ASEAN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
on Adopting a Community-Driven Development (CDD) Approach to Social Protection

WE, the Ministers responsible for rural development and poverty eradication of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”) Member States, 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 10th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) in Malaysia on 6 October 2017;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, emphasizing that “everyone, especially those who are poor, at risk, persons with disabilities, older people, out-of-school youth, children, migrant workers, and other vulnerable groups, are entitled to have equitable access to social protection that is a basic human right and based on a rights-based/needs-based, life-cycle approach and covering essential services as needed”;

RECOGNIZING the need to realize the vision and goals of the ASEAN Charter of enhancing the well-being and livelihood of ASEAN peoples by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development and labor market, social assistance, social welfare and justice, which is reinforced by the principles, strategies and mechanisms of the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, especially the responsibility of governments to coordinate and facilitate the design and implementation of inclusive, participatory and sustainable social protection system; and in accordance with the “Public, Private and Peoples Partnerships (4Ps) for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development in ASEAN” adopted by the 4th ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication in October 2015;

NOTING the Report of the ASEAN Regional Assessment of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Achievements and Post-2015 Development Priorities initiated by the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) under the ASEAN Framework Action Plan for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2011-2015, presenting the significant progress towards the attainment of the MDGs from 1995 to 2015, particularly in addressing poverty reduction and gender equality, combating communicable diseases, and improving access to primary education, and highlighting challenges for post-2015 development in ASEAN, notably; the most vulnerable and remote populations who missed out the benefits of the MDGs, rapid urban growth with concomitant unbalanced development, non-communicable diseases, quality of education at all levels, and development of high skilled labor supply to meet market demands and private sector needs;

APPRECIATING the priority accorded to vulnerable groups and poor households on access and control to productive natural resources, financial and support services, social protection and participation in socio-economic opportunities in the ASEAN Framework Action Plan for Rural Development and Poverty
Eradication 2016-2020, manifesting the strong collective commitment of ASEAN Member States to the principles of community empowerment - the core element of community-driven development (CDD) approach - typified by enhancing people’s participation in all phases of development, placing people at the center of the development process, and promoting community ownership of the development process itself and associated benefits;

ACKNOWLEDGING the Report on the Country Assessments of Policy and Institutional Environment for CDD in ASEAN prepared by the ASEAN Regional Program for Capacity Development to Enhance Accountability of Local Governments in Delivering Social Protection Programs through CDD in September 2017, an initiative under ASEAN Framework Action Plan for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2011-2015, highlighting the potentials and challenges for applying CDD approach to social protection and poverty eradication based on the CDD experiences of ASEAN Member State, particularly on better household targeting, improving service quality, improving accountability, and building resiliency to natural disasters and climate change;

UNDERLINING the characteristics and elements of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 pertaining to social protection, employment and social inclusion which focus on the vital role of communities and community-driven initiatives in making decisions and actions for social protection and poverty eradication, social welfare and protection from adverse impacts of globalisation and economic integration, and promoting social justice and mainstreaming people’s rights;

AND GUIDED BY all relevant Declarations, Proclamations, Roadmaps and Resolutions of ASEAN including work programmes of concerned ASEAN sectoral bodies; and the commitments of ASEAN Member States to relevant International Declarations and Conventions as stipulated in ASEAN Declaration, and other pertinent regional and international commitments, especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, and 2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted in November 2015, to which ASEAN Member States are parties to;

DO HEREBY DECLARE to adopt CDD approach, as one of the mechanisms, to social protection in ASEAN – in accordance with respective ASEAN Member States’ domestic laws and policies, nationally-defined social protection and national priorities – at the regional and national levels to eradicate poverty, reduce vulnerability, and manage risks linked with economic crises and risks related to everyday life, particularly the targeted communities identified in the Report of the ASEAN Regional Assessment of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Achievements and Post-2015 Development Priorities; and take concrete actions on priority challenges that make community-driven social protection more relevant to post-2015 development agenda and needs as follows:

A. To strengthen the enabling environment for the application of CDD approach to social protection through supportive, transformative policies and institutions

1. Promote and support the enhancement of frameworks to secure direct community participation and management of resources for social protection activities and services, including the organisation, registration or accreditation of community-based organizations (CBOs), and its ownership of community assets;

2. Promote integration of CDD elements in local government planning and budgeting processes and structures, particularly the community empowerment processes, community or participatory procurement procedures, and accountability mechanisms for service delivery;
3. Promote and support CDD-tested policies and institutional arrangements including simplified, easy-to-use systems and procedures by targeted communities and CBOs in social protection interventions based on existing laws and regulations;

4. Define and promote the roles and responsibilities of key players in each sector for more coordinated service delivery and complementation of resources through good governance principles and practices on, inter alia, participation, transparency, and accountability;

5. Support the development of a comprehensive capacity development program to enhance the organizational capacity of governments and targeted communities on the use of CDD platforms in social protection services; and facilitate the transformation of informal community committees or groups into formal CBOs with legal personalities to engage and collaborate with partners anchored on the 4Ps scheme; and

6. Promote and support the continuing capacity development of local governments and other related entities as initiated by the ASEAN Regional Program for Capacity Development to Enhance Accountability of Local Governments in Delivering Social Protection Programs through CDD to provide better public services through development and monitoring of social protection and poverty eradication policies, institutional arrangements, programmes and projects, and related budgets.

