



**ASEAN DECLARATION ON THE PREVENTION OF CHILD LABOUR, INCLUDING THE  
ELIMINATION OF WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR**

**WE**, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely: 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 on the occasion of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits chaired by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic;

**UPHOLDING** the commitment of ASEAN to promote universal human rights including those of children and to end all forms of violence against children as enshrined in the general principles of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (2012), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (2013), the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth (2016), the Declaration on the Protection of Children from all Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN (2019), the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration (2019), and the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Importance of the Family for Community Development and Nation-Building (2021);

**RECOGNISING** the steadfast efforts and notable progress by ASEAN and its Member States to implement the Vientiane Declaration on Transition from Informal Employment to Formal Employment towards Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN (2016), the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (2017), the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2023-2028), the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members in Crisis Situations (2023) and the ASEAN Declaration on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers (2023);

**REITERATING** that all ten ASEAN Member States ratified and are parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which promotes and protects the rights of the child, and which adheres to the principles of non-discrimination; children’s right to life and survival, protection

development, and participation; the best interests of the child; and respect for the child's views;

**FURTHER REITERATING** the ASEAN Member States' commitment to the ILO Convention on Minimum Age, 1973 (C138) and the ILO Convention on Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (C182);

**RECALLING** relevant international instruments related to the rights of children to which ASEAN Member States are Parties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);

**REAFFIRMING** ASEAN's commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), especially target 8.7 on the elimination of forced labour and worst forms of child labour, along with the goals to end poverty, reduce inequality and build more peaceful, prosperous, and resilient societies by 2030 where no children will be left behind and their rights will be realised through good health, equitable quality education, and vocational training provision, decent work and economic growth and strong institutions;

**UNDERSCORING** the interlinkage between the persistence of child labour and violations of other fundamental labour rights, the increasingly complex evolution on the root causes of child labour and its consequences on the children, the family, the communities and the society at large including the compound effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and other crisis situations in exacerbating the violation of children's right and their liberty, intensifying their vulnerabilities as well as undermining the opportunities for their well-being and empowerment;

**COMMENDING** tireless endeavours and remarkable progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025 by the Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) in collaboration with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), the Senior Officials Meeting in Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), the Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED), the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) and their subsidiary bodies in addressing child labour as a regional challenge and in harnessing cross-sectoral and multi-pronged collaboration in prohibiting, preventing and protecting children from all forms of labour exploitation and abuses;

**MINDFUL** that successfully eliminating child labour and building a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient future for all children and their families require strengthened efforts, multi-sectoral collaboration, as well as engagement from multiple stakeholders at all levels including responsible government agencies, private and business sector, trade unions, non-governmental organisations or relevant stakeholders, the media, educational and academic institutions, ASEAN dialogue partners, international organisations, communities, and others.

**DO HEREBY:**

Resolve to undertake the following actions in accordance with the national laws, regulations, policies contexts, capacities and resources of the respective ASEAN Member States to prevent and eliminate child labour:

1. **ENSURE** effective implementation and the strengthening of relevant policies, programmes and activities to prevent and combat child labour in accordance with all international and regional instruments that ASEAN member States are parties to;
2. **ADDRESS** systemic factors leading to the prevalence of child labour including multi-dimensional poverty, economic vulnerabilities and inequality based on geographical location, socio-economic status, age, gender, disabilities, disasters, pandemics, racism, religious discrimination and legal identity, among others faced by children and their families;
3. **STRENGTHEN** policy, legislative framework as a foundation for actions against child labour which can include robust policy infrastructure, access to justice and institutional capacity-building for law enforcement and other multidisciplinary measures;
4. **SUPPORT** the public awareness, integration and application of child labour legislation and policies with those protecting other fundamental labour rights such as freedom from discrimination and from forced labour, the provision of healthy and safe working environment, strengthening of labour inspection, and other children's rights;
5. **FOSTER** legislation, law development, law enforcement and engagement with the private sector in strengthening their industry compliance, due diligence and business operations on human rights in order to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for all adverse human rights and children rights impacts in their operations and value chains;
6. **PROMOTE** inclusive, gender responsive, and equitable quality education and vocational training for all children particularly children in vulnerable situations and remote area to ensure access to education and early childhood development opportunities while

investing in education strategies that ensure mandatory education attendance, provision of adequate facilities and quality of teachers and their skill trainings;

7. **ENDEAVOUR** to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery and trafficking in persons and secure the prohibition and elimination of child labour and its worst forms particularly in agriculture, including fisheries, forestry, services, construction, other hard-to-reach and informal sector;
8. **STRENGTHEN** comprehensive efforts to promote family and community as basic units of society that provide the first line of care and protection, knowledge in accessing social safety net and support for the children to prevent child labour;
9. **STRENGTHEN** social protection and child protection systems and the role of social workers in promoting accessibility to social welfare and social protection for vulnerable groups, especially children at risk of child labour, survivors of child labour, their families and communities;
10. **ENHANCE** cross-sectoral and cross-pillar cooperation, promoting responsible business practices and communication as well as information sharing as appropriate across the ASEAN Community, engaging ASEAN's entities and Dialogue Partners, international and non-governmental organisations or relevant stakeholders, including youth and children organisations, media, academia, the private sector, and peer educators among others, to prevent, address, and end child labour.

**WE ENCOURAGE** relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, within their mandate, to review, to promote and implement the provisions of the Declaration in all its aspects, and task the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) with the support of the SLOM in collaboration with ACWC and other relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to review, coordinate and monitor the implementation of this Declaration including through the implementation of ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025 and its subsequent roadmap.

**ADOPTED** on this Ninth Day of October in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic in a single original copy, in the English language.