



**THE 45TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**
17-23 October 2024
Vientiane, Lao PDR

*The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and
Inclusive Growth of ASEAN*

(Res.45GA/2024/YPA/01)

RESOLUTION ON
**EMPOWERING YOUTH IN BUILDING A SECURE, RESILIENT, AND
INCLUSIVE ASEAN COMMUNITY**

*Sponsored by the Lao PDR
Co-sponsored by Viet Nam*

The Forty-fifth AIPA General Assembly:

Recognising United Nations Resolution [A/RES/70/1](#) on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015;

Emphasising the role of children and youth as agents of positive change and transformation, and highlighting the need for intergenerational dialogue and engagement, including with and among children, youth and older persons, to be taken prioritised in our policy and decision-making processes in order to safeguard the needs and interests of future generations, underscored in a [Declaration on the Future Generations](#), adopted at the UN Summit of the Future on 24 September 2024;

Reaffirming ASEAN’s recognition of the vital role of young people in achieving inclusive community that promotes high quality of life, equitable access to opportunities and education, and protects human rights and community participation, as highlighted in the [ASEAN Community Vision 2025](#), adopted by the 27th ASEAN Summit on 21 November 2015; [ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025](#), adopted by the ASEAN Education Ministers on 31 May 2021; the [Joint Statement on Promoting The Youth, Peace And Security Agenda](#), adopted at the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum; the commitment expressed in the 2022 [ASEAN Leader’s Statement on the Year of ASEAN Youth to Strengthen the Role of Youth in ASEAN Community-Building](#), adopted at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits;

Recalling Resolution [Res.43GA/2022/Soc/04](#) on “Fostering Engagement with Young People through a Sustainable, Resilient, and Prosperous ASEAN Community” which was adopted at the 43rd AIPA General Assembly in 2022, Resolution [Res.44GA/2023/YPA/01](#) on “Advancing Youth Engagement for Inclusive Development, Economic Transformation, and Democratic Participation”, and Resolution

[Res.44GA/2023/YPA/02](#) on “Advancing the Role of Young Parliamentarians in Governance” which was adopted at the 44th AIPA General Assembly in 2023, and the [World Program of Action for Youth \(WPAY\) to the Year 2000 and Beyond](#), adopted by The United Nations General Assembly in 1995;

Noting that the youth, comprising 224.2 million individuals aged 15 to 35 in Southeast Asia ([ASEAN Youth Development Index](#), 2022), play a critical role in driving social, political, cultural and economic transformation and development, and recognising the need for an institutionalised mechanism for their participation in policy-making and engagement in community programmes as outlined in the [ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025](#);

Acknowledging that the youth remain under-represented in legislative bodies, with young parliamentarians constituting only 21.18% of ASEAN's legislative members, presenting significant challenges to regional democratic processes and limiting the inclusion of diverse perspectives in decision-making;

Recognising the concern that insufficient youth participation in political processes can hinder sustainable development and inclusive governance, and exacerbate existing inequalities;

Further recalling the challenges faced by ASEAN youth and the recommendations made during the First Consultative Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA), held via video conference on 5 August 2024, under the theme “Empowering Youth in Building a Secure, Resilient, and Inclusive ASEAN Community”.

Hereby resolves to:

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to work hand in hand with ASEAN Member States to empower ASEAN youth and take effective measures towards achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to review youth-related legislations and establish platforms or strengthen existing platforms such as national young parliamentarians caucus, to empower youth to become resilient through community engagement, advocacy, capacity-building initiatives, and other relevant activities;

Direct AIPA Secretariat to develop the Terms of Reference of the established Consultative Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA which shall spearhead the advocacy for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and cultural and religious inclusivity among the youth as future leaders, change-makers, and influencers;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States to review the national legal framework and strengthen regional mechanisms to promote equitable opportunities, inclusive participation, and meaningful engagement of youth especially those in the marginalised sector in regional and international programmes, ensuring inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage ASEAN Member States to support youth development, regardless of their gender and/or social conditions, by setting out their own national policy on youth development and accelerating cooperation in

educational and vocational exchange programmes, enhancing youth knowledge, skills, and opportunities towards building a resilient and inclusive community;

