



**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/04)

RESOLUTION ON
PROMOTING THE RIGHTS, SOCIAL WELFARE, AND EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE OLDER PERSONS IN THE ASEAN
REGION

Sponsored by Viet Nam

The Forty-fifth AIPA General Assembly:

PP 1. Recalling the United Nations General Assembly [Resolution 37/51](#), adopted on December 3, 1982, concerning the International Plan of Action on Ageing in Vienna; [Resolution 46/91](#), adopted on December 16, 1991, on the Principles for Older Persons; [Resolution 47/5](#), adopted on December 16, 1992, regarding the Proclamation on Ageing, [Resolution 75/131](#) adopted on December 14, 2020, proclaiming the decade 2021-2030 as the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing; and the 2002 Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific 1999;

Acknowledging the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, especially those directly addressing the promotion of the rights and well-being of older persons on the basis of equality, dignity, and active participation of the older persons;

Reaffirming the ASEAN's collective commitment expressed in the ASEAN Charter, 2010 Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Older persons, the 2013 ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection and 2015 Regional Framework and Action Plan to implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, and the 2015 "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing, with the theme Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN";

Recognising previous resolutions adopted by AIPA, including [Res.43GA/2022/Soc/03](#) on Social Health Protection, [Res.40GA/2019/Soc/02](#) on Older Persons; [Res.36GA/2015/Soc/01](#) on Protecting the Rights of Older Persons and Enhancing their Quality of Life; [Res.21GA/2000/Soc/04](#) on Social Safety Nets; and [Res.19GA/1998/Soc/05](#) on Aging Population;

Welcoming both regional and international initiatives aimed at enhancing the rights and welfare of older persons, as well as programs designed to create and increase their participation in the workforce amidst evolving societal challenges and opportunities;

Knowing that the region's demographic structure is ageing based on the United Nations projections, where the share of population aged 65 and older is forecasted to increase;

Reaffirming the urgent need, in light of the region's ageing population, to strengthen the rights, social welfare, and employment opportunities for the older persons, thus ensuring their active participation in society, reducing inequalities particularly gender-related and contributing meaningfully to the socio-economic development of their communities;

Acknowledging that, despite the valuable contributions of older persons and the recognition they receive, they continue to face significant challenges, including health concerns, limited access to social services, restricted employment opportunities, and exacerbated gender inequality which necessitate targeted and effective interventions;

Recognising the purposes of ASEAN in particular to enhance the well-being and livelihood for the older peoples in ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare, and justice;

Emphasising that the development and implementation of policies and programs dedicated to supporting older persons will not only foster their participation in the labour market but also significantly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, benefiting the region as a whole;

Highlighting the importance of removing restrictions on older persons employment, as evidenced by [ILO's 2020 findings](#) which show that old-age pension coverage among ASEAN countries varies widely from 40% to 80%, and that pension amounts are sometimes insufficient to support independent living for older persons;

Underscore the importance of building resilient, innovative, dynamic and people-centred ASEAN towards 2045 and envisioning a developed ASEAN as the epicentre of growth in the Indo-Pacific region, where we continue to narrow development gaps through relevant initiatives, and promote inclusive, participatory and equitable access to economic opportunities, including the older persons.

Hereby resolves to:

Call upon ASEAN Member States to prioritize the allocation of resources, as well as the development and implementation of policies and programs aimed at improving the rights and social welfare, and job opportunities for older persons. These measures should include expanding access to affordable and accessible healthcare services, including mental health services tailored to the older persons, providing comprehensive social insurance coverage, offering vocational training, and extending financial support to ensure the socio-economic security of the older persons;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to develop comprehensive strategies and action plans that promote sustainable employment opportunities for older persons. This includes creating specialised vocational training programs, career transition initiatives, incorporating digital literacy programs that align with the current labour market demands and are responsive to the needs of older workers;

Further encourage ASEAN Member States to promote age-friendly workplaces with flexible work arrangements such as remote work options, job-sharing, and other flexible hours tailored to the needs of older workers. Additionally, Member States are encouraged to offer financial incentives to businesses that employ older persons workers, ensuring their continued economic participation;

