

JOINT STATEMENT
ASEAN-U.S. SPECIAL SESSION HEALTH MINISTERIAL MEETING
9 AUGUST 2024, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR

Preamble

Recognizing the importance of health and well-being as a foundation for sustainable development, economic growth, and social stability, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United States of America (U.S.) reaffirm our commitment to strengthening health collaboration for the benefit of our combined one billion people of ASEAN and the United States.

Shared Vision

We envision a future where all individuals enjoy optimal health and wellbeing, supported by resilient and equitable health systems capable of addressing both current and emerging health threats. Our partnership is grounded in mutual respect, shared responsibility, and a joint commitment to promoting health and protecting lives of our people.

The ASEAN-U.S. Special Session Health Ministerial Meeting was held on 9 August 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

REAFFIRMING our collective commitment to further formalize ASEAN-U.S. Health Sector Engagement to address regional health threats and strengthen public health systems;

REINFORCING a shared responsibility to continued implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Health Cooperation Work Plan;

RECOGNIZING the historic nature of the innovative health initiatives launched by ASEAN Member States and the U.S., aligned with the ASEAN-U.S. Health Cooperation Work Plan, including the ASEAN-U.S. Infection Prevention and Control Task Force, ASEAN Public Health Emergency Management Emerging Leaders Program, ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System, and the ASEAN-U.S. Airborne Infectious Defense Platform;

EMPHASIZING the ongoing need to support and strengthen the public health workforce in field epidemiology, laboratory science and management, public health leadership, infection prevention and control in healthcare settings, and emergency management;

ACKNOWLEDGING the enduring joint work of ASEAN and the U.S. on surveillance, prevention, and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases;

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of strengthening ASEAN-U.S. partnership to foster global and regional cooperation in public health as one of the cornerstones of stability and prosperity of our nations and Southeast Asia region;

REITERATING a shared commitment to ASEAN Centrality, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, and ASEAN's Community Vision 2025, described in ASEAN strategic plans, including the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda 2021-2025.

The Meeting agreed to strengthen our public health cooperation by:

1. **ENHANCING** and expanding upon the ASEAN-U.S. Health Cooperation Work Plan to ensure alignment with the next ASEAN health five-year road map (2026-2030).
2. **FURTHER FORMALIZING** ASEAN-U.S. health cooperation through the formalization of a standing ASEAN-U.S. Health Ministers Meeting and consideration of additional dialogue opportunities in addition to the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM), ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), and relevant ASEAN Health Clusters.
3. **CONSIDERING** additional areas of health cooperation for discussion and exchange between ASEAN-U.S., including but not limited to:
 - a. Risk Assessment, Risk Communication and Community Engagement
 - b. Public Health Emergency Management
 - c. One Health
 - d. Environmental Health
 - e. Digital health technologies
 - f. Health Policy and Management
 - g. Nutrition
 - h. Food safety
4. **REEMPHASIZING** the commitment by the United States in providing public health assistance and scientific technical expertise in support of regional health development.
5. **SUPPORTING** the ASEAN Center for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) as well as the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System (APHECS), that will advance regional prevention, preparedness and response to future public health emergencies.
6. **STRENGTHENING** research and development and building networks in ASEAN Member States.
7. **ENHANCING** our collaboration, mutual support, and fostered partnership for the benefits of our people.