Call upon AIPA Young Parliamentarians to advocate for ASEAN Identity and highlight the crucial role of youth in promoting peace, addressing regional challenges, ensuring inclusive decision-making and sharing national strategies and best practices for youth participation in politics and leadership within ASEAN;

Urge AIPA Secretariat to collaborate with the secretariats of AIPA Observer Parliaments, AIPA Development Partners and encourage ASEAN Member States to collaborate with Dialogue Partners respectively, as well as, regional and international organisations and other external stakeholders to enhance youth participation and address emerging youth-related transnational issues including the impact of disruptive technology on youth unemployment, and tackling related drug problems, online gambling, and sexual abuse and exploitation in online platform;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to develop initiatives, aligned with the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025, to equip youth for the future workforce by promoting digital literacy and ethical artificial intelligence practices. These programs should also tackle digital inequality, combat misinformation, and boost regional competitiveness;

Recommend that AIPA Member Parliaments actively oversee the implementation, where possible, of the AIPA Resolutions adopted by the Standing Committee Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA to support the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025 and ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

Approve the [Report of the First Consultative Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly](#).

Adopted on the twenty-first day of October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

**RESOLUTION ON EMPOWERING YOUTH IN BUILDING A SECURE,
RESILIENT, AND INCLUSIVE ASEAN COMMUNITY**

Youth form an integral part of the Southeast Asian demographic landscape, with an estimated 224.2 million as of 2020. This dynamic group is driving social and political transformations, spearheading economic growth, and enriching cultural development. In recognition of youth potential and capabilities, ASEAN underscores the vital role of young people in achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. However, recent data shows that youth remain underrepresented in legislative bodies, with only 21.18% of ASEAN's legislative members. The ASEAN Youth Development Index 2022 indicates that progress in youth participation and engagement has been limited, with varying levels of advancement across different countries.

Consequently, this situation presents significant challenges to the regional democratic processes and limits the inclusion of diverse perspectives in decision-making. Insufficient youth participation in political processes may impede sustainable development and inclusive governance, deepen existing inequalities, and compound concerns regarding regional peace and security. It is imperative to address this issue, especially considering that young people are disproportionately affected by interconnected societal challenges, including geopolitical conflicts, security threats, economic instability, climate change, the digital divide, unemployment, and drug-related issues.

In recent years, AIPA has made significant strides in enhancing youth participation and engagement, as evidenced by the transformation of the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA) into a Standing Committee in 2022. The First Consultative Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA also marked a milestone by convening young parliamentarians across the region, highlighting the essential role of youth in shaping a secure, resilient, and inclusive ASEAN Community. The meeting emphasises the importance of empowering young people to address challenges, contribute to peace, and ensure their voices are included in decision-making processes. By providing a platform for young parliamentarians to exchange national best practices and engage in dialogue with other ASEAN youth mechanisms, the meeting aims to gather recommendations to foster a secure, resilient, and inclusive ASEAN Community.

Against this backdrop, the resolution recommends that AIPA Member Parliaments review the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Standing Committee Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA. This review is crucial for ensuring AIPA's commitment and efforts to empower youth in political and social economic development at all levels and to promote the participation of youth in building the ASEAN community by achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025.

Moreover, the resolution encourages collaboration between the YPA and related organizations to continue to enhancing and developing cooperation mechanism to promote the participation of ASEAN youth. This includes-sharing national strategies, fostering diverse understanding and encouraging innovation in the region.

Lastly, the resolution recommends YPA and related organizations to cooperate in addressing current youth issues such as promoting equal access to education and participation at all levels for ASEAN youth, assessing the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on youth unemployment, and tackling related drug problems and online gambling.