



## **ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition**

1. **WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 31st ASEAN Summit held in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines on 13 November 2017;
2. **WELCOMING** nutrition security-related commitments such as the 2015 United Nations General Assembly declaration of 2016 to 2025 as the Decade of Action on Nutrition which calls for the implementation of the Rome Declaration and its Framework for Action, endorsed by 170 countries during the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in Rome on 19-21 November 2014; the 2025 Global Voluntary Targets for the prevention and control of Noncommunicable Diseases adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2011; the 2025 Global Nutrition Targets for Improved Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2012, both of which were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2011 and 2015, respectively, and the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases in ASEAN adopted by ASEAN Leaders on 20 October 2013;
3. **GUIDED** by the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in September 2015 by the UN General Assembly which explicitly included nutrition through the SDG 2, "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture", and reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on the gains achieved on the Millennium Development Goals and identifying nutrition alongside poverty eradication, health, education and food security as continuing development priorities;

4. **COMMITTED** to the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community 2025 which envisions to be “inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic, engaging and benefiting the peoples”;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGING** that the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 recognizes that towards an inclusive community, and “complementing the inclusive growth agenda of the ASEAN Economic Community, concerns of all ASEAN people on matters related to social protection, women empowerment, gender equality, promotion and protection of human rights, equitable access to opportunities, poverty eradication, health, decent work, education and information” shall need to be equally addressed;
6. **RECOGNISING** that the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 includes a strategic measure “to promote a community that is healthy, caring, sustainable and productive, and one that practices healthy lifestyle resilient to health threats and has universal access to healthcare”;
7. **DEEPLY CONCERNED** that various forms of malnutrition as defined in the 2016 Regional Report on Nutrition Security in the ASEAN Vol. 2 affect a staggering proportion of people worldwide, of which the same report indicated that among children under-five, 17.9 million are stunted, 5.4 million are wasted and 4.5 million are overweight, and 21 million suffer from anaemia, and various types of micronutrient deficiencies, thus presenting a serious public health and socio-economic concern through increased child illnesses and even death, disabilities, cognitive and learning deficits, and noncommunicable diseases later in life;
8. **NOTING THAT** the most vulnerable, poor and disadvantaged groups, including children, older persons, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, persons with disabilities, other marginalised groups, people living in at-risk areas and populations in geographically-isolated and disadvantaged areas are particularly affected by undernutrition;

9. **NOTING FURTHER** that the general population is affected by problems of overweight, obesity, and imbalanced intake of nutrients, also traceable to intrauterine and early childhood malnutrition, contributing to an increased burden of diet-related noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular diseases and some cancers;
10. **EQUALLY CONCERNED** as highlighted above, that ASEAN is affected by a double burden of malnutrition;
11. **COMMITTED** that addressing malnutrition and diet-related noncommunicable diseases globally and across ASEAN requires well-coordinated and coherent regional and sustained multi-sectoral inter-linkages and partnerships, without which nutrition goals may not be achieved;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT WE:**

12. **AGREE** on the urgent need to accelerate evidence-based multi-sectoral actions, and scale up interventions to reduce and ultimately end all forms of malnutrition, particularly among the most vulnerable, poor and disadvantaged groups of ASEAN;
13. **EXPAND AND INTENSIFY EFFORTS** to engage with relevant sectors and stakeholders to accelerate the adoption of coherent policies, interventions and nutrition-enhancing actions, while safeguarding against possible conflicts of interest, to achieve synergies in action and impact in addressing the multi-factorial causality of all forms of malnutrition;
14. **FORMULATE** a multi-sectoral regional framework and strategic plan aimed at ending all forms of malnutrition to guide country policies, interventions and set minimum standards for service delivery, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and promote regional cooperation across ASEAN pillars and across ASEAN Member States;

15. **SCALE UP** evidence-based nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific actions and interventions that target the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;
16. **COMMIT** to increase public and multi-sectoral investments to improve nutrition and ensure healthy diets, and increase the level of cooperation through mutual pursuit of initiatives;
17. **STRENGTHEN** human and institutional capacities to enhance skills on multi-sectoral program planning and evaluation, policy analysis and advocacy, health and nutrition research, nutrition surveillance and diet-related noncommunicable diseases surveillance, human resource development and service delivery;
18. **TASK** the ASEAN Health Ministers to monitor the progress of this Declaration and support the delivery of quality nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and programs towards the eventual achievement of the 2025 global nutrition and diet-related noncommunicable diseases targets, ICN2 Rome Declaration and Framework for Action, and SDG 2 and other SDGs relevant to nutrition;
19. **ADOPTED** in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines on this Thirteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand Seventeen, in a single original copy in the English language.