



**41<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
Viet Nam, 8-10 September 2020**

*Parliamentary Diplomacy for a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN*

*(Res 41GA/2020/Eco/01)*

**RESOLUTION ON  
THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING ASEAN  
COHESIVENESS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST-COVID-19**

*(Incorporated from proposals by Viet Nam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand)*

***The Forty-First General Assembly:***

***Recalling*** the AIPA Resolution RES39GA/2018/ECO/03 on “*Deepening Regional Economic Integration in ASEAN*”, and the AIPA Resolution RES40GA/2019/ECO/01 on “*Fostering Inclusive Economic Development in ASEAN*” and AIPA Resolution RES40GA/2019/ECO/02 on “*ASEAN Cooperation to prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)*”;

***Also recalling*** the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 which aims to create a deeply integrated and highly cohesive ASEAN economy that would support sustained high economic growth and resilience even in the face of global economic shocks and volatilities as well as propel ASEAN towards a digitally-enabled economy that is secure, sustainable and transformative, and further leverage Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to enable an innovative, inclusive and integrated ASEAN;

***Welcoming*** the important outcomes of the 36<sup>th</sup> virtual ASEAN Summit, the 52<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers’ (AEM) Meeting, the Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Statement on Strengthening ASEAN’s Economic Resilience in Response to the Outbreak of the COVID-19, the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and other ASEAN initiatives, including the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), to enhance ASEAN’s capacity to recover from economic recession after the pandemic;

***Deeply concerned about*** the substantial losses that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused to ASEAN Member States and its peoples; and at the same time, affirming that the COVID-19 pandemic situation has largely affected ASEAN economies, intra-bloc and external trade activities as well as investments;

***Acknowledging*** the importance of ongoing whole-of-government effort of ASEAN Member States and proactive whole-of-community approach by ASEAN in its collective efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic thus far;

***Affirming*** the importance of economic connectivity, including preserving supply chain connectivity, in promoting ASEAN Member States' economic growth and comprehensive recovery and realising that digital technology plays an important role in strengthening ASEAN economic connectivity and ASEAN readiness to respond to challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

***Recognising*** that in the increasingly complex global and regional context, with escalating unilateralism, trade conflicts, economic decoupling and sophisticated technology-based security threats, “cohesiveness” and “proactive responsiveness” are important factors for ASEAN to meet the need for development and integration with the world;

***Emphasising*** the crucial role of parliaments in exercising their constitutional duties of checks and balances and providing necessary support needed to mitigate the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

***Hereby resolves to:***

***Affirm*** the determination to enhance ASEAN's capacity for self-reliance and support the implementation of ASEAN's initiatives for immediate and active response and also regional coordination to effectively control epidemics, protect public health, particularly the vulnerable groups, while ensuring macro-economic and financial stability as well as gradually resuming economic activities in the new normal.

***Call upon*** ASEAN Member States, while maintaining preventive measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to issue policies on education, employment, and public healthcare including enhancing the fair and equitable access to vaccines, medicines, medical supplies and equipment, rice and other essential goods so as to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, at the same time, ASEAN Member States should implement appropriate policy measures to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 on businesses across ASEAN, especially in travel, tourism, retail, manufacturing sectors, and other services sectors and the most affected industries.

***Emphasise*** the need to further expedite the exchange of travel and health-related information and other necessary measures undertaken by ASEAN Member States to control the spread of the COVID-19, boost travel confidence, promote and facilitate cross-border movement of people including skilled workforce in ASEAN by adopting safety standards and health protocols that support seamless travel experience while adhering to the international safety and health standards and ensuring the compliance of the commitments under relevant agreements among ASEAN Member States.

***Encourage*** ASEAN Member States to explore the concept of “travel bubble” as a preliminary initiative in the gradual reopening of borders by establishing safe travel zones in ASEAN, facilitate the movement of essential business travellers and recommend guidelines for reference by all ASEAN Member States without undermining commitments under relevant agreements among ASEAN Member States.

***Welcome*** the establishment of COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund as an instrument to address both the immediate needs and long-term goals of ASEAN Member States arising from the pandemic.

**Call upon** ASEAN Member States to mitigate their risks of external debts by sourcing alternative financing resources from domestic markets and to maintain the stability of their financial sectors; call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen the parliamentary oversight mechanism over fiscal stimulus allocation and its delivery with respect to preventing potential of fraud, rent-seeking opportunity, and further financial moral hazard stemming from the crisis.

**Call upon** ASEAN Member States to implement the Hanoi Action Plan on strengthening ASEAN economic cooperation and supply chain connectivity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, adopted at the Special ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting on the COVID-19 response on 04 June 2020, and support the development of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan for the region's cohesive response to the COVID-19 pandemic to fast-track economic recovery.

**Recommend** AIPA Member Parliaments to (1) continue reviewing and completing legal frameworks that enable trade facilitation, the regional flow of goods and uninterrupted supply chains by not imposing unnecessary barriers to trade, (2) create open, sustainable and responsible investment policies, (3) ensure food security and agricultural value chains and (4) promote circular economy practices and the use of renewable energy for sustainable development.

**Encourage** AIPA Member Parliaments to work on new and indispensable legislative frameworks to institutionalise national preparedness and response mechanisms against COVID-19 and future pandemics, such as: (1) amending labor laws to adapt to alternative work arrangements; (2) updating regulations to optimize the digital economy; (3) upholding the youth's right to education to prepare them for future threats and opportunities; and (4) pump-priming infrastructure activities for health, education, agriculture and MSMEs livelihood sectors which can generate valuable multiplier effect on our economy.

**Facilitate** the discussion by ASEAN Member States on the common product registration for food and drug products to effectively and efficiently support the rapid growth of these outputs in ASEAN, and to ensure the continuous flows of these essential goods in the region.

**Encourage** ASEAN Member States to strengthen cooperation in the area of smart cities and promote greater use of green technology in support of existing connectivity initiatives, such as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) that engenders wider use of green technology to achieve its sustainable urban development objectives.

**Commit** to promoting the ratification and implementation of regional trade agreements; prioritize the strengthening of efforts for the conclusion of negotiations and signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement in 2020; strengthen the capacity, participation, and parliamentary supervision with respect to the implementation of regional and international commitments on trade and investment, and regard these as key tools to promote greater economic integration within the ASEAN Community and between ASEAN and external partners.

**Facilitate** the development of digital infrastructure, digital connectivity, digital security and privacy, and digital skills and knowledge among ASEAN Member States to promote digital economy; strengthen the cooperation among AIPA Member Parliaments to explore the

possibility to harmonise relevant policies, laws and regulations regarding digital taxation within ASEAN; share information and experience to tackle challenges faced by electronic commerce platforms; to leverage opportunities brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) in order to overcome adverse impacts of economic lockdown and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic and to stay competitive in the digital era.

**Promote** regional linkage and connectivity, improve transport connections and infrastructure construction to enhance responsiveness; welcome and encourage efforts by sub-regional cooperation frameworks, including in the Mekong area, such as the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), CLV Development Triangle Area and Greater Mekong Sub-region as well as the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) and Luangprabang-Indochina-Mawlamyine Economic Corridor (LIMEC), to promote inclusive and sustainable development across the ASEAN Community by aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN; encourage closer coordination between ASEAN sectoral bodies and sub-regional cooperation frameworks in