



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/05)

RESOLUTION ON
STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION FOR ADVANCING TOBACCO
AND NICOTINE CONTROL IN ASEAN

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

The Forty-fifth AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the [Declaration of the 6th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting on Healthy ASEAN Lifestyles \(Vientiane Declaration\)](#) identified tobacco control as one of the priority areas for the promotion of a healthy lifestyle;

Reminding that while most ASEAN Member States have made considerable progress in reducing tobacco use prevalence to date, the pace of this reduction is not sufficient and only a few Member States have met the global voluntary target of a 30% relative reduction by 2025;

Shared deep concern about the increase in new types of tobacco and nicotine products, such as e-cigarettes, heated tobacco, and nicotine pouches, which pose a significant challenge to the tobacco control achievements of ASEAN Member States, delay further progress, and threaten the commitment to a Healthy ASEAN;

Recognising that there is insufficient evidence on the reduced harm or net public health effect of these new types of tobacco and nicotine products;

Further Recognising that the World Health Organization (WHO) calls for urgent measures to prevent the uptake of e-cigarettes and counter nicotine addiction alongside a comprehensive approach to tobacco control and in light of national circumstances;

Noting that some ASEAN Member States have already adopted a ban or other regulatory measures on e-cigarettes, heated tobacco, and new types of nicotine products, while these products remain unregulated in other Member States;

Expressing alarm over the increasing trend of e-cigarettes use in many ASEAN Member States, especially among the young population, despite regulatory efforts taken by governments;

Stressing that urgent and immediate responses are needed for a collective action of ASEAN Member States to address this trend of e-cigarettes use and to foster a united front against tobacco control related challenges in the ASEAN region.

Hereby resolves to:

Call upon all AIPA Member Parliaments to pursue ASEAN Member States to control and prevent the uptake of e-cigarettes, heated tobacco, and new types of nicotine products, either by banning or stringently regulating them;

Urge ASEAN Member States to facilitate the collection of data, research, and monitoring of these products and the availability of these products in the ASEAN region;

Recommend that all AIPA Member Parliaments stimulate ASEAN Member States to raise awareness of the health, economic, and social harms of these products among relevant stakeholders and the public through educational and advocacy activities;

Further recommend that all AIPA Member Parliaments work with ASEAN Member States to actively engage with International and civil society organizations to inform the public about the harms of these products and the industry tactics;

Urge all AIPA Member Parliaments to cooperate with the ASEAN Member States to ensure that any efforts are transparent and free from conflicts of interest to promote and implement tobacco control measures are protected from interference by the tobacco and related industries;

Recommend that any activities to regulate new types of tobacco and nicotine products shall be implemented alongside comprehensive tobacco control policies including illicit tobacco trade and in accordance with national contexts;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to ensure regional cooperation and information-sharing to disseminate good practices and lessons learned from implementing and enforcing regulations on e-cigarettes, heated tobacco, and new types of nicotine products across the region and encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to utilise existing ASEAN platforms and mechanisms, such as the [ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting](#) (AHMM), to enhance coordination on tobacco and nicotine control.

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



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**EXPLANATORY NOTE ON
STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION FOR ADVANCING TOBACCO
AND NICOTINE CONTROL IN ASEAN**

Tobacco use is a major risk factor for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, over 20 different types or subtypes of cancer, and many other debilitating health conditions. An estimated 1.3 billion people worldwide use tobacco products, 80% of whom are in low- and middle-income countries.

In the ASEAN region, it is estimated around 152 million people currently use tobacco, constituting more than 12% of global tobacco users. Despite recent estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicating a continued decline in tobacco use rates globally, tobacco-related deaths have increased, rising from approximately 5.7 million deaths in 1990 to nearly 7.3 million in 2021. Most tobacco-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, which are often targets of intensive tobacco industry interference and marketing. The ASEAN region accounts for almost 9% of these deaths (0.6 million).

ASEAN Member States have made significant progress in tobacco control. Some of the progress has set good practices by adopting strong and advanced tobacco control measures. For instance, smoke-free settings are widely adopted through national laws, local ordinances and setting-specific policies. Graphic health warnings on cigarette packages are required by law in all ASEAN Member States. Singapore, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand have adopted Plain (Standardized) Packaging for tobacco products. Tobacco use prevalence in most ASEAN Member States is on a downward trend, but it is not sufficient. Only a few Member States have met the global voluntary target of a 30% relative reduction by 2025.

Nicotine contained in tobacco is highly addictive and a major factor sustaining the global epidemic of tobacco use. To undermine loopholes in existing regulatory measures focusing on conventional tobacco products and hook new generations of users, the tobacco and related industries have introduced a range of new types of tobacco and nicotine products over the past decade. These products have penetrated the regional market rapidly, posing new challenges and undermining tobacco control policies in many countries. New types of tobacco and nicotine products, such as e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products (HTPs), and nicotine pouches, are marketed as less harmful than traditional tobacco products, although there is not enough evidence to support this claim. These products come in different flavours, making them appealing to non-

smokers, particularly children and adolescents. E-cigarettes, the most prevalent and rapidly growing new type of nicotine product, are available in various designs, different nicotine levels, various types from disposable to refillable, and a wide range of prices. These product characteristics make e-cigarettes attractive to children and adolescents, making the young population vulnerable to taking up these products and risking nicotine addiction. With mounting evidence of their adverse population health effects, the World Health Organization (WHO) has alerted the widespread use of e-cigarettes among younger children and adolescents, with rates exceeding adult use in many countries. In February 2024, WHO in the Southeast Asia Region called on countries to intensify efforts to address tobacco and e-cigarette use. In May 2024, WHO in the Western Pacific Region also called on countries to take decisive action to prohibit or stringently regulate e-cigarettes to protect future generations from preventable addiction and suffering.

Out of the ten ASEAN Member States, five have adopted a ban on the sale and import of e-cigarettes. Three Member States have measures to regulate e-cigarettes, including taxing the products, while two have no measures at all. While tobacco control laws generally apply to HTPs in most countries, Cambodia and Thailand banned HTPs. Considering the different approaches and enforcement capacities in regulating e-cigarettes, heated tobacco, and new types of nicotine products among ASEAN Member States, collective action with strong collaboration is needed to protect young people from nicotine addiction, promoting a healthy ASEAN lifestyle free from harmful and addictive products.

The proposed resolution, Strengthening Collaboration for Advancing Tobacco and Nicotine Control in ASEAN, calls for parliaments to build policy and legislative frameworks to control and prevent the further spread of new types of tobacco and nicotine products, particularly e-cigarettes, in the ASEAN region. The proposed resolution urges ASEAN Member States to take immediate and decisive action to regulate these products and requests AIPA Parliament Members to foster collaboration to monitor product use, availability, and implementation of the regulations across the ASEAN region to create a healthy ASEAN.