

JOINT STATEMENT
11th ASEAN HEALTH MINISTER MEETING
5 July 2012, Phuket, Thailand

WE, the Ministers of Health of ASEAN Member States, representing 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, convened the 11th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting on 5 July 2012 in Phuket, Thailand.

We and all health officials will continue implementing the framework and key guiding principles of "Healthy ASEAN 2020", emphasising that health is a fundamental right of our peoples; health development is a shared responsibility and must involve greater participation and empowerment of the people, communities and institutions; and, ASEAN cooperation shall strive to achieve social justice and equity in health development and solidarity in action towards a healthy paradigm that emphasises health promotion, disease prevention and control, and health care for all.

We commend the efforts made by the Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), the 10 subsidiary bodies on health, and relevant networks in finalising their respective work plans to implement the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015, endorsed by the 10th AHMM) and fulfilling the 55 health action lines stipulated in ASEAN Socio-Cultural Blueprint.

We support and reinforce the implementation mechanisms of these work plans that include the valuable roles of lead countries; improved collaboration with partners; the critical roles of SOMHD and its Chair; and also the respective Chairs of the Working Groups/Task Forces/Networks; and the role of the ASEAN Secretariat.

We recognise and fully commit to the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (A/RES/66/2) in September

2011; the Moscow Declaration adopted at the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control; and, resolution WHA64.11 [“Moscow Declaration”] and WHA65.8 [“Rio Declaration”] of the World Health Assembly.

With our ultimate goal of improving health situation in the region, we have discussed and exchanged views on the progress of implementation of joint activities in the health sector under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Blueprint and agreed to the following resolutions:

1. We commit to intensify ASEAN cooperation in health development and to mobilise resources at the national, regional, and international levels to tackle health priorities, especially the increasing disease burden from Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs); the increasing prevalence of tobacco consumption; the goal to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC); the effort in getting to zero new infection of HIV/AIDS in the region; and, the effective response system to all kinds of public health emergencies at national and regional levels, Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs), artemisinin-resistant malaria and dengue.

2. We agree to intensify the current prevention strategies for disability and premature death from NCDs by using two levels of actions: the first involves population-wide measures to reduce exposure to risk factors by implementing cost-effective interventions, both within the health sector and beyond. These include measures on Social Determinants of Health (SDH), tobacco and alcohol control, promoting healthy diet and physical activities. The second concern interventions targeting those who are already suffering from NCDs, and affected by associated complications, or who are at high risk of developing them. Health systems that respond more effectively and equitably to the health-care needs of people with NCDs, through early detection and effective treatment, can further reduce premature mortality by at least one third.

3. We pursue our aim to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in all Member States by tasking the SOMHD to discuss the formation of an ASEAN network on UHC. We will support this network

to collectively build up capacity to assess and manage health systems to support UHC, through sharing of experiences, information and experts. We commit to collectively move the UHC to all top levels of regional and global development forum, including the ASEAN Summit and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

4. We reaffirm our commitment to implement the “ASEAN Declaration of Commitment: Getting To Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS–Related Deaths” as adopted by the 19th ASEAN Summit in November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. We will advance our commitment to raise the awareness on HIV/AIDS, working with other ministries at national and regional levels to reduce undesirable social determinants, which are the root causes of the problem. We will steer our region to be on time and on the right course of getting to zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related death. We applaud the initiation of ASEAN Cities Getting to Zero and support its expansion for the years to come. We will continue to advocate harm reduction programs, where appropriate and applicable, for all vulnerable groups.

5. We support our senior officials and International Health Regulations (IHR) national focal points to share and exchange information on EIDs especially drug-resistant malaria and dengue; and public health emergencies of all causes that happen in an ASEAN Member State. A joint study/multi-country investigation in response to epidemic or other threats by the expert groups or field epidemiologists of the ASEAN Plus Three FETN should be conducted using the Minimum Standards on Joint Multi-sectoral Outbreak Investigation and Response (MS JMOIR) – that has been endorsed in our last meeting. We will collectively work with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other agencies to have all ASEAN Member States achieve the IHR core-competency within the next two years.

6. We resolve to sustain our collective efforts and incremental gains in the prevention and control of EIDs through whole-of-society approaches, built on new health advocacy initiatives and, achieve momentum such as our groundbreaking ASEAN Dengue Day through

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improved communication strategies; and lastly, to be vigilant as we identify and address future serious threats to our region's health security as with artemisinin-resistant malaria through effective collaboration and enabling environment.

We look forward to further exchanges of views on joint collaboration in health development at our next Meeting in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, in 2014.
