



**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE TWELFTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

(12th AMMSWD)

29th August 2025

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Video Conference

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The Twelfth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development was convened on 29th August 2025 via video conference. The meeting was chaired by Myanmar guided by the theme “Enhancing Responsive Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups in the ASEAN Community”.

We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening social protection that are age and gender responsive, disability-inclusive, accessible and shock-responsive and adaptive to the needs of persons in vulnerable situations in the ASEAN Community, building on the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and working towards the realizing of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its Strategic Plans, as well as to implement the Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2015), Regional Plan of Action to Implement the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN (2021), ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2018), Declaration on Disability-Inclusive Development and Partnership for a Resilient ASEAN Community (2023), ASEAN Regional Plan

of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (2015), ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan Against Trafficking in Persons Work Plan 2023-2028 (2023), ASEAN Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Nutrition (2019), Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community (2020), ASEAN Declaration on The Prevention of Child Labour, Including The Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour (2024), ASEAN Roadmap on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025, Declaration on Strengthening the Care Economy and Fostering Resilience towards ASEAN Community Post 2025 (2024), ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (2021), Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Importance of the Family for Community Development and Nation-Building (2021) and the ASEAN Declaration on Gender Equality and Family Development (2023).

We recognised the persistent and emerging challenges faced by women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other persons in vulnerable situations, among others and those living in extreme poverty and affected by disasters, especially in light of the impacts of climate change, demographic shift, economic uncertainties and other global trends and challenges.

We underscored the role of ASEAN in developing regional strategies and mechanisms and enhancing institutional capacity for inclusion of social protection in ASEAN policies, programmes and budgets across pillars and sectors fostering multi-stakeholder approach.

We emphasised the importance of enhancing responsive and adaptive social protection as a key strategy to alleviate poverty and achieve development for people in all aspects of life. We focused on enhancing provisions related to population aging, ensuring the rights and dignity of older persons, and working towards building an age-friendly society in ASEAN.

We are encouraged by the launch of the ASEAN Vision 2045: Our Shared Future which aims to realise a people-centered ASEAN by 2045 in which ASEAN Member States are united by regional solidarity and cooperation, places the ASEAN People at the heart of ASEAN's efforts, and ensures the meaningful and inclusive participation of all stakeholders in ASEAN Community-building processes.

We reiterated that cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholders collaboration are essential in strengthening social protection that benefits and impacts on the lives of ASEAN People.

We agreed to:

Accelerate ASEAN's led regional and national efforts in promoting responsive and adaptive social protection to strengthen resilience and well-being of persons in the most vulnerable situations in our societies through inclusive policies and programmes across sectors and levels of governance, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Encourage all Member States to promote equitable access to quality social protection services for persons in vulnerable situations through extending coverage, accessibility, availability, quality of social protection and sustainable financing mechanisms.

Recognise the critical roles fulfilled by the social service workforce in ensuring high quality, timely delivery of and accessibility to social protection and commit to strengthen their capacity for better responsiveness, coordination and effectiveness of social protection and delivery services.

Accelerate implementation of adaptive and shock-responsive social protection measures to minimize the risk, exposure and vulnerability of ASEAN People, especially women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and other persons in vulnerable situations, among others and those living in at-risk areas to climate-related extreme events and other global trends challenges. A key focus is on developing a social assistance system that can adapt to fluctuations, possess response capabilities, and support persons in vulnerable situations, particularly elderly people without support, severely disabled individuals, and single-person households.

Recognise the importance of building capacities and empowering women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons, and other persons in vulnerable situations, among others as agents of resilience and community-building.

Encourage the use of digital innovations and data-driven tools to increase the efficiency, reach and transparency in the delivery of social protection assistance, while safeguarding personal data and promoting digital inclusion.

Promote evidence-based policymaking and regional cooperation in knowledge-sharing, capacity building and data management to inform adaptive and sustainable social protection interventions.

Strengthen collaboration with ASEAN partners, civil society, the private sector and communities to foster inclusive, community-based and rights-based approaches to social protection towards achieving equitable and shared prosperity for all, especially for the persons in vulnerable situations in the region.

Emphasise the crucial role of social work professional networks and grassroots social service systems, with the active participation of the state, private sector, and civil society organisations.

Task the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to fully implement the SOMSWD Work Plan 2021-2025 and its Results Framework and ACWC Work Plan 2021-2025, and ensure the development of their next work plans for 2026-2030 that support the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection and its Regional Plan of Action and Results Framework.