

**DECLARATION ON THE GUIDELINES ON CONSULAR ASSISTANCE BY
ASEAN MEMBER STATES' MISSIONS IN THIRD COUNTRIES TO
NATIONALS OF OTHER ASEAN MEMBER STATES**

We, the Heads of State/Government of 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:

REAFFIRMING the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, as well as our commitment to realise a rules-based, people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community, as outlined in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

REAFFIRMING further our commitment to enhance the well-being of the people of ASEAN so they can benefit from the process of ASEAN integration and Community building within and outside of the ASEAN region.

RECALLING the Chairman's Statement of the 23rd ASEAN Summit in 2013, where we noted the idea of extending support to ASEAN Member States that do not have permanent representation in third countries to help their respective nationals in need of consular assistance on a case-by-case basis, through bilateral arrangements between concerned ASEAN Member States;

REITERATING our agreement in the ASEAN Leaders' Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN to develop the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of other ASEAN Member States, to strengthen ASEAN's resilience and ability to serve its people;

UNDERLINING the importance for ASEAN to enhance its capacity to respond effectively to existing and emerging challenges that will signify a stronger sense of unity and common identity;

ACKNOWLEDGING the advancements in regional and international connectivity and the increasing frequency and number of nationals of ASEAN Member States traveling outside the region;

RECOGNISING ASEAN's decision to fly the ASEAN Flag at Diplomatic and Consular Missions of ASEAN Member States in an effort to enhance public awareness, and sense of ownership and identity to ASEAN;

NOTING the "Guidelines for the Provision of Emergency Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member Countries in Crisis Situations";

REITERATING the importance of strengthening ASEAN's ability to serve its people including through achieving faster ASEAN's collective response by mobilising greater resources and establishing stronger coordination.

DO HEREBY:

WELCOME the adoption of the "Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States' Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of other ASEAN Member States".

TASK our officials to utilise, as appropriate, the "Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States' Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of other ASEAN Member States" which would foster a greater sense of regional identity and produce tangible benefits to the peoples of ASEAN.

ADOPTED in Singapore, on the Thirteenth Day of November in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.

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