

**FINAL**

**JOINT STATEMENT  
15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting  
14 May 2022, Bali, Indonesia**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Health Ministers Meeting was held on 14 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Leaders' vision of an ASEAN Community outlined in the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community and the simultaneous endorsement of "ASEAN 2025: *Forging Ahead Together*" containing among others, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

**REAFFIRMING** the commitment to the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" as agreed by leaders at the 70<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly in 2015 which includes an overarching health goal to "*ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.*"

**EXPRESSING** concern that global health systems have been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of leadership/governance, financing, access to essential medicines, service delivery, health workforce, and health information systems.

**RECOGNISING** that ASEAN, as a region is an inseparable part of an interconnected global community. Therefore, building ASEAN's health system resilience, including through applicable regional health protocols, the development of manufacturing and strengthening research networks to attain vaccine security and self-reliance during peace times and emergency situations, and improving systematic and concrete mechanisms for prevention, preparedness, detection, mitigation and response measures for current and future regional and global health crises which will contribute to the global health architecture strengthening;

**RECALLING** the Chairman's Statement of the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits on 26 October 2021 that noted the need for ASEAN to strengthen its capacity and institutional effectiveness to adapt to the new, emerging, and rapidly evolving challenges and to advance ASEAN's comprehensive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic towards achieving strength and resilience of the ASEAN Community.

**FURTHER RECALLING** the Joint Statement of 2021 Special Video Conference of the ASEAN Health Ministers on ASEAN COVID-19 Response After One Year that encourages the reinforcement of genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 to be able to swiftly detect and share information of potential Variant of Interests (VOIs) and Variant of Concerns (VOCs) of SARS-CoV-2 and determine the Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) and infection control measures;

**PRESERVING** ASEAN's centrality in forging partnerships, with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, Development Partners, and other partners, including with health-related private

## FINAL

sector, and in building communication and coordination with global actors, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and G-20, in order to build the ASEAN Community towards ‘*A healthy, caring and sustainable society*’;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the progress made by the ASEAN Health Sector in the implementation of the Joint Statement of the 14th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting held on 29 August 2019 in Siem Riep, The Kingdom of Cambodia, with the commitment to *Accelerate Health for All in ASEAN*; and, the results of the implementation of the ASEAN Post 2015 Health Development Agenda 2016–2020 and the Work Programmes of the four (4) ASEAN Health Clusters on promoting healthy lifestyle, responding to all hazards and emerging threats, strengthening health system and access to care, and ensuring food safety; and the operationalisation of the health-related declarations adopted by the past ASEAN Summits;

**COMMENDING** the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) and the ASEAN Health Clusters in producing their deliverables, including the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda (APHDA) 2021-2025 and its Strategic Framework, and the four (4) ASEAN Health Clusters’ Work Programmes, which will guide ASEAN health sector cooperation and implementation for the next five (5) years, as well as in updating the Governance and Implementation Mechanism (GIM) for APHDA 2021-2025, and the updated Terms of Reference (ToR) of ASEAN Health Clusters, and in moving forward in the establishment of the digital ASEAN Health Sector’s Knowledge Management (KM) Platform to strengthen ASEAN Health Sector’s business processes and to facilitate ASEAN Health cooperation through other integrated features;

**APPLAUDING** SOMHD’s tremendous efforts in responding to and mitigating the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the ASEAN Community and in swiftly pursuing the scaling-up and synergizing of the health-related initiatives for COVID-19 response, particularly the establishment process of the ASEAN Centre of Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) which would serve as a regional resource hub to strengthen ASEAN’s regional capabilities to prepare for, prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies and emerging diseases;

**UNITED** by the commitment to pursue *Advancing the Achievements of ASEAN Health Development*;

**AFFIRMING** our commitment to continue *Building Regional Health System Resilience and Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery*, the Meeting discussed and exchanged views on the preparation and response to future health challenges; and agreed as follows:

1. Strengthen the prevention and preparedness towards public health emergencies, through:
  - a. Mobilising resources by exploring an expanded regional funding mechanism for COVID-19, from ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund to ASEAN Emergency Health Fund and the ASEAN Regional Reserve for Medical Supplies (RRMS) and taking

