



**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ASEAN HEALTH MINISTERS
MEETING (17TH AHMM)**

10 September 2026, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Seventeenth Health Ministers Meeting was held on 10 September 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

RECALLING the *Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future*, adopted at the 46th ASEAN Summit on 26 May 2025, which formally adopted the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 on “*Resilient, Innovative, Dynamic, and People-Centred ASEAN*” the ASEAN Political-Security Community Strategic Plan, the ASEAN Economic Community Strategic Plan, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan, and the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan.

NOTING the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan envisions a people-centred, people-oriented, and interconnected with seamless movement of people, goods, and services and a strong sense of a shared ASEAN ownership and identity; as well as a Caring Community that enables its people to realise their full potential and enjoy a better quality of life, including through a healthy ASEAN-population, with increased life expectancy, well-being at all ages, safe from communicable and non-communicable diseases, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and access to quality healthcare.

REAFFIRMING the commitment to the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” as agreed by leaders at the 70th United Nations General Assembly in 2015 which includes the overarching SDG 3 to *ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*.

CONCERNED ABOUT the growing burden of disease in ASEAN, comprising communicable and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases; non-communicable diseases; injuries and mental health conditions further compounded by climate change and risk of future pandemics as well as the rapid demographic transition driven by longer life expectancies and declining fertility in ASEAN.

WELCOMING the renewed vision of the ASEAN Health Sector on *Aspiring Towards a Healthier ASEAN Community*, articulated in the *ASEAN Strategic Health Agenda (ASHA) 2026-2030*, and the work of the ASEAN Senior Health Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) in leading the ASEAN Health Clusters and ASEAN Centres and

networks in the rigorous development of the new regional agenda and work programmes through the four ASEAN Health Clusters on Promoting Healthy Lifestyle; Responding to All Hazards and Emerging Threats; Strengthening Health Systems and Access to Care; and Ensuring Food Safety; and the implementation of relevant ASEAN Health Sector-led ASEAN Leaders' Declarations and Joint Statements.

ACKNOWLEDGING ASEAN's continued efforts to strengthen architecture for health emergency preparedness, prevention, response, and coordination through relevant priorities under the ASEAN Health Clusters; complemented by the relevant ASEAN platforms mechanisms, and policies, under various ASEAN Frameworks, Guidelines, and Standard Operating Procedures, as well as regional guidelines and standard operating procedures.

APPRECIATING the ASEAN Health Sector's continued efforts to expand and strengthen meaningful partnerships with Dialogue Partners, including the new formalised health cooperation with Japan and the United States of America, Development Partners, as well as other relevant partners, in enhancing collaboration and coordination with regional and global actors and relevant organisations.

WELCOMING the updated *Governance and Implementation Mechanism*, the *Rules of Procedure on the ASEAN Health Sector Partnerships and Engagement with Entities* and the *Terms of Reference of ASEAN Health Clusters* in guiding the effective implementation of ASHA 2026-2030.

SUPPORTING the regional aspiration to effective, integrated and resilient and people-centred health systems across AMS by maximizing cross-sectoral approaches, promoting sustainable health financing, leveraging health innovations and digital health technologies, including the use of information system for knowledge management and public health intelligence, improving health cooperation and enhancing synergies to address various health challenges in ASEAN and to advance a healthier, more resilient, and inclusive ASEAN Community.

AFFIRMING our commitment to advancing a *Healthy ASEAN: Together Towards Equitable, Future-Ready Health Systems and in Synergizing Health Systems for Resilience, Well-Being and Health Security*, we discussed and exchanged views on their implementation and agreed on the following:

1. Advance the effective implementation of the ASHA 2026-2030 and its Work Programmes, the health-related ASEAN Leaders' Declarations (ALDs) and Leaders' Statements through the respective roles and mandates of the SOMHD, the ASEAN Health Clusters, project leads, and ASEAN Centres and Networks, guided by the ASHA Governance and Implementation Mechanism, the Rules of Procedure on the ASEAN Health Sector Partnerships and Engagement with Entities and the Terms of Reference of ASEAN Health Clusters.

ADOPTED BY THE 17th AHMM

2. Support the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation programme, with clear structures, procedures, roles and responsibilities within the ASEAN Health Sector to track progress and strengthen accountability for the implementation of work programmes and plans, ALDs and Leaders' Statements; and to contribute to the implementation of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.
3. Agree on a clear timeline of the finalisation, signing, ratification and operationalisation of the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) while maximising and strengthening synergies with existing ASEAN Health sector-led mechanisms among others, the ASEAN Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Network, ASEAN Risk Assessment and Risk Communication Centre, ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre (ABVC), the ASEAN+3 Field Epidemiology Training Network, and the ASEAN One Health Network (AOHN) to advance regional preparedness, prevention, detection and response capabilities for future health threats and emergencies.
4. Further strengthen regional cooperation and partnerships with relevant dialogue and development partners to advance shared ASEAN health priorities, with a focus on nutrition, healthy and active ageing, NCD prevention and control, One Health approach, AMR, disaster health management, VTDs, biosafety and biosecurity, ending AIDS by 2030, healthier food environments, and stronger control of tobacco, nicotine, ENDS and ENNDS, particularly to protect young people.
5. Task the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development with the following:
 - a. Implement ASHA 2026-2030 and the work programmes of the four (4) ASEAN Health Clusters and the plans of action arising from related declarations and commitments.
 - b. Strengthen and follow through on the ASEAN Health Sector's monitoring and evaluation approach with structures, procedures and roles and responsibilities, to support evidence-based implementation and track progress.
 - c. Continue strengthening and exploring the cooperation with other ASEAN sectors, ASEAN Dialogue and Development Partners and other relevant partners while avoiding fragmentation and in alignment with the ASEAN Health Sector's vision, mission statements, goals, strategies and health priorities, and in accordance with adhering to the *ASEAN Charter* and *Rules of Procedure on ASEAN Health Sector Partnerships and Engagement with Entities*.

We look forward to further exchanges of views and collaboration in health development at our next Meeting in Myanmar in 2028.
