



ASEAN MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON BUILDING A RESILIENT ASEAN THROUGH INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DISASTER RECOVERY

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 Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

GUIDED by the fundamental principles of the ASEAN Charter and the spirit of unity, cooperation, and shared prosperity. We are committed to ensuring sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations and to place the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the peoples at the centre of the ASEAN community building process.

ACKNOWLEDGING the profound impact of disasters on lives and livelihoods. We recognise the ever-changing disaster risk landscape in the region, including increasing complexities of hazards affecting the region caused by the effects of climate change, increasing urban risks, complex and trans-boundary disasters.

REMAIN STEADFAST in upholding the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)

that aims to achieve substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of the ASEAN Member States. The AADMER calls for ASEAN Member states to cooperate in developing and implementing measures to reduce disaster losses including identification of disaster risk, development of monitoring, assessment and early warning systems, standby arrangements for disaster relief and emergency response, exchange of information and technology and the provision of mutual assistance. The ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management further outlined three key overarching and interconnecting building blocks for stronger regional resilience, namely: institutionalisation and communication, financing and resource mobilisation, and partnership and innovation.

REITERATE our commitment to building stronger regional resilience as expressed in various strategic documents, including the ASEAN Declaration One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region, and the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Resilience. The commitment is further reiterated by the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (SHIELD) to implement a whole-of-ASEAN approach in disaster management to enhance coherence between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development. We remain committed to pursuing the goals set out by the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, particularly through the implementation of Priority 4 on Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Building Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

APPRECIATE the Leadership of Brunei Darussalam as the current Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), with a theme focusing on “Building a Resilient ASEAN through Inclusive and Sustainable Disaster Recovery”. The theme calls for the strengthening of disaster recovery by enhancing coordination and cooperation, increasing financial resources, building technical capacity and promoting inclusive and sustainable recovery.

RECOGNISE that post-disaster recovery presents multifaceted challenges, demanding immediate humanitarian assistance, long-term reconstruction efforts, and the integration of risk reduction measures for future resilience. Building back better necessitates addressing underlying vulnerabilities, promoting equitable access to recovery resources, and ensuring the participation of all stakeholders, especially women, children, and marginalised groups. Such challenges highlight the need for a shared regional responsibility to prepare for and assist in recovery from potential transboundary and mega-disasters in ASEAN through the development of standby mechanisms and strengthening recovery knowledge and capacities across ASEAN Member States.

RECALL ASEAN’s past initiatives related to disaster recovery that exemplify strong regional solidarity and offer valuable lessons learned to further strengthen disaster recovery capacities of ASEAN. This includes the development of the ASEAN Disaster Recovery Reference Guide (ADRRG) in 2016 and the ASEAN Recovery Toolbox in 2018. Furthermore, ASEAN was involved in the recovery assistance following Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines in 2014, in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi in Indonesia in

2018, and Tropical Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar in 2023. These ASEAN recovery experiences exemplified the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC) in ensuring a coordinated approach by ASEAN as well as significant role of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). Additionally, in 2021, the AHA Centre has played a significant role in disaster recovery showcased through the ASEAN Village.

HIGHLIGHT the need to develop a more proactive and inclusive approach in recovery processes, focusing on long-term development strategies and a paradigm shift that prioritises building resilient societies to ensure a safer and more prosperous future for ASEAN.

DO HEREBY:

1. **COMMIT** to further strengthening ASEAN regional disaster management mechanisms by developing strategic foresight and implementing a whole-of-society approach to build disaster resilience.
2. **SUPPORT** the theme of “Building a Resilient ASEAN through Inclusive and Sustainable Disaster Recovery” under Brunei Darussalam’s Chairmanship for ACDM and AMMDM 2024 which advocates for a resilient ASEAN community capable of effectively responding to disasters and other challenges. It further resonates with the principles outlined in the ASEAN SHIELD which calls for a comprehensive and collaborative approach to disaster management and advocates the need for strategic initiatives that strengthen the region’s ability to respond to emergencies and disasters.

3. **URGE** for the active participation of all stakeholders involved in every phase of disaster recovery, from early recovery, medium term, to long-term recovery efforts. This includes fostering stronger collaboration with ASEAN external partners, the United Nations, International Financial Institutions, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement non-governmental organisations and the AADMER Partnership Group, private sectors and the public.
4. **ENCOURAGE** the active participation of young people and youth groups in disaster resilience. Youths are the leaders of tomorrow and their active involvement in disaster resilience building is crucial in ensuring a sustainable future for ASEAN. By providing youth with opportunities to contribute meaningfully, ASEAN can foster a generation of resilient leaders who are equipped to navigate the challenges of tomorrow.
5. **EMPHASISE** the critical role of the Secretary General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC) that can be activated to support disaster relief and recovery stages. Strengthening the role of SG-AHAC could enhance the capacity of ASEAN to support recovery phases, increase the speed of ASEAN's collective response, and further showcase ASEAN's solidarity in times of needs.
6. **EMPHASISE** also the role of the AHA Centre as the primary regional coordinating agency for disaster management. As the operational arm of the AADMER, the AHA Centre plays a crucial role in strengthening regional resilience. This position allows them to support ACDM in achieving the

vision of a Resilient ASEAN through inclusive and sustainable disaster recovery.

7. **PLEDGE** to strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States to recover from disasters. For the above purpose, we call on the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management to:

- a) **STRENGTHEN** and harmonise regional early warning system components to build an effective and resilient ASEAN end-to-end early warning ecosystem in order to save lives through timely information from imminent hazards. People-centred, end-to-end, multi-hazard early-warning systems can help minimize the harm to people, assets, and livelihoods by triggering early action that is well-prepared and tested. This is also aligned with the early warning for all initiatives launched by the United Nations to get every person on Earth to be protected by early warning system by 2027.
- b) **ACCELERATE** the implementation of the Priority Programme 4 on Resilient Recovery under the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 and beyond, particularly to develop a pre-disaster programme on resilient recovery and strengthen the preparedness for regional recovery assistance for large-scale disasters.
- c) **STRENGTHEN** the institutional capacity of ASEAN in disaster recovery including by developing an ASEAN framework on disaster recovery for resilience, which build upon the ASEAN Disaster Recovery Reference Guide (ADRRG), as well as lessons learned from ASEAN experience in disaster recovery activities. The strategic framework shall articulate a regional vision for recovery, define recovery strategy, and guide ASEAN

Member States in prioritisation of recovery actions and financing. The Framework shall also ensure the implementation of the whole-of-ASEAN approach and inclusion of all groups within the society so that no one is left behind.

- d) **EXPLORE** innovative ways in financing recovery activities in the aftermath of disasters to ensure that affected communities are able to rebuild and recover swiftly, while building back better and become more resilient for future challenges. The ACDM shall work with various stakeholders in order to strengthen financing of recovery activities at the regional level to further improve the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief Fund (ADMER Fund).

ADOPTED through ad-referendum by the ASEAN Ministers-in-Charge of Disaster Management on 23 September 2024 and to be launched at the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.