



**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/Soc/02)

RESOLUTION ON
**INTEGRATED ASEAN ACTIONS TOWARDS THE INITIATIVE FOR A
GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY**

Sponsored by Malaysia

The Forty-fifth AIPA General Assembly:

Noting the [UNEP/EA.5/Res.14, End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument](#) - Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) on 2 March 2022, in which governments at UNEA-5.2 agreed to negotiate an international legally binding instrument by 2024 to end plastic pollution;

Reaffirming the commitment made in the [Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region](#) during the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Marine Debris (SAMM-MD) on 5 March 2019, which called for actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, including partnering with stakeholders at relevant levels to address their production, marketing, and use of plastics and microplastics;

Aware of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States (2021–2025) that proposes the phased implementation of a systematic and integrated response to guide regional actions in addressing the issue of marine plastic pollution in ASEAN;

Recalling AIPA Resolution No. [RES.38GA/2017/SOC/03](#) to promote action, foster dialogue among stakeholders, enhance public education, build consensus on marine waste impacts, and encourage behavioural changes among ASEAN Member States;

Reiterating our concern on the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution as a key issue of a pervasive global challenge that disproportionately harms humans and the ecosystem;

Reaffirming the commitment of ASEAN Member States to the Basel Convention, which aims to reduce the movement of plastic waste across borders, particularly from developed to developing countries.

Hereby resolves to:

Recommend that ASEAN Member States actively engage in safeguarding the environment by further collaborating to advance the principles of sustainable development and embedding them across all facets of development in the context of the Global Plastics Treaty, an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment;

Urge cooperation and coordinated efforts among AIPA Member Parliaments, industry stakeholders, policymakers, and the public to promote sustainable plastic management practices and facilitate the transition towards a circular economy for plastics in the ASEAN region taking into account the special circumstances of Member States with geographical conditions and characteristics that are vulnerable to plastic pollution;

Support the ASEAN Member States to promote cohesive circular economy potential and innovations for plastics through a comprehensive approach that encompasses the full life cycle of plastic taking into account national circumstances and capabilities, that includes providing environmentally sound plastic waste management systems;

Emphasise the role of AIPA Member Parliaments to collaborate with the ASEAN Member States in encouraging stakeholders to align with the action plan and actively engage in combatting marine plastic pollution in a coordinated manner supported by national commitment;

Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments to promote private sector engagement in preventing and reducing plastic pollution and marine debris, including partnerships between the public and private sectors;

Strongly consider the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms that hold producers accountable for their products' entire lifecycle, promoting sustainable recycling practices and the transition to organic materials such as bioplastics;

Call upon the AIPA Member Parliaments towards global commitment of voluntary action to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practices, leverage skills and expertise among Member States;

Further recommend that the AIPA Member Parliaments support policies, and regulations, or take necessary actions to prepare for the imminent international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

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



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

**RESOLUTION ON INTEGRATED ASEAN ACTIONS TOWARDS THE
INITIATIVE FOR A GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY**

The Resolution acknowledging the significance of [UNEP/EA.5/Res.14](#), titled "End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument," a resolution ratified by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) on 2nd March 2022. It is noteworthy that governments participating in UNEA 5.2¹ reached a consensus to engage in negotiations towards creating an international legally binding instrument by 2024, aimed at halting plastic pollution globally. Moreover, the agreement includes provisions to institute a science-policy panel focusing on chemicals and waste management, with the primary objective of pre-empting pollution and fostering sustainable environmental practices.

In conjunction with the commitment to the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region, countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have expressed their strong commitment to tackling this growing environmental issue through the adoption of the declaration and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris at the 34th ASEAN Summit in June 2019. Building on this commitment, the World Bank supported Thailand (as chair of ASEAN in 2020) in the preparation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris. Drawing from inputs from regional stakeholders and the 10 ASEAN member states, the Regional Action Plan proposes an integrated approach to address marine plastic pollution in ASEAN over the next five years (2021-2025) through 14 regional actions² of elements of the waste value chain framework at three key stages of the value chain: 1) Reduce Inputs into the System, 2) Enhance Collection and Minimize Leakage, and, 3) Create Value for Waste Reuse.

This endeavour encompasses recommendations to the AIPA Member Parliaments concerning collaboration in affordable and sustainable development planning for the whole ASEAN region within the framework of the global plastics treaty. It also promotes infrastructure enhancements aimed at improving environmental sustainability and reducing plastic pollution. Consequently, increased cooperation and sustainable

¹UNEA 5.2: United Nations Environment Assembly's (UNEA) fifth session, sub-session 2

²https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FINAL_210524-ASEAN-Regional-Action-Plan_Ready-to-Publish_v2.pdf

practices in the region will support the goals of the global plastics treaty and contribute to the overall environmental well-being of ASEAN nations.

The resolution also referred to AIPA Resolution No. [RES.38GA/2017/SOC/03](#) related to combating marine plastic debris and microplastics among ASEAN Member States. The resolution is being recalled or brought to mind in conjunction with the goals and aims of the global plastics treaty. This connection suggests that the efforts outlined in the resolution are aligned with the broader objectives of the global treaty on plastic pollution.

Additionally, the preamble highlights the significance of collaborative efforts, awareness-raising, education, consensus-building, and behavioural changes as essential components in combating plastic pollution, including the marine environment within the ASEAN region.

Through the resolution, the AIPA Member Parliaments are encouraged to recommend an environmental, social, and governance (ESG) strategy in many business models on plastic circular economy with the collaboration of private sectors and international partners. Such collaborations can play a vital role in achieving sustainable development by facilitating investment, and financing infrastructure in the ASEAN region. The key component of the strategy is to utilise the financial institutions and development agencies to contribute towards the capacity development and implementation of the plastic circular economy. Hence, leveraging skills is significant in preparing a competent workforce in the plastic recycling industry.

The **AIPA Member Parliaments** are encouraged to engage with local communities and build awareness of the adverse effects of plastic pollution and/or the social and economic impacts of implementation measures to ensure a positive environmental and social sustainability impact.

The proposed resolution should bring together the **AIPA Member Parliaments** to ***‘promote active and meaningful participation to strengthen ASEAN actions on Global Plastics Treaty’*** based on the best practices of the UNEP/EA.5/Res.14, End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument.