



**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE
NINTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND
DEVELOPMENT (9th AMMSWD)**

***“Strengthening Social Welfare Development in
Pursuing ASEAN Community Vision 2025”***

29 September 2016, Jakarta, Indonesia

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers/Heads of Delegations responsible for social welfare and development, convened the Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (9th AMMSWD), guided by the theme “Strengthening Social Welfare Development in Pursuing ASEAN Community Vision 2025”, on 29 September 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
2. We were pleased to have the opportunity to exchange views during the Retreat of the Ministers on Social Welfare and Development on 29 September 2016, on the most pressing issues in the ASEAN region on social welfare and development, the leadership role of social welfare in regional cooperation, and the priorities and necessary institutional mechanisms to move forward the regional cooperation on social welfare and development.
3. Inspired by the message of H.E. Khofifah Indar Parawansa, Minister for Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and Chair of the AMMSWD, during the Opening of the 9th AMMSWD, we are one in calling for a more inclusive, systematic, and sustained initiatives on social welfare and development. This resonates with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, particularly in championing the welfare of children, persons with disabilities, older persons and other vulnerable groups.

Social Welfare Development in Pursuing ASEAN Community Vision 2025

4. We reaffirmed our commitment to the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and resolved to support the strategic direction that ASEAN will take to realise a more people-oriented, people-centred community. Guided by the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, we pledged to lead the social welfare and development sector in making significant contribution to attaining an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community that is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, dynamic, and one that engages and benefits the people.
5. We remain steadfast in our resolve to make ASEAN relevant and felt directly and personally by the people, and to put the welfare of the people at the center of our regional cooperation. We recognise the instrumental role of civil society

organisations in bridging governments and local communities, and considered the recommendations arising from the 11th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development held on 26 September 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia. We recognise the need to initiate policy reforms in order to respond to the changing regional landscape brought about by ageing society, deepening inequality, heightened migration, and the need of strengthening the resilience of peoples and communities living in highly at-risk communities. We affirmed the need to ensure the adoption of inclusive approaches to facilitate greater access and empowerment of vulnerable and marginalised groups so that no one is left behind in ASEAN Community building. Towards this end, we reiterated the imperative of broadening and deepening the partnership with stakeholders, including the full participation of civil society organisations and the private sectors.

People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN Community

6. We reaffirmed our commitment to mainstream the issues of persons with disabilities, children, and older persons in laws, policies and programmes, as we continue to translate regional instruments into national laws and policies. We noted the critical role of instituting public fiscal reforms and adopting innovative approaches to mobilising resources in order to expand the coverage of social protection for the benefit of all.
7. We commended the hard work of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development and adopted the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare 2016-2020. We noted with satisfaction the accomplishments enumerated in the Report of the 12th SOMSWD Meeting.
8. We welcomed the recommendations by the children participants to the 4th ASEAN Children's Forum held in June 2016 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. We are deeply encouraged by the enthusiasm of the children in expressing their views and recommendations on issues that affect them such as violence against children, trafficking-in-persons, cyber-bullying and online child pornography among others.

Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children

9. We noted with great satisfaction the achievements in implementing the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) Work Plan 2012-2016, and the accomplishments enumerated in the ACWC's Third and Fourth Annual Reports to the AMMSWD in 2015 and 2016, respectively.
10. We are encouraged by the publication of the Regional Review on Laws, Policies and Practices within ASEAN relating to the Identification, Management, and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking, especially Women and Children, as a concrete step forward to foster a common understanding of trafficking in the region, as well as identifying key recommendations that leverages regional cooperation towards combatting trafficking.

11. We noted with great satisfaction the adoption by the ACWC of the ASEAN Guidelines for a Non-Violent Approach to Nurture, Care, and Development of Children in All Settings, as a way to provide guidance in ensuring the holistic upbringing of children to become healthy and productive members of society.

Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development

12. We expressed appreciation to Lao PDR for its confirmation to host the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development in 2019.
 13. We were most thankful to Indonesia for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations, and the excellent arrangements for the Meeting. We also expressed our sincere appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for its support to the Meeting.
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