



**39TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
3-7 SEPTEMBER 2018, SINGAPORE**

Towards a Resilient and Innovative Community

(Res 39GA/2018/Soc/02)

**RESOLUTION ON
PROMOTING DIGITAL LITERACY AND COMBATING FAKE NEWS**

The Thirty-Ninth General Assembly:

Noting the rapidly increasing use of online and social media for communication and for news consumption in line with Internet penetration and access amongst ASEAN Member States;

Welcoming the potential for info-communications tools, including online and social media applications, to facilitate information-sharing, enhance communication, support e-commerce and innovative services, and contribute positively to social and economic development of ASEAN Member States;

Aware that online and social media has particular characteristics, which enable information to be communicated with much greater ease and speed by a large number of individuals and groups, that are unlike that of traditional media structured around licensed media organisations;

Expressing concern that fake news are often designed and implemented so as to mislead a population, as well as to interfere with the public's right to know and the right of the individuals to seek and receive, as well as to impart information and ideas of all kinds, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter Article 2(i).

Recognising that greater efforts should be undertaken to encourage constructive behaviour and discourse online and to ensure that individuals take responsibility for their actions through this mode of communication;

Mindful of the threat of fake news and how information can be deliberately distorted and manipulated to create fake news stories to instigate violence, sow hate and discord amongst the people, undermine trust in political and community institutions, and thus undermine the resilience of ASEAN Member States;

Considering the importance for individuals and groups, as the foundation of digitally-ready societies, to cultivate the ability to be discerning when dealing with the vast amount of information available online and to form the bulwark against proliferation of fake news;

Considering that public education to promote digital literacy forms a key component to a comprehensive and continuing response to the challenges of fake news, supporting other measures on fact-checking, media monitoring and appropriate regulation;

Welcoming discussions on the challenges posed by online and social media and the issue of fake news within ASEAN through meetings of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) and of related officials;

Noting that the 14th Conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) has adopted the Declaration on the Framework to Minimise the Harmful Effects of Fake news and a set of Core Values on Digital Literacy for ASEAN on 10 May 2018.

Hereby resolves to:

Reiterate that governments play an important role to develop trusted sources of information and socially responsible media in their countries, to educate and protect citizens especially the young against deliberate online falsehoods, fake news and misinformation, and to take necessary measures to safeguard sovereignty and public order without undermining the constitutional rights of each individual;

Encourage freedom of universal access to information and communication technology in accordance with national legislations;

Observing UN Resolution A/RES/69/28 which noted that information and communication technologies (ICTs) bring immense economic and social benefits, but also can be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international peace and security;

Promote discussion and sharing of best practices expertise and learning from experiences among ASEAN lawmakers to combat fake news, in areas such as the development of public education campaigns, the establishment of monitoring and fact-checking mechanisms and regulatory

measures, relevant for the particular national circumstances of individual ASEAN Member States;

Strengthen cooperation with stakeholders in governments, academia, industry, civil society and community organisations across ASEAN to raise awareness of, and to advocate the importance of digital literacy and to further improve the reach and delivery of digital literacy programmes to all segments of society;

Call upon media organisations, online and social media companies and communities to strengthen capabilities to detect and to develop the measures to combat deliberate online falsehoods and fake news, and to build on industry norms that promotes the discerning consumption of information;

Recommend ASEAN dialogue partners and stakeholders in industry and community to provide technical assistance to governments to develop digital literacy programmes for all segments of society;

Call on ASEAN Member States to consider comprehensive measures towards combating fake news including the regulation of social media and strengthening collaboration with media organisations;

Call on a stronger collaboration between the governments and private sectors to bridge the digital gap in the ASEAN Member States.

Adopted on the Sixth day of September 2018 in Singapore.