B. To promote flexibility in programme and project design for greater community participation and community empowerment, and more pro-poor, responsive, rights-based and transformative community-driven social protection services

1. Develop and improve procedures and schedules for programme and project designs and performance review, to help communities and CBOs to timely and effectively respond to change; and provide mechanisms for community feedback for programme improvement;

2. Promote integration of inclusive community empowerment processes to enable communities, CBOs and local governments to develop appropriate procedures and tools suited to specific contexts for more effective and sustainable interventions;

3. Encourage integration of applicable indigenous knowledge and practices in community-driven social protection programmes and projects;

4. Support capacity development programs for targeted communities and CBOs to perform agreed roles and functions in delivering social protection services more independently; and

5. Facilitate regional cooperation and support of development partners for capacity development to gain continuous learning and exchange of experiences; and document, publish and disseminate good practices and key lessons, and regional norms for replication and scaling up of community-driven social protection programmes and projects.

C. To provide accurate, relevant, easy-to-use and timely information, and raise the level of community awareness to make informed decisions and actions that meet their social protection needs towards poverty eradication

1. Develop and field test indicators for community-driven social protection within the framework of a results-based monitoring and evaluation (RbME) system;

2. Integrate field tested indicators on community-driven social protection in the ASEAN Statistical Yearbook and other statistical reports in coordination with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and institutions for wider public access and utilisation of information;
3. Develop and implement mass communication and education campaigns for targeted communities to take an active role in community-driven social protection programmes and projects; and
4. Create knowledge platforms with community of nations and international institutions for continuing exchanges of information, and sharing of experiences and learnings, and facilitate buy-in, replication and scale-up.

D. To ensure gender and social inclusion in planning and delivering community-driven social protection services

1. Strengthen gender-sensitive approaches, and mechanisms for inclusion of social groups who are often excluded, giving voice and decision-making responsibility to women, older people, children, youth, ethnic minority groups, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, other vulnerable groups, and those in remote communities to ensure equal participation of both women and men;
2. Provide socially-inclusive interventions on entrepreneurial skills development and livelihood enhancement linked with social protection services;
3. Improve mechanisms for the implementation of relevant ASEAN Declarations, Proclamations, Roadmaps and Resolutions including work plans and programmes of concerned ASEAN sectoral bodies; and commitments of ASEAN Member States to relevant International Declarations and Conventions concerning access, participation and rights of targeted communities to health, education, housing, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities and hygiene, and other basic necessities; labor market, ensuring equal employment opportunities and wage rates, tackling gender-based occupational segregation, and strengthening economic skills, social security, and in decision-making and leadership; and
4. Promote and support stronger gender-sensitive and socially-inclusive safeguards and compliance monitoring frameworks in community-driven social protection programmes.

E. To make investments on community-driven social protection more responsive to community needs

1. Promote the concept of “open menu of options” introduced by CDD approach in the design and implementation of community-driven social protection, including but not limited to two core programmes on social assistance, social welfare and labor market interventions, with a focus on business enterprise and livelihood development, employment- and income-creating activities, sustainable use of natural resources and management, environmental protection, and disaster risk reduction and management;
2. Capitalise on social assistance, social welfare and labor market interventions as entry-points for community-driven platforms in social protection, and develop new regional norms for replication in other social protection core programmes;
3. Strengthen the focus of social assistance, social welfare and labor market interventions for pro-poor growth and resilience-building investments covering social and economic infrastructure and services; and
4. Develop and promote cost-sharing arrangements with community contributions to social protection related investments and organisation and management costs to build a sense of community ownership, and make investments achieve sustainable outcomes.
F. To promote and support results-based monitoring and evaluation (RbME) system to measure the outcomes and impact of community-driven social protection

1. Develop participatory RbME system with simple performance and results indicators that are easy to use by targeted communities and CBOs for monitoring and reporting progress and for evaluating results of community-driven social protection programmes and projects, and the performance of related government agencies;

2. Design and facilitate capacity development of CBOs and local governments to adopt RbME and its use for performance-based incentive schemes; and

3. Improve statistical measurement and analysis capacity, including relevant indicators for community-driven social protection per recommendations from the Report of the ASEAN Regional Assessment of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Achievements and Post-2015 Development Priorities with emphasis on distinctions between rural and urban, poor and non-poor regions or population groups, ethnic minorities and majority mainstream populations, and gender in different social and environmental contexts.

**ADOPTED by the AMRDPE MINISTERS** in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on Eighth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.