



ASEAN DECLARATION ON PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AND THE RIGHT TO PEACE TOWARDS REALISING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WE, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 47th ASEAN Summit held on 26 October 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in accordance with the ASEAN Charter;

WELCOMING the progress made by ASEAN in advancing the aspirations of the *ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together*, in parallel with the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

REAFFIRMING the commitments in *ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future* to advance a resilient, innovative, dynamic and people-centred ASEAN and a sustainable future for the benefits of the peoples and the region;

NOTING the alignment and synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ASEAN Community-building efforts, particularly in advancing the quality of life and well-being of the peoples of ASEAN;

RECALLING ASEAN's commitment as reflected in the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, in particular, Articles 35, 36 and 37 of the AHRD, which affirm the right of every person and the peoples of ASEAN to participate in, contribute to, enjoy and benefit equitably and sustainably from economic, social, cultural and political development in the region;

RECALLING Article 38 of the AHRD, which affirms that every person and the peoples of ASEAN have the right to enjoy peace within an ASEAN framework of security and stability, neutrality, and freedom, as essential conditions for the full realisation of the human rights enshrined in the AHRD;

RECALLING the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability (2012), Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2017), ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient,

Healthy and Harmonious Society (2017), ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (2022), and ASEAN Declaration on Disability-Inclusive Development and Partnership for a Resilient ASEAN Community (2023);

RECALLING the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development (1986) and the purposes and principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, particularly the common desire and collective will to live in a region of sustained economic growth, shared prosperity, and social progress;

RECALLING the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Peace (2016), which recognises the right to enjoy peace as a human right, underscores the importance of preventing armed conflict, and to foster a culture of peace through the advancement of human rights, development, and equality;

REAFFIRMING the ASEAN Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment (2025);

RECOGNISING that environmental degradation, including from climate change and unsustainable development constitute some of the most pressing and serious threats to the ability of present and future generations to enjoy human rights;

RECOGNISING further the importance of digital inclusion to bridge socio-economic gaps by expanding equitable digital access across the region as well as the role of youth;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN's commitment to ensuring sustainable development that benefits both present and future generations, and to enhancing the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by promoting equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare, and justice;

NOTING the intersection of business, human rights, environment, and climate change while reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights, advancement of sustainable development, and ensuring regional peace and security are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that addressing environmental and climate change challenges is essential to ensuring the well-being of present and future generations;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN's commitment to alleviating poverty and narrowing the development gap within the region through mutual assistance and cooperation, whole-of-community approach and inclusive participation as well as to promoting sustainable development to ensure environmental protection and the sustainability of the region's natural resources;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN's commitment to promoting inclusivity and sustainability as key strategies to fully realise the right to development such as social, economic, political, environmental and cultural development and to uphold peace in the region, such realisation to be considered while upholding the sovereign right to pursue national development in accordance with relevant and applicable international human rights standards and national laws and policies;

REITERATING ASEAN's commitment to adhering to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and good governance, as well as to respecting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms;

REITERATING the purposes and principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, particularly the common desire and commitment to maintain and enhance peace, security, and peace-oriented values in the region;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the right to development and the right to enjoy peace are inalienable human rights, and that they should be fulfilled in a manner that equitably addresses the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations, and where everyone can enjoy peace and the fruits of development;

REITERATING the importance of advancing partnerships in promoting inclusivity and sustainability in all dimensions within the region;

HEREBY DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. To advance the right to development, the right to enjoy peace, and inclusive and sustainable development in the region through an ASEAN-led, ASEAN-owned, and whole-of-ASEAN approach, in accordance with the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.
2. That the right to development and the right to enjoy peace as recognised in the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, are complementary in nature and linked, as inclusive and sustainable development, grounded in principles of equality, non-discrimination, and meaningful participation, fosters stability and well-being, which are essential for durable and lasting peace.
3. That every human person and the peoples of ASEAN are the central subjects of development, and should be the active agents in as well as the beneficiaries of the development process.

4. To strengthen national and regional policies and legislative frameworks that promote the right to development, the right to enjoy peace, and inclusive and sustainable development for all peoples of ASEAN in furtherance of their active, free and meaningful participation and contribution in the development process and the equitable distribution of its resulting benefits for all.
5. To undertake proactive measures and initiatives to eliminate obstacles to inclusive and sustainable development in accordance with respective national contexts and regulations, including the removal of barriers to equitable access to essential services such as education, healthcare, food, housing, transport, communications, utilities, digital technology, law enforcement, employment and the fair distribution of income, and the pursuit of efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to address inequalities.
6. To strengthen national and regional measures to ensure the active and meaningful participation and contribution of all peoples of ASEAN in the development process without leaving anyone behind, including those in vulnerable situations, and to empower them to participate and contribute equitably and effectively to realise their full potential.
7. To acknowledge the complementarities between the *ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future* and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with ASEAN Community-building efforts towards achieving equitable and sustainable development, inclusive growth, greater economic opportunities that support poverty eradication, equitable access to quality education, digital literacy and skills, future-ready workforce and enhanced cooperation to narrow development gaps, while ensuring environmental protection and the sustainability of the region's natural resources and respect for human rights principles including equality and non-discrimination.
8. To encourage greater involvement and meaningful contribution of the private sector in advancing inclusive growth and sustainable development through responsible business conduct, good corporate governance, and mitigating the potential adverse impacts of their business operations.
9. To maintain and promote regional peace, stability, and shared prosperity by fostering a culture of dialogue, cooperation and prevention, including through collaboration with leading regional and global institutions to strengthen ASEAN's advocacy and research activities on peace, reconciliation, accountability, and by fostering a culture of prevention, management, and resolution of conflict, in accordance with national legal requirements, regional frameworks and international commitments, where applicable.

10. To task the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and relevant ASEAN organs and bodies to follow-up on the realisation of this Declaration in line with *ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future* with assured continuous support and adequate resources for this purpose.

Adopted on this Twenty Sixth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five in a single original copy in the English Language.