



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC) COUNCIL

8 October 2025

-
1. The 34th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting was held on 8 October 2025 in Selangor, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dato Sri Tiong King Sing, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture of Malaysia. It was attended by ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, and Timor-Leste as Observer.
 2. We congratulated Malaysia for the realisation of its priorities under its 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship with the theme “Inclusivity and Sustainability,” which underscores ASEAN’s commitment to intensify and reinforce its efforts in ensuring inclusive and sustainable development and progress in the region. We noted Malaysia’s initiatives that further strengthen cultural identity, unity and identity, while aligning with Malaysia’s MADANI values of Sustainability, Care and Compassion, Respect, Innovation, Prosperity and Trust.
 3. We further commended the steadfast and strong leadership of Malaysia in advancing its 2025 ASCC Chairmanship priorities which promote culture and heritage, advance technological innovation including artificial intelligence, digitalisation and green jobs, strengthen climate action, enhance health and sports development and cooperation, and empower ASEAN youth. We recognised the critical role of these areas in future-proofing ASEAN while reinforcing progress, growth, centrality and regional integration.
 4. Following the adoption of the ASCC Strategic Plan by our ASEAN Leaders at the 46th ASEAN Summit, we noted the ongoing initiatives to lay the groundwork for the ASCC Strategic Plan’s implementation, which will support its effective and sustained delivery, adaptive planning, continuous learning and knowledge management, and robust monitoring and communication. We commended the leadership of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Develop the ASCC Strategic Plan (AHWG) in the development of the ASCC Results Framework, which will set clear results-based indicators, targets and baselines of the Strategic Plan. We also noted the implementation of the Strategic Plan’s communication and outreach activities, underscoring the importance of effectively communicating the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the ASCC Strategic Plan. In this regard, we commended the successful convening of the Regional Forum on the ASCC Strategic Plan on 19 August 2025, in Selangor, Malaysia, which brought together more than 300 in-person and online stakeholders. We welcomed the ongoing enhancement of the ASCC monitoring, evaluation and reporting system that will integrate planning and learning components, enabling better and more effective alignment of sectoral work plans as well as regional and national initiatives to the Strategic Plan, and strengthening the use of data for evidence-based decision-

making, and documenting lessons learned to inform future strategies and initiatives.

5. Along this line, we noted the Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC's (SOCA) discussion on the revisions to the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the ASCC Council, SOCA, and the Coordinating Conference on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOC-COM) to promote consistency, continuity and alignment of ASCC's work to the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the ASCC Strategic Plan.
6. On the ASCC Blueprint 2025 implementation, we noted with satisfaction its steady progress, including the follow-up actions to the adopted ASCC declarations. We applauded the ASCC in addressing 100 per cent of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 Strategic Measures with ongoing and completed initiatives, demonstrating ASEAN's commitment to achieving the goals of the ASCC in improving the quality and well-being of the people in the region. We also underscored the importance of the ASCC Database for Monitoring and Evaluation (ADME) System, which continuously supports the data-driven and evidence-based reporting of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 implementation while offering an interactive and user-friendly interface and a convenient and accessible mobile version for on-the-go access, and looked forward to the development of its second phase, which will support the ASCC Strategic Plan's implementation.
7. We noted the finalised Interim Report of the End-Term Review of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 (ASCC ETR), which showcased the ASCC's progress in strengthening regional cooperation, cross-sectoral and cross-pillar linkages, alignment with national policies, and enhanced partnerships to improve the quality of life and well-being of ASEAN people. We welcomed the ongoing second phase of the ASCC ETR data collection, which will contribute to the Final Report of the ASCC ETR and will further showcase the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 until its conclusion.
8. We endorsed the following outcome documents for the consideration of the ASEAN Leaders at the 47th ASEAN Summit:

For adoption:

- a) Melaka Declaration on Cultural Heritage Value Creation
- b) ASEAN Leaders Declaration on Higher Education: Towards an Inclusive, Sustainable and Prosperous ASEAN
- c) ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 30th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 30)
- d) Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Safe and Responsible Use of Social Media Platforms for ASEAN
- e) Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration to Reaffirm the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information's Commitment to Strategic Progress in Media and Information

For notation:

