

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE
FIRST ASEAN – UNITED STATES HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING
(1st ASEAN – U.S. HMM)**

11 SEPTEMBER 2026, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

The First ASEAN – United States Health Ministers Meeting was held on 11 September 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, in conjunction with the 17th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (17th AHMM).

RECALLING the *Special Video Conference of the Health Ministers of ASEAN and the United States in Enhancing Cooperation on COVID-19 Response* on 30 April 2020, the *ASEAN-U.S. Special Session Health Ministerial Meeting* on 15 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia, the *ASEAN-U.S. Special Session Health Ministerial Meeting* on 9 August 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, and the series of exchanges between senior health officials and technical experts between ASEAN and U.S. through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other agencies, and further recognising the importance of ASEAN-U.S. cooperation in public health, in strengthening health security and in fostering stability and prosperity of our nations and the wider region;

ACKNOWLEDGING the progress of our cooperation through the roll out of initiatives that further strengthen ASEAN-wide health security, institutionalise public health emergency preparedness and response, and harness workforce development and capacity building, as has been guided by the *Terms of Reference for the ASEAN-U.S. Health Engagement*, the *ASEAN-U.S. Health Cooperation Work Plan 2022-2025*, the *ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda 2021-2025*, and the *ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Joint Vision Statement to Promote Stronger, Safer, and More Prosperous ASEAN and America* adopted at the 13th ASEAN-U.S. Summit on 26 October 2025 in Kuala Lumpur;

COMMITTING to sustain collective efforts to address regional health threats and strengthen public health systems, through the ASEAN-U.S. Health Ministers Meeting (ASEAN-U.S. HMM) and the ASEAN-U.S. Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (ASEAN-U.S. SOMHD), and aligned with the Governance and Implementation Mechanisms of the ASEAN Health Sector;

STANDING united in our resolve to further advance the health development goals and objectives of the ASEAN Health Sector as articulated in the ASEAN Strategic Health Agenda (ASHA) 2026-2030 as well as encapsulated in the theme of Malaysia's

Chairship of the ASEAN Health Sector in 2025 and 2026, *'Healthy ASEAN: Together Towards Equitable, Future-Ready Health Systems'*;

REAFFIRMING our support for ASEAN Centrality, and for the shared objectives and principles reflected in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and strategic plans of ASEAN Communities, in particular the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Strategic Plan, and while acknowledging the ASEAN-U.S. HMM topic, *'Centering ASEAN, Multiplying Impact: A Multilateral Blueprint for Sustainable Health Systems and Health Security'*;

HAVE DECIDED to operationalise the formalised ASEAN-U.S. Health Cooperation, through the following measures:

- i. Formulate and implement an *ASEAN-U.S. Health Cooperation Work Plan 2027-2030* that builds on the shared gains of the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Health Cooperation Work Plan 2022-2025, and the areas of cooperation in the *Joint Statement of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Session Health Ministerial Meeting* in August 2024 as well as the priorities of ASHA 2026-2030;
- ii. Sustain and deepen ongoing cooperation on the prevention, preparedness, detection and response to future public health emergencies, through establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED);
- iii. Enhance laboratory systems and diagnostic capacity across the region, including through the technical support in laboratory quality management systems, genomic surveillance, antimicrobial resistance mitigation, and biosafety and biosecurity, and supporting the development of ASEAN Laboratory Network, as well as explore potential collaboration with the ASEAN Diagnostics Security and Self-Reliance (ADxSSR) initiative;
- iv. Improve regional public health intelligence through integrated disease surveillance systems, public health information systems, advanced surveillance analytics, bioinformatics, and early warning systems for emerging health threats, leveraging data analytics and digital innovation consistent with applicable data protection, privacy, security, and ethical safeguards, by among others supporting ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre (ABVC);
- v. Engage in workforce development and capacity building, including through field epidemiology training, the ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (APT FETN), One Health workforce development, and laboratory leadership development and technical exchange programs;

- vi. Recognize the growing importance of behavioural health cooperation, including community-based and integrated approaches to mental illness, substance use prevention and care, suicide prevention and crisis care systems, youth mental health and resilience, advancing recovery, and identifying and addressing emerging behavioural health threats;
- vii. Strengthen cancer control, surveillance, and research cooperation.
- viii. Explore additional areas of shared interest to foster meaningful partnership, consistent with the broad scope of ASHA 2026–2030 and the strategic priorities of the U.S. Government’s global health agenda.

LOOKING FORWARD to further exchanges of views and collaboration in health development in future health-focused engagements.
