

**JOINT STATEMENT
12th ASEAN HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING
18 September 2014, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

WE, the Ministers of Health of ASEAN Member States (AMS), 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 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) on 18 September 2014 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

We welcome the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, Rio de Janeiro document entitled, "The Future We Want", which commits to strengthen health systems towards the provision of equitable, universal health coverage and promote affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support related to noncommunicable diseases (NCD), and to establish or strengthen multi-sectoral national policies for the prevention and control of NCD.

We commit to the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases in ASEAN which was adopted by the Leaders of ASEAN at the 23rd ASEAN Summit held in Brunei Darussalam in October 2013.

We acknowledged the efforts made by the Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), the 10 subsidiary bodies on health, and relevant networks in implementing the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development for 2010 to 2015 as endorsed by the 10th AHMM, and fulfilling the 55 health action lines stipulated in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Blueprint.

We and all health officials will continue implementing the commitments made by the 11th AHMM to overcome the challenges to health and to make use of opportunities to achieve goals for better health for ASEAN people.

With our ultimate goal of achieving better health for the ASEAN community beyond 2015 through the efforts of AMS to better serve their people, we have discussed and exchanged views on health priorities to be jointly addressed by AMS and agree to the following resolutions:

1. We pledge our firm commitment to the vision "A Healthy, Caring, and Sustainable ASEAN Community" and mission statement agreed upon by AMS with the four clusters of a) promoting healthy lifestyle; b) responding to all hazards and emerging threats; c) strengthening health system and access to care; and d) ensuring food safety. We commit to attain the goals of the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda and to task SOMHD to develop a new mechanism to strengthen ASEAN health cooperation.

2. We pledge to strengthen primary health care in order to achieve universal health coverage in AMS and increase access to primary health care for ASEAN people. We ensure the availability and timely provision of essential medicines and cost effective health technologies at all levels of health facilities to achieve Goal 3 of Sustainable Development Goals: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. We commit to build up sufficient capacity of well-trained, motivated health workers, especially at community level to provide services to meet health needs of people in AMS.

3. We welcome advocacy efforts to achieve universal health coverage and will strive to further elevate and strengthen the commitment by working through to highest regional fora.

4. We reaffirm our commitment to accelerate actions to address the risk factors for NCD taking into consideration cost-effective interventions including to promote community-based management of NCD and promote collaboration in research and development on health promotion, and healthy lifestyle in AMS.

5. We commit to develop efficient and sustainable national health financing systems in order to enable nationals to access health services without suffering financial hardship. We shall focus on strengthening health financing schemes and accelerate the expansion of national health care coverage in providing adequate basic health packages, such as reproductive health, maternal, newborn and child health services relevant to each AMS. We shall mobilise social resources, such as community health workers and conduct community-based programmes to provide basic healthcare, to inform and encourage people to stay healthy and prevent diseases and injuries.

6. We promote equitable access to healthcare for all groups within each Member State by reducing gender, geographical, social and financial barriers at all levels. We commit to provide adequate and effective health services for the poor, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups including children, youth, and women especially in disadvantaged and remote areas. We reaffirm quality as a crucial element in the provision of healthcare.

7. We commit to promote access to good, safe, quality, efficacious and affordable essential medicines within the national health care systems as well as rational use of medicines in AMS. We also agree to facilitate research and cross country information sharing on strategies to increase access to medicines including pricing policy and the use of Trade-Related Aspects of the Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) flexibilities particularly for high-cost essential drugs. We encourage exchange of experience in integrating safe, effective and quality Traditional Medicine, Complementary and Alternative Medicine (TM/CAM) into the national healthcare system, where applicable, and across other sectors.

8. We reaffirm our commitment to continue reducing maternal and child mortality including strengthening local capacity management for emergency obstetric and neonatal services.

9. We recognise that global and regional financial resources for HIV and AIDS prevention and control have been reduced significantly in recent years. We, therefore commit to mobilise and diversify all resources at national, regional and international levels to sustain and improve the achievement in curbing HIV and AIDS new infections, prevalence, and deaths, and to accelerate progress in achieving the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment: Getting to Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS-Related Deaths and the Millennium Development Goal 6 relevant to HIV and AIDS. Further, to achieve the commitment to the Declaration there is a need to review, where appropriate, the HIV and AIDS programmes, policies and progress towards ending HIV and AIDS as a public health threat.

10. We commit to strengthen cooperation on Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) prevention and control and pandemic preparedness through improving health capacity in surveillance and outbreak investigation. We further commit to promote collaboration in the control of trans-boundary EIDs through sharing and exchanging information including efficient referral mechanism among AMS.

11. We commit to strengthen national food control systems and work together to contribute towards safe and quality food in the ASEAN Community. We recognise risk assessment as an important tool to provide scientific input in developing evidence-based food safety measures, and shall build capacity for integrated ASEAN risk assessment through the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC).

12. We commit to advocate Health in All Policies (HiAP) to ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) and ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), so that they may collectively tackle social injustice and health inequity that cause ill health. We are fully aware that health development is a shared responsibility, therefore close collaboration with non-health sector and participation of the people, communities and institutions are prerequisite to achieve healthy ASEAN.

We look forward to further joint collaboration in health development at our next Meeting in Brunei Darussalam in 2016.