## FINAL

- measures to ensure timeliness and efficiency of accessing and using these resources.
- b. Optimizing and mobilising key regional actions and mechanisms, such as the ASEAN Emergency Operations Centre Network (ASEAN EOC Network) for Public Health Emergencies, ASEAN Risk Assessment and Risk Communication (ARARC) and the ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (ASEAN+3 FETN).
2. Strengthen the detection of public health emergencies, through:
    - a. Optimising the utilisation of regional big data analytics, such as ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Centre (ABVC) and global genomic sequencing data sharing platform, such as GISAID to strengthen surveillance on the evolving trends of existing and emerging genetic variants that may cause potential public health concern.
    - b. Addressing the root cause of public health emergencies by utilising the One Health approach - a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach interrelating human, animal, and environment - to conduct surveillance and early detection, act on potential zoonotic viral threats, prevent future outbreaks and minimise large-scale transmission risks.
    - c. Exchanging laboratory readiness and response actions through the advancement of the Regional Public Health Laboratories Network (RPHL), Human and Animal Health Collaboration, Biosafety and Biosecurity training and networks to strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States to detect the risk of public health emergencies.
  3. Enhance mitigation strategies to address current and future public health emergencies through:
    - a. Accelerating post-COVID-19 recovery through the ASEAN Health Protocol, Cross-border Contact Tracing and Rapid Outbreak Investigation, ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement Framework (ATCAF) and technological advancements to facilitate smooth and safe international travels within and from and outside ASEAN as well as the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF).
    - b. Promoting a healthy, well-connected ASEAN Community where COVID-19 vaccination certificates can be verified and recognised potentially through the development and operationalisation of the ASEAN Universal Verification Mechanism or any other mechanism created according to the World Health Organization's Digital documentation on COVID-19 certificate: Vaccination Status: Technical Specification and Implementation Guidance.
  4. Strengthen access to Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics (VTD) and other essential medical supplies dedicated to general pandemic preparedness and response, through:

## FINAL

- a. Accelerating the implementation of existing commitments and interventions on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance (AVSSR) and Regional Collaborative Strategy on ASEAN Drug Security and Self-Reliance (ADSSR).
  - b. Exploring building public-private-partnership network on pharmaceutical products and other medical supplies to enhance manufacturing capacity and sufficiency, whilst promoting knowledge sharing among the ASEAN Member States.
5. Strengthen regional and national capacities and capabilities for prevention and preparedness, detection and risk assessment, and response through the acceleration of the establishment and operationalisation of the ACPHEED, fostering ASEAN's solidarity and centrality to coordinate the operationalisation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Public Health Emergencies (SF - PHEs) as well as the development of ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System (APHECS), under the directive of ASEAN Health Sectoral Body;
6. Advance the achievement of ASEAN Health Sector cooperation by adopting and pursuing the implementation of the APHDA and its Work Programmes 2021-2025, which stipulate the vision, goals, objectives, strategies, and initiatives of the four (4) ASEAN Health Clusters under twenty-one (21) health priorities; and adopting the updated GIM for APDHA 2021-2025 and ToR of ASEAN Health Clusters to guide APHDA's governance and in accelerating the establishment of the ASEAN Health Sector's Knowledge Management Platform;
7. Forge stronger multi-sectoral collaboration in ASEAN through the implementation of identified agreed mechanisms to address public health emergencies and future emerging health issues and priorities, as well as fostering closer collaboration and dialogues with ASEAN Dialogue, Development, and other Partners, on potential, and agreed initiatives under APHDA 2021-2025 and on other health emerging issues;
8. The Meeting appreciates ASEAN's spirit of driving for the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) and tasks the SOMHD to finalise ACPHEED's establishment agreement by September 2022, based on outcome of the "Results of the Trilateral Ministerial Meeting (Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam) on ACPHEED, held on 13 May 2022 which was presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> AHMM Retreat.
9. We task the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development on the following:
  - a. Implement the effective monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the implementation of the APHDA 2021-2025 through the operationalisation of the respective Work Programmes of the four (4) ASEAN Health Clusters and their twenty-one (21) Health Priorities; and, the health-related declarations and statements.
  - b. Sustain the implementation of health-related initiatives on COVID-19 prevention and preparedness, detection and response; and, multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration mechanisms.

## FINAL

- c. Strengthen the effective and efficient cooperation with external partners with alignment to the vision and mission of the APHDA; and adherence to the *Rules of Procedure on the Engagement of Entities with the ASEAN Health Sector*.

We look forward to further exchanges of views and collaboration in health development at our next Meeting in Lao PDR in 2024.