Call upon ASEAN Member States to establish targeted support programs and launch awareness campaigns that emphasize the importance of facilitating the participation of older persons in both social and economic activities. Such initiatives should be designed to encourage older persons' involvement in fields such as entrepreneurship, community development, and other areas where they can contribute their expertise and experience;

Recommend that ASEAN Member States invest in the development of infrastructure and the provision of essential support services tailored to the needs of older persons. This includes enhancements in healthcare, housing, nursing homes, and social services, thereby ensuring the highest possible quality of life for the older persons population across the region;

Encourage the parliaments of ASEAN Member States to actively pursue the development and refinement of the necessary legal frameworks aimed at protecting the rights of older persons, promoting their integration into society and the workforce, and ensuring that these policies are effectively enforced at both the national and regional levels;

Call for greater collaboration and the exchange of best practices among ASEAN Member States regarding the implementation of policies and programs that support the well-being of older persons. This cooperative approach will foster the creation of a comprehensive and efficient support system for the older persons, ensuring that their rights and needs are adequately addressed throughout the ASEAN region. Possible areas which may be explored are on geriatric healthcare training, digital learning, and community engagement practices, among others;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments to work closely with their respective national governments and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and expert groups to forge a greater collaboration, promoting active and healthy ageing and ensuring a complete implementation of comprehensive age-friendly policies and full integration of age-inclusive hiring practices designed for the benefits, well-being, and dignity of the older persons.

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



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

**RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING THE RIGHTS, SOCIAL WELFARE, AND
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE OLDER PERSONS IN THE
ASEAN REGION**

In the context of a rapidly aging global population, the issue of protecting the rights and improving the social welfare of the older persons has become increasingly urgent. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), by 2050, the global population aged 60 and above is expected to double, reaching 2.1 billion people¹. Within the ASEAN region, this number is projected to reach 132 million, comprising 16.7% of the total population². This demographic shift necessitates that ASEAN countries enhance their policies and support programs to ensure that older individuals can continue contributing to society's development and are not left behind.

Although ASEAN has made significant efforts to improve the living conditions of the older persons, there remain substantial challenges. Many older persons still struggle with access to social and healthcare services, as well as employment opportunities. These challenges include health issues, financial hardships, and a lack of suitable vocational training and career transition programs.

According to reports from the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations, older adults often face social isolation, inadequate healthcare, and difficulties in finding employment that aligns with their health and abilities. Addressing these challenges requires close and innovative cooperation among ASEAN member states.

Enhancing the rights and social welfare of the older persons not only improves their quality of life but also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals, benefiting the region as a whole. Ensuring the rights and employment opportunities for the older persons

¹ <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Ageing%20report.pdf>

² <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/international-workshop-active-ageing-innovation-and-application-digital-technology-care-older>

tap into their vast potential to contribute to society and the economy, fostering a more inclusive and integrated community.

In this context, ASEAN Member States must prioritize the development of policies and support programs for the older persons, particularly in the areas of healthcare, financial security, and vocational training. Such efforts will not only improve the quality of life for the older persons but also stimulate the region's economic and social development.

Therefore, Viet Nam proposes the resolution "Promoting the Rights, Social Welfare, and Employment Opportunities for the Older Persons in the ASEAN Region" for consideration at the 45th AIPA General Assembly. We believe this resolution aligns with the current trends, interests, and circumstances of ASEAN member states. The resolution aims to:

1. Raise awareness about the rights and welfare of the older persons within ASEAN, ensuring that the older persons are adequately supported and have opportunities to continue contributing to society. This will not only benefit the older persons but also contribute to the sustainable development of the entire region.
2. Encourage ASEAN Member States to commit to implementing policies and programs that support the older persons.
3. Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to develop and update the necessary legal frameworks to protect the rights of the older persons and create conditions for their participation in society and the labor market.
4. Strengthen regional cooperation and share experiences in the implementation of policies and programs that support the older persons.