

THE 44TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY 5-11 AUGUST 2023

Jakarta, Indonesia

Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN

(Res. 44GA/2023/Pol/06)

RESOLUTION ON

PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION IN CONTRIBUTING TO LONG-LASTING PEACE IN MYANMAR

Sponsored by Indonesia

The Forty-fourth AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the AIPA Resolution (RES.43GA/2022/Pol/05) on Parliamentary Diplomacy for the Implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus on Myanmar adopted at the 43rd AIPA General Assembly in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, on the 23rd November, 2022;

Reaffirming AIPA Member Parliaments' commitment to facilitate a durable and feasible solution to the crisis in Myanmar, through the full and effective implementation of the Five Point Consensus as well as the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus on Myanmar at the 41st ASEAN Summit on the 11th November, 2022, in Phnom Penh, which remain as ASEAN's valid references, and while doing so, upholding ASEAN Centrality and Unity;

Recognizing the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, where ASEAN Leaders also discussed on the follow up of the Five Point Consensus on Myanmar and the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation, which stressed the importance of, among others, the need to push for progress on the implementation of the Five Point Consensus, the need to maintain ASEAN unity in deciding the next steps regarding the crisis in Myanmar, as well as the importance of facilitating humanitarian assistance to the people in Myanmar;

Acknowledging the Message of the President of the 44th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface at the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo, which also highlighted the need to work collectively in the spirit of ASEAN unity, strengthening the collaboration with the executive branch of ASEAN, as well as among fellow parliamentarians, to support efforts to bring peace, stability, the rule of law and democracy, harmony, and reconciliation in Myanmar;

Expressing deep concern with the armed conflict and the impact of the crisis in Myanmar, which has caused widespread violence against civilians across Myanmar,

and forcibly displaced thousands of people within the country, into neighboring ASEAN countries:

Noting the Report of United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) which stated that there are currently 157,100 refugees from Myanmar in Malaysia, that 22,400 Myanmar refugees have sought safety in Thailand and that around 1,545 Rohingya are currently seeking shelter in Indonesia, fleeing persecution and the deteriorating conditions of camps in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh. Furthermore, more than 320,900 people, including women and children, are reported to be internally displaced due to clashes and insecurity in Myanmar;

Taking into account the Report of the United Nations that humanitarian assistance is constrained, and humanitarian efforts are under-funded, facing administrative barriers, and security threats which have hindered the timely and safe delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of Myanmar;

Highlighting the need for AIPA Member Parliaments to take bolder roles in promoting and sustaining peace in Myanmar, through diplomacy marked with flexibility and broader spectrums, to contribute to the de-escalation and resolution of the conflict, and the expeditious national reconciliation process, and to strengthen the democratic transition and delivery of humanitarian assistance in Myanmar.

Hereby resolves to:

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to maintain their commitment towards ASEAN centrality and unity, in working together to find long-lasting resolutions to the crisis in Myanmar, that is Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led, and while doing so, to refer to the endorsement of the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus at the 41st ASEAN Summit on the 11th November, 2022, in Phnom Penh, the Discussion and follow up on ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision at the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo Indonesia, as well as the Message of the President of the 44th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly at the ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface at the 42nd ASEAN Summit;

Condemn the continued acts of violence, including the attack on the convoy of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and on the ASEAN Monitoring Team in Southern Shan State, on the 7th May 2023;

Urge all parties involved, including Myanmar's Armed Forces, to comply with and be fully committed to the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, as well as to remove all limitations and obstacles impeding the timely provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to take on greater roles in facilitating inclusive dialogue for a peaceful solution in Myanmar, by exploiting their added values of parliamentary diplomacy, marked by more flexibility and broader spectrums, and to

contribute to conflict de-escalation, national reconciliation, democratic transition, and humanitarian assistance efforts in Myanmar;

Explore the possibility of establishing a suitable mechanism on the Myanmar issue, which will help monitor the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, as well as engage with AIPA Observer Parliaments in gathering multilateral humanitarian assistance for the people of Myanmar;

Reaffirm ASEAN unity and reiterate that any complementary approach or effort in line with Point 14 of the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision of the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, should support the 5PC and be undertaken in coordination with the Chair of ASEAN.

Adopted on the ninth day of August 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia.



