



**42ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Brunei Darussalam, 23-25 August 2021**

*Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion
Towards ASEAN Community 2025*

(Res 42GA/2021/Soc/03)

**RESOLUTION ON
LOCALISING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR
EFFECTIVE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION**

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The Forty-Second General Assembly:

Guided by the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: *Forging Ahead Together* and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 for a peaceful, stable, and resilient Community able to respond effectively to challenges;

Referring to the United Nations Resolution on “*Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015 in New York, and the Decade of Action announced in September 2019 for accelerating sustainable solutions to the world’s biggest challenges;

Also referring to Hanoi Declaration on “the Sustainable Development Goals: *Turning Words into Action*” adopted by the 132nd Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held in Hanoi on 1st April 2015, which aims to promote the parliamentary engagement in the implementation on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the IPU Self-Assessment Toolkit designed to assist Parliaments in assessing the effectiveness of their participation in implementing the goals in their own country;

Taking note of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on 20 October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador, as the key instrument for enabling national, sub-national and local government units and all stakeholders to achieve sustainable urban development, as well as the outcome of the ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium on “Localising the SDGs and realising poverty eradication” in Siem Reap, Cambodia in 2018, which states that strengthening the governance at the local level can make a significant impact in developing and implementing inclusive and coherent policies;

Fully aware that the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can uplift the standards of living of our peoples and that its implementation requires the involvement of the private sectors, especially the participation of parliamentarians;

Recognizing that strengthening governance at the local level can make a significant impact in developing and implementing inclusive and coherent policies;

Acknowledging that AIPA parliamentarians play an active role in this regard to ensure laws and policies contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda;

Stresses the importance of enabling institutional frameworks and structures for better coordination and cooperation as well as clear communication between and within decision-making bodies in all levels of government and the private sector for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

Further acknowledging that the challenges in designing mechanisms and strategies exist, and that it is necessary to ensure that the spirit of the 2030 Agenda trickles down and makes a real impact at the local level, integrating them into policies and governance frameworks;

Fully aware that digitalisation offers an opportunity to improve interaction, coordination and cooperation among stakeholders;

Noting with deep concern that the digital divide among the ASEAN Member States impact the flow of information across the region and affects the overall push towards social and economic integration;

Noting that the need to enhance capacity-building and support on timely data availability, data accessibility, and data quality is critical to effectively monitor progress in the achievement of the SDGs;

Mindful that sharing of knowledge and exchange of good practices among the AIPA Member Parliaments can be valuable opportunities for peer-to-peer partnerships and learning to accelerate localised SDG initiatives;

Bearing in mind the importance of creating an environment that facilitates new initiatives, innovation and partnerships with the private sector to align strategies with sustainable development objectives and funding the initiatives;

Realising that COVID-19 pandemic has critically affected people at every level, especially vulnerable groups, thus humanitarian efforts can play a role in providing assistance to people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in all areas.

Hereby resolves to:

Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments, state assemblies, sub-national and local governments to raise awareness on the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda and build a national consensus to harmonise the SDGs with their national development plans, thus creating ownership, commitment and accountability;

Consider setting up a mechanism to communicate with stakeholders from the public and private sectors, and to include their perspectives into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

Call upon parliamentarians to review strategies and gaps in national priorities and policies to enhance the role of local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda in their local contexts;

Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments to further engage in law-making, supervising and promoting the development and implementation of their respective National Action Plans for Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of the people;

Remind the AIPA Member Parliaments to eliminate laws, regulations, policies and practices that discriminate or restrict the participation of women, the poor, vulnerable, marginalised, and minority groups in all levels of decision-making;

Call upon the AIPA Member Parliaments to further refine the IPU Self-Assessment Toolkit, digitalise and develop it with more in-depth local insights for the application at sub-national levels by parliamentarians to promote their role in the sub-national implementation of Sustainable Development Goals;

Further Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments to participate in the Voluntary National Review process to ensure that implementation of the SDGs is on track;

Call on all parliamentarians to address the digital divide, promote trade, create jobs, and stimulate growth by looking for new and innovative solutions, including technologies, in their local communities and to pass the appropriate laws that will provide the appropriate infrastructure and support needed for all groups to have equal access to information and digital services;

Promote the use of technological advances to facilitate public access to services and general information to deliver efficient urban management, and to enable an innovative ecosystem for digital economy;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to improve the availability and quality of disaggregated data and to use that data for informed decision-making process to implement and monitor the SDGs as well as filling gaps;

Call upon parliamentarians to review policies that will develop innovative and coherent programmes for upskilling and reskilling that assure digital connectivity and participation for the poor and marginalised groups;

Promote multi-stakeholder and multi-lateral cooperation to advance and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda by taking advantage of digitalisation both in public and private sectors;

Further encourage parliamentarians to strengthen cooperation with the private sectors to foster sustainable development;

Urge ASEAN Member States, where possible, to provide humanitarian assistance to ensure the equitable access to the distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations, medicine and public health services to all as well as address the regional cooperation and engagement of communities to cope with COVID-19 pandemic that could contribute to achieving the SDGs;

Promote cooperation among the AIPA Member Parliaments to collectively address challenges to achieve the 2030 Agenda and to mitigate any negative impact and promote recovery from COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted on the Twenty Fifth Day of August Two Thousand Twenty One in Brunei Darussalam at the 42nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held virtually.
