



ASEAN LEADERS' DECLARATION ON DISASTER HEALTH MANAGEMENT

WE, the Heads of State or Government of the Members States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "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 in Manila, Philippines, on 13 November 2017;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to implementing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and pursue the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of which Goal 3 calls for strengthened capacity of all countries in health risk reduction and management; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030); ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management (2016-2020) as well as the World Health Assembly Resolutions WHA64.10 Strengthening National Health Emergency and Disaster Management Capacities and Resilience of Health Systems;

REITERATING regional collective commitments in the promotion of Disaster Health Management as emphasized in the Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on East Asian Summit (EAS) Disaster Management of 2009; the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) of 2005 and the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020; the Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change of 2015; the Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region of 2016;

EMPHASIZING the importance of strengthening capacity in Disaster Health Management in ASEAN which was identified as an area for collaboration and reflected as a priority area in the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda;

RECOGNIZING the critical role of humanitarian assistance in reducing the loss of lives, minimizing disability and preventing infectious disease outbreaks through rapid deployment with full respect of sovereignty and consent of the affected countries, while appreciating the contribution from the relevant ASEAN Sectors, international, regional or national institutions/agencies, and, various development partners;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the need to take urgent action to strengthen Disaster Health Management System at national and regional levels, which are critical for improving health outcomes from emergencies, minimizing health hazards and vulnerabilities, ensuring access to health care, and that health services remain functional when they are most needed, thus strengthening community resilience;

HEREBY DECLARED TO:

1. **Strengthen** close coordination and collaboration with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and other partners in enhancing capacities of ASEAN Member States and the region that facilitate rapid deployment of regional and national medical relief, maintain continuous health services and perform disease surveillance that serve to reduce morbidity and mortality due to injury and other non-communicable and communicable diseases in the disaster affected population, including health impact of climate change;
2. **Support** the development of relevant Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Collaboration on Disaster Health Management in order to create effective regional collaboration mechanism of Disaster Health Management and to promote the organization and coordination for International Emergency Medical Team (I-EMT) as appropriate to individual AMS context in line with the AADMER and ASEAN Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP);
3. **Encourage** the development of national Standard Operating Procedures for the coordination of the International Emergency Medical Team (I-EMT) and effective mechanism to facilitate the operation of I-EMT, including the coordinating body, information management and logistic system.
4. **Strengthen** all-hazards health emergency and disaster risk-management programmes as part of national health systems, supported by relevant legislation, regulations and other measures, as appropriate, to improve health outcomes, reduce mortality and morbidity, protect health infrastructure and strengthen the resilience of the health system and society at large, and mainstream a gender perspective into all phases of these programmes;
5. **Promote** public and private investment in disaster risk reduction to support the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters in order to provide live-saving and essential services;
6. **Endeavor to build** hospitals and health facilities that are safe, resilient, and capable of delivering medical care and life saving services during and after a disaster through

structural and non-structural disaster mitigation measures, ensuring these essential services and infrastructures serve the affected communities;

7. **Strengthen** the cooperation and enhancement of active Academic Network among Disaster Health Management Programme to conduct researches and extract lessons learned from Disaster Health Management in multiple events and countries, in support of the development of new solutions and innovation;
8. **Enhance** national and regional capacities in Disaster Health Management, including through the establishment of a Regional Disaster Health Training Center and designed simulation and joint operations, to increase capacities of health workers and disaster health-related personnel;
9. **Increase** efforts to operationalize financial resources to fill gaps in national responses including promoting national and sub-national coherent Disaster Health Management strategic plans and operations; improving efficiency in the use of existing resources;
10. **Call on** development partners, including the UN system, other relevant inter-governmental, regional organizations and other stakeholders as well as concerned ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, to support the implementation of this Declaration, in particular the promotion of designed regional mechanisms, resource mobilization and the priority actions stated in this Declaration;
11. **Task** the concerned ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies as well as other relevant bodies to monitor the implementation of this declaration towards achieving the aspirations of this Declaration.

Adopted in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines on this Thirteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.