- a) ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2026-2030

- b) ASEAN Ministerial Statement on the 20 Years of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER): ASEAN Vision for Global Leadership in Disaster Resilience
 - c) Joint Statement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025
 - d) ASEAN Guidelines for Addressing Child and Forced Marriage within the Context of Trafficking in Persons
 - e) The Path Ahead: Strategies to Operationalise the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Towards Realising ASEAN Community Vision 2045
 - f) Mid-Term Review Report of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 - g) Joint Statement on Actionable Plan for Green Jobs Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive ASEAN Workforce
 - h) Joint Statement on Skills Development for the Future Workforce in ASEAN
 - i) ASEAN Roadmap for the Prevention of Child Labour Including Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2035
 - j) ASEAN Statement on Future-Ready Public Service
 - k) Langkawi Joint Statement on ASEAN Out-Of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY): Accelerating Innovative Strategies: Mitigating OOSCY Challenges
 - l) ASEAN-SEAMEO Joint Roadmap on Early Childhood Care and Education in Southeast Asia
 - m) 34th ASCC Council Report to ASEAN Summit
9. We welcomed the signing by all ASEAN Member States of the Establishment Agreement of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC) and ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC THPC), which further strengthens ASEAN's efforts in addressing the impacts of climate change, particularly in reducing emissions, mitigating haze pollution and building climate change resilience in the region. We looked forward to the completion of the ASEAN Member States' ratification process and the Host Country Agreements for both centres. We also looked forward to the completion and signing of the Establishment Agreement of the ASEAN Center for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) and urged related sectoral bodies to accelerate the process, underlining the strategic contribution of the Center to further strengthen our region's capacity to prepare for, prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies and emerging diseases.
10. We also noted with satisfaction the various cross-pillar and cross-sectoral initiatives being undertaken by the ASCC, including Ending Child Labour and Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers; ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security; ASEAN Development Outlook Volume 2; ASEAN Comprehensive Framework on Care Economy; ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action and ASEAN One Health Network; ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in Southeast Asia and Vientiane Statement on Equity, Access, and Environment for Advancing Climate Resilience in ECCE; ASEAN Creative Economy Sustainability Framework; ASCC Research and Development Platform Programme; and the Strategy Playbook on Promoting an Adaptive ASEAN Community of Greater

Understanding, Tolerance and a Sense of Regional Agendas among the Peoples of ASEAN. We urged relevant sectoral bodies to ensure their smooth and effective implementation.

11. On supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, we noted the completion of the Complementarities Initiative (C.I.) 2.0, which will succeed the current C.I. 1.0 Framework for Action and will address five new priority areas in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, namely Green Finance, Resilience Against Climate Change, Energy Transition, Effective Digital Transformation, and Networking and Partnerships.
12. We noted the results of the Mid-term Review Report of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the development of the successor framework of ASEAN on mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities, which aims to scale up the engagements with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN partners as well as institutionalise the meaningful participation and engagement of organisations of persons with disabilities.
13. We encouraged the strengthening of cross-pillar mechanisms and platforms to support collaboration among all Pillars and ASEAN Connectivity. In this regard, we applauded the completion of the secondment of Socio-Cultural Officials from Malaysia and the Philippines to their Permanent Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia, and looked forward to the completion of the nomination of the Socio-Cultural Official from Viet Nam as early as possible. We look forward for stronger role of SCO in enhancing policy coordination across sectors and pillars, as well as strengthen engagement with external partners. In this regard, we task SCO with the support of ASEAN Secretariat to prepare information note on existing cross pillar mechanisms, assessment and recommendations for stronger coordination, to support effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and other cross-cutting agendas.
14. We welcomed and expressed our support for the ASEAN Leaders' decision at the 46th ASEAN Summit to admit Timor-Leste as the 11th Member of ASEAN at the 47th ASEAN Summit this October 2025. We also expressed our appreciation to the relevant ASEAN Ministerial Sectoral Bodies, namely the ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), and the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM), for facilitating the accession of Timor-Leste to the six ASCC Legal Instruments. We encourage continuation of ASEAN Member States' support to Timor-Leste.
15. We conveyed our deep appreciation to Malaysia for the effective Chairmanship and excellent arrangements for the 33rd and 34th ASCC Council Meetings and looked forward to the upcoming ASCC Chairmanship under the Philippines in 2026.
