



**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/Pol/02)

RESOLUTION ON
**ENCOURAGING PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION ON DIGITAL
INCLUSION TO EMPOWER THE PEOPLE OF ASEAN AND ENSURE
COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL PEACE, STABILITY, SECURITY
AND PROSPERITY**

***Sponsored by the Lao PDR
Co-sponsored by Cambodia and Thailand***

The Forty-fifth AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling that international law, in particular the [Charter of the United Nations](#), [ASEAN Charter](#), [Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia \(TAC\)](#), and [AIPA Statutes](#), are applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability, and promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful environment and recognising the need to further study and dialogue on how international law applies to the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) by Member States;

Recalling further the [2010](#), [2013](#), and [2015](#) Reports of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, endorsed by the UN General Assembly, which call upon Member States to promote the use of ICTs for peaceful purposes and to prevent conflicts arising from their use;

Reaffirming ASEAN's vision for peaceful, secure and resilient regional cyberspace that would contribute to our shared commitment of maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region;

Reiterating the [ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025](#), as a leading digital community and economic bloc, powered by secure and transformative digital services, modern technologies, ecosystems, and cyber security;

Recognising ICT as a key driver in ASEAN's economic and social transformation. A strong ICT infrastructure with pervasive connectivity in ASEAN can facilitate the creation of a business environment that is conducive to attracting and promoting trade, investment, and entrepreneurship. ASEAN will need to continue prioritising the bridging

of the digital gap and ensure that ASEAN communities and businesses can benefit from ICT adoption;

Recalling AIPA Resolution No. [Res.42GA/2021/Pol/03](#) on Fostering Human Security to Achieve Digital Inclusion in ASEAN adopted during the 42nd AIPA General Assembly on 23 to 25 August 2021 in Brunei Darussalam;

Further recalling AIPA Resolution No. [Res.43GA/2022/Soc/02](#) on Enhancing Digital Transformation for Inclusive Social Protection adopted during the 43rd General Assembly on 20 to 25 November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

Further reiterating the AIPA Resolutions No. [Res.23GA/2002/Pol/05](#) on Peace and Security in the Region; [Res.33GA/2012/Pol/02](#) on Maintaining Peace and Stability in the Region; [Res.34GA/2013/Pol/01](#) on Supporting the ASEAN Political-Security Community; and [Res.43GA/2022/Pol/03](#) on Promoting Peace, Solidarity, and Multilateralism through ASEAN Centrality;

Further recognising that cyberspace offers opportunities for both social and economic development, while also recognising the evolving challenges that pose a threat to peace and security in our region and the world at large. We understand the importance of addressing immediate, medium-term, and long-term cyber threats and aim to enhance cooperation in order to prevent and combat malicious cyber activities;

Acknowledging the value of strengthened dialogue and cybersecurity cooperation to enhance mutual understanding in addressing common security issues, including cybersecurity, and to facilitate cross-border cooperation to solve the criminal or terrorist use of cyberspace, supporting ASEAN Member States through capacity-building as well as awareness-raising programmes;

Recognising that cybercrime poses significant threats to ASEAN's regional stability, economic growth, and public safety; acknowledging the region's vulnerability to various forms of organized crimes including human trafficking, drug smuggling, money laundering, and online fraud, which are exacerbated by the misuse of information and communication technologies; and recognising the need for a coordinated regional response mechanism, enhancing the sharing of intelligence, experience, and best practices, to strengthen cyber security, and comprehensive strategies to combat cybercrime, as stated in the ASEAN declaration to prevent and combat cybercrime;

Noting the outcomes of the 4th ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings held in February 2024 and considering the new [Strategic Plan of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity for 2024-2026](#), which includes five strategic pillars that focus on digital connectivity, digital transformation, trust and safety, digital inclusion, and sustainability;

Welcoming cybersecurity operations initiatives with a threat intelligence-driven approach to address cyber threats in multilateral fora, in particular in the United Nations.

