



## JOINT STATEMENT OF THE FOURTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON WOMEN (4<sup>th</sup> AMMW)

15 October 2021  
Jakarta, Indonesia, via video conference

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The Fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women was held on 15 October 2021 via video conference. The Meeting was chaired by Indonesia under the theme “Digital Economy and Financial Inclusion for Improving ASEAN Women’s Competitiveness”.

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to promote gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in the ASEAN region pursuant to the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, as well as to implement the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in the ASEAN (2013), the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2013); the Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals (2017); and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (2020);

**COMMENDING** the progress in the implementation of ASEAN initiatives on promoting women leadership, non-discrimination and social norms change, elimination of violence against women, economic empowerment of women, and protection and empowerment of women in vulnerable situations, as well as mainstreaming gender across the three ASEAN Community pillars;

**RECOGNISING** the long-term and gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic among women and girls which resulted in increased intensity of unpaid domestic and care work, increase in the incidence of domestic violence, and decrease in incomes and livelihoods of women across the region;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** that women tend to fare worse than men for many SDG-related outcomes, and that groups of women living in rural areas, in poor households, ethnic women, women with disabilities, and migrant women, face the most risk of being left behind in relation to SDG progress;

**UNDERSCORING** that women fulfil key roles in building and sustaining resilience, and that women, both in rural and urban settings, are not merely victims who are affected by the pandemic, disasters and changes in the climate: they are active agents for transformative change;

**HIGHLIGHTING** the opportunities afforded by the digital revolution such as access to the digital economy, promoting women’s digital entrepreneurship, and strengthening digital literacy and competitiveness are equipping the women of ASEAN to adapt and thrive in the post-pandemic ASEAN region;

**DO HEREBY:**

**ENCOURAGE** all Member States to review and reconfigure relevant policies and programmes towards ensuring gender-transformative initiatives, including mainstreaming of gender equality throughout the national recovery scheme and actions and in COVID-19 response mechanisms, and in the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework;

**ACCELERATE** efforts that include women in the digital economy, financial inclusion, and assets ownership, through providing or improving accessibility, affordability of financial products and services, interoperability among financial institution, connectivity, streamlining financial support, disseminating information on e-commerce, digital platforms and financial technology, conducting capacity building or trainings, coaching and mentoring, enhancing market opportunities and linkages, and other policy, programme and infrastructure support;

**STRENGTHEN** consultative platforms and mechanism that directly engage women in decision- and policy-making processes in both public and private spheres, amplify their voices and consider their needs, to ensure that the design and implementation of policies and programmes are gender-responsive, including pandemic response and recovery efforts;

**ENCOURAGE** all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to introduce gender tools and concepts that will surface and articulate the gender dimensions of their sectoral work, including mainstreaming gender perspectives in the ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Political-Security Community, with guidance from the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework when endorsed;

**IMPROVE** the collection, use and analysis of gender information and sex-disaggregated data especially related to SDGs;

**TASK** the ASEAN Committee on Women to fully implement the ACW Work Plan 2021-2025, and the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework when endorsed, and double the efforts in reaching out to all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, ASEAN bodies and entities, ASEAN partners and stakeholders to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Agreed by the Ministers/Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Member States on this Fifteenth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One.

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