



**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/Soc/03)

**RESOLUTION ON
ADDRESSING THE EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES FACED BY
DISPLACED AND UNDEREMPLOYED YOUTH FOR A SECURE AND
PROSPEROUS ASEAN**

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The Forty-fourth AIPA General Assembly:

Acknowledging the commitment made in 2022, which was declared the Year of ASEAN Youth to continue and expand youth development and empowerment efforts for the benefit of the young people;

Congratulating the successful organization of the inaugural ASEAN Youth Economic Forum in 2023 which provides a solid framework for addressing pressing issues such as youth unemployment and underemployment by maintaining and intensifying efforts to foster active youth engagement in ASEAN's socio-economic growth;

Recognizing the importance of Resolution No. 34GA/2013/Soc/01 on "*Nurturing and Enhancing the Role of Young People to Meet the Future Challenges of ASEAN*" and the AIPA Resolution No. 43GA/2022/Soc/04 on "*Fostering Engagement with Young People through a Sustainable, Resilient, and Prosperous ASEAN Community*";

Reaffirming the commitment to the ASEAN Community and its aspirations towards an integrated, peaceful, stable, prosperous, and inclusive region, as outlined in ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, and ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025;

Expressing grave concern over the employment challenges faced by a significant number of youth in the ASEAN region, especially those who are displaced, underemployed, and confronted with an uncertain future due to conflicts, natural disasters, population increase, economic transformations/downturn, underdeveloped workforce market or lack of work skills and the impact of technological advancements;

Emphasizing the magnitude of integrating career mapping and lifelong learning ecosystems through the Early Intervention (EI) and Industry Engagement (IE) concepts to promote upskilling and reskilling opportunities effectively;

Expressing deep concern with the rise of scams, illegal recruitment and human trafficking operations targeting vulnerable young job seekers in the region, whereby thousands of individuals are lured by social media posts promising fake well-paid jobs, forcing them to participate in fraudulent activities, and the persistent cases of ill-treatment towards migrant workers;

Understanding that displaced and underemployed youth represent a valuable demographic dividend, whose potential contributions to society, economic development, and nation-building may be unlocked through targeted support and inclusive policies, and;

Stressing that the youth play a fundamental role as vital contributors to solutions of employment challenges, and economic transformations towards digital, blue and green economy.

Hereby Resolves to:

Call on AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen anti-trafficking social protection and support systems for displaced and underemployed youth with special attention to girls and women by synergizing with pertinent stakeholders, such as governments, non-governmental organizations, development partners, and the private sector, to ensure access to basic needs, including education, healthcare, housing, and livelihood opportunities;

Urge AIPA Member Parliament to propel inclusive and equitable socio-economic growth by stimulating investment in sectors that create employment opportunities for displaced and underemployed youth, focusing on the digital economy and green technology industries, in line with the sustainable development goals;

Encourage ASEAN Member States and AIPA Member Parliaments to support access to financing and other types of assistance needed for people to start businesses, including MSMEs, and gain access to markets and consumers;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments to standardize social protection programs across all sectors in the workforce to include youth workers in the green economy;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to redouble efforts to reskill and upskill displaced and underemployed youth through integrating Early Intervention (EI) and Industry Engagement (IE) approaches, vocational training, entrepreneurship development, and digital literacy programs that equip them with relevant competencies and enhance their employability in the shifting job market;

Call on AIPA Member Parliaments to affirm regional cooperation and information-sharing and to conduct capacity building, to disseminate best practices, innovative

approaches, and successful initiatives in tackling the challenges faced by displaced and underemployed youth, thereby nurturing learning and collaboration to improve outcomes across the region;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to foster cross-border mobility and regional cooperation mechanisms that allow displaced and underemployed youth to access job opportunities, training programs, and educational resources in ASEAN Member States;

Call on AIPA Member Parliaments to intensify data collection, research, and monitoring systems to better understand the diverse challenges and needs of displaced and underemployed youth, and use these information for policy formulation, program design, and resource allocation;

Suggest AIPA Member Parliaments to establish a Special Task Force within AIPA, comprising of governments, private sectors, universities, and academic institutions, development partners, and non-governmental organizations, to develop benchmarks, define roles, and create a comprehensive plan focused on addressing youth employment concerns;

Further suggest that this Special Task Force monitors the crime resulting from scamming the displaced and underemployed youth across ASEAN region and provide support to them as necessary;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to highlight the urgent need to address and prevent the ill treatment of young workers by strengthening the laws and policies related to workforce rights that will also protect their welfare and benefit migrant workers as well as disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to establish of mentorship programs, networks, and platforms that enable knowledge transfer, guidance, and support from seasoned professionals and entrepreneurs for displaced and underemployed youth, promote entrepreneurship and leadership competencies, promote and introduce positive role models.

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



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

**RESOLUTION ON ADDRESSING THE EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES
FACED BY DISPLACED AND UNDEREMPLOYED YOUTH FOR A
SECURE AND PROSPEROUS ASEAN**

With a majority of its population under 35, ASEAN's youth form the backbone of the labour force and economic growth. However, the untapped potential of this demographic is constrained by persistent unemployment and underemployment, a situation exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The rise of job scams activities that prey on vulnerable job seekers has made the situation even worst for youth. These scams activities often result in individuals becoming victims of modern forms of slavery and forced involvement in fraudulent activities. The issue has escalated recently, with over 1,000 transboundary victims across the ASEAN region being rescued in the first quarter of this year.

ASEAN serves as a significant regional labour market, with millions of migrant workers journeying across and beyond its boundaries. It is worth noting that freedom from discrimination and the promotion of decent work are fundamental rights emphasized in various International Labour Organization instruments, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and core international human rights treaties. These documents advocate for the fair treatment of all workers, including migrant labourers.

The inaugural ASEAN Youth Economic Forum in 2023 highlighted the potential of youth engagement in resolving economic challenges. In light of these challenges, it is crucial for ASEAN to intensify data collection, research, and monitoring systems for evidence-based policymaking, addressing the diverse needs as well as safety of displaced and exploited youth.

The proposed resolution, "Addressing the Socio-Economic Challenges Faced by Displaced and Underemployed Youth for a Secure and Prosperous ASEAN," calls for parliaments, as foundational institutions, to shape policy and legislative frameworks that integrate youth into the workforce. The 44th AIPA General Assembly theme, "Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN," emphasizes the need for collaboration among these institutions to ensure employment safety and financial stability for marginalized youth.