Hereby resolves to:

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to further encourage their respective governments to strengthen regional and global peace, security, and stability by supporting the implementation of regional cyber confidence-building measures that aim

to reduce misunderstandings and lessen the risk of crime and conflict stemming from the improper use of information and communication technologies;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to further encourage their respective ASEAN governments to intensify the utilisation of various ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on ICTs Security, the ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting, and the ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity to foster a comprehensive common understanding of the risks to international peace and security posed by the misuse of information and communication technologies, and to safeguard critical ICT infrastructure;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments in promoting the sharing of best practices in the realm of cyberspace, with a particular emphasis on enhancing norms and establishing a rules-based framework for cybersecurity. It is essential to create a secure, stable, and peaceful ICT landscape that is inclusive for all individuals in order to cultivate a secure, resilient cyberspace that will drive economic development and elevate the standard of living throughout the region;

Further call on AIPA Member Parliaments to enact new legislation or amend existing laws to tackle critical issues such as cybercrime, particularly online scam. These legislative measures are crucial for combating risks to international peace, security, and stability, as well as promoting digital inclusivity and standards across the region and fostering a conducive environment for all as we move toward a technology-driven future;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to continue advocating for the enforcement of legislation, policies, guidelines, measures, and norms that foster the utilization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in order to promote the adherence to the ethical conduct by Member States with the goal of mitigating risks to regional and global peace, security, and stability;

Work collaboratively among AIPA Member Parliaments, ASEAN Member States and all relevant stakeholders and partners to harness the full potential of ICTs and digital technologies for peace by fostering people-to-people relations, combatting disinformation, misinformation and fake news, strengthening public transparency and accountability, closing the digital divide within and among societies, and nurturing resilient and inclusive people-centred society;

Encourage international organizations, dialogue partners, and external partners to strengthen existing regional cooperation in promoting inclusivity in the digital realm- which can be achieved by implementing targeted programs that focus on advancing digital infrastructure development, bridging the digital divide, investing in capacity building, research and development on emerging technologies, developing national and international cybersecurity strategies, and promoting the use of ICTs for peaceful purposes among ASEAN Member States.

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



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

**RESOLUTION ON ENCOURAGING PARLIAMENTARY
COOPERATION ON DIGITAL INCLUSION TO EMPOWER THE
PEOPLE OF ASEAN AND ENSURE COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL
PEACE, STABILITY, SECURITY AND PROSPERITY**

Recently, the advancement of digital technology has significantly enhanced various facets of our global society, particularly in revolutionizing communication capabilities and facilitating the sharing and accessibility of diverse knowledge sources. The United Nations has projected that by the year 2030, it is imperative that all adults have access to affordable digital networks, encompassing financial and healthcare services via digital platforms. This initiative is essential for accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will play a pivotal role in fostering collaboration aimed at safeguarding peace, stability, security, and prosperity for all of humanity.

Since the ASEAN Vision 2020 was adopted in 1997, the ASEAN has made considerable progress in advancing digital integration. The organization has developed a multitude of documents, frameworks, agreements, and action plans, establishing a comprehensive roadmap aimed at fostering a more cohesive digital ecosystem across the region. ASEAN's initiatives in digital integration now encompass various objectives, including enhancing interoperability, developing robust digital infrastructure, encouraging digital innovation, cultivating human resources, supporting member states, and bolstering the growth of existing industries, livelihoods, and national economies. In light of these advancements, it is imperative that ASEAN continues to prioritize collective progress and inclusivity for all stakeholders as it embraces the digital transformation.

The member parliaments of AIPA have, in addition, engaged in collaborative efforts to discuss, deliberate, and enact new legislation while also amending existing laws for consistency. They have demonstrated their commitment to the enforcement of laws, policies, guidelines, and regulations designed to address cybersecurity challenges, mitigate threats to global peace and stability, and foster an environment that allows individuals and businesses to access and utilize information and communication technologies (ICTs) in a secure, transparent, and orderly fashion oriented towards a future driven by digital technology.

The AIPA Member Parliaments and the ASEAN Member States have, furthermore, collaborated with international organizations, external partners, and development partners to advance the execution of digital connectivity initiatives. This partnership focuses on enhancing digital infrastructure to foster the use of information and

communication technologies (ICTs) for peaceful purposes among the AIPA Member Parliaments, ASEAN Member States, International Organizations, External Partners, and Development Partners.

The digital divide, however, continues to pose significant challenges to economic integration within the region. Key challenges include uneven distribution of growth, inequitable sharing of benefits derived from the digital economy, resource limitations, and inadequate digital skills among the population. Notably, women are underrepresented in the digital technology sector. Furthermore, issues pertaining to cyber civilization, cyber threats, and the ongoing concerns surrounding cybersecurity and online safety persist within our society. Given these circumstances, the establishment of a comprehensive digital ecosystem is imperative. It is essential that all sectors of society including public entities, private organizations, and remote communities actively participate in policy development to mitigate threats to peace, security, stability, and prosperity on a global scale.

The purpose of this resolution is to encourage parliamentary cooperation in digital inclusion efforts to empower peoples and ensure cooperation for peace, stability, security, and prosperity, thereby fortifying the nations within the region. It seeks to foster cooperation in safeguarding peace, stability, security, and prosperity.