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

RESOLUTION ON PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE LONG-LASTING PEACE IN MYANMAR

AIPA Member Parliaments have adopted a resolution on Parliamentary Diplomacy for The Implementation of ASEAN Five-Point Consensus at the 43rd General Assembly in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia on 2022. The resolution emphasized on several matters regarding to the crisis in Myanmar, among others: 1) Affirmed the importance of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus as valid reference to be implemented in its entirety, 2) Urged the Myanmar Armed Forces and all parties concerned to adhere to and fulfil the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus; 3) Urged AIPA Member Parliaments to promote the implementation of the principles of fundamental human rights, freedom and democracy as enshrined in the United Nations and ASEAN Charters; 4) Committed to assisting the people of Myanmar in finding a peaceful and durable solution to the current situation; 5) supporting the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need in Myanmar without discrimination, and Supporting the endorsement of the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus at the 41st ASEAN Summit on November 11, 2022 in Phnom Penh.

Further, during the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo Indonesia, ASEAN Leaders also discussed on the follow up of the Five Point Consensus on Myanmar. It stressed on the importance of, among others, the need to push for progress of the implementation of the Five Point Consensus, maintain ASEAN Unity in deciding the next steps, as well as the importance of facilitating humanitarian assistance to the people in Myanmar. Further, Message of the President of the 44th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface at the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo also highlighted the need to work collectively in the spirit of ASEAN Unity and collaboration with the executive branch of ASEAN, as well as among fellow parliamentarians, in restoring peace and democracy in Myanmar.

However, the situation in Myanmar has fallen well short of expectations. Widespread violence against civilians across Myanmar still occurs and at the same time armed conflict which had forcibly displaced thousands of people within the country and into neighbouring ASEAN countries have increased. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for instance, have reported that Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia have the highest number of Myanmar refugees. As of the end of May 2023, there are some 157,100 refugees from Myanmar in Malaysia, comprising some 105,330 Rohingyas, 23,150 Chins, and 28,260 other ethnic groups from conflict-affected areas or fleeing persecution. While since February 2021, there are 22,400

Myanmar refugees have sought safety in Thailand due to the resurgence of clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces and Ethnic Armed Groups. Around 1,000 Rohingya are currently seeking shelter in Indonesia, fleeing persecution and the deteriorating conditions of camps in Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh. Further, more than 320,900 people, including women and children, are reported to be internally displaced due to clashes and insecurity in Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Shan states and in Magway, Sagaing and Tanintharyi regions.

On the other side, the United Nations predicted that 17.6 million people, or roughly one-third of the country's population, would require humanitarian assistance in 2023. The number has increased 17-fold since 2021, when Myanmar's Armed Forces first took over. Humanitarian assistance is operating under heavy access constraints, administrative barriers, underfunding and security threats which hindered timely and safe humanitarian access and aid to people in need. On May 2023, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and monitoring team convoy was attacked by unknown assailants in the Shan State, eastern part of Myanmar. These circumstances can be said to have resulted from the Myanmar's Armed Forces unwillingness to immediately implement the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus. Armed conflicts and violence, in particular, should be ended immediately, as they would create instabilities and problems in addressing many concerns on the ground, especially in terms of providing humanitarian assistance to those in needs.

Against this background, as representation of the people, AIPA member parliaments are expected to play bolder roles in restoring and creating sustainable peace in Myanmar by exploiting their added values of parliamentary diplomacy, marked by flexibility and broader spectrums. Parliaments are able to contribute to the de-escalation of conflict, the national reconciliation process, the strengthening of democratic transition as well as delivery of humanitarian assistance. In short, enhanced parliamentary diplomacy and collective action must take significant role in creating long-lasting peace in Myanmar.

The Draft Resolution on Parliamentary Cooperation to Achieve Long-Lasting Peace in Myanmar seeks to reaffirm AIPA Member Parliaments' commitment to the urgent need to help the process of restoring peace and democracy in Myanmar as soon as possible, through immediate and full implementation of the Five Point Consensus. The Draft Resolution also aims to explore and discuss the possibility of strengthening the roles of AIPA Member Parliaments in addressing the humanitarian crises through new approaches in order to overcome the barrier to humanitarian assistance. All efforts are in accordance with the spirit of preserving the ASEAN's centrality and unity.