacity-building and support on timely data availability, data accessibility, and data quality is critical to effectively monitor progress in the achievement of the SDGs;

Mindful that sharing of knowledge and exchange of good practices among the AIPA Member Parliaments can be valuable opportunities for peer-to-peer partnerships and learning to accelerate localised SDG initiatives;

Bearing in mind the importance of creating an environment that facilitates new initiatives, innovation and partnerships with the private sector to align strategies with sustainable development objectives and funding the initiatives;

Realising that COVID-19 pandemic has critically affected people at every level, especially vulnerable groups, thus humanitarian efforts can plan a role in providing assistance to people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in all areas.

Hereby resolves to:

Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments, state assemblies, sub-national and local governments to raise awareness on the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda and build a national consensus to harmonise the SDGs with their national development plans, thus creating ownership, commitment and accountability;

Consider setting up a mechanism to communicate with stakeholders from the public and private sectors, and to include their perspectives into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

Call upon parliamentarians to review strategies and gaps in national priorities and policies to enhance the role of local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda in their local contexts;

Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments to further engage in law-making, supervising and promoting the development and implementation of their respective National Action Plans for Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of the people;

Remind the AIPA Member Parliaments to eliminate laws, regulations, policies and practices that discriminate or restrict the participation of women, the poor, vulnerable, marginalised, and minority groups in all levels of decision-making;

Call upon the AIPA Member Parliaments to further refine the IPU Self-Assessment Toolkit, digitalise and develop it with more in-depth local insights for the application at sub-national levels by parliamentarians to promote their role in the sub-national implementation of Sustainable Development Goals;

Further Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments to participate in the Voluntary National Review process to ensure that implementation of the SDGs is on track;

Call on all parliamentarians to address the digital divide, promote trade, create jobs, and stimulate growth by looking for new and innovative solutions, including technologies, in their local communities and to pass the appropriate laws that will provide the appropriate infrastructure and support needed for all groups to have equal access to information and digital services;

Promote the use of technological advances to facilitate public access to services and general information to deliver efficient urban management, and to enable an innovative ecosystem for digital economy;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to improve the availability and quality of disaggregated data and to use that data for informed decision-making process to implement and monitor the SDGs as well as filling gaps;

Call upon parliamentarians to review policies that will develop innovative and coherent programmes for upskilling and reskilling that assure digital connectivity and participation for the poor and marginalised groups;

Promote multi-stakeholder and multi-lateral cooperation to advance and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda by taking advantage of digitalisation both in public and private sectors;

Further encourage parliamentarians to strengthen cooperation with the private sectors to foster sustainable development;

Urge ASEAN Member States, where possible, to provide humanitarian assistance to ensure the equitable access to the distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations, medicine and public health services to all as well as address the regional cooperation and engagement of communities to cope with COVID-19 pandemic that could contribute to achieving the SDGs;

Promote cooperation among the AIPA Member Parliaments to collectively address challenges to achieve the 2030 Agenda and to mitigate any negative impact and promote recovery from COVID-19 pandemic.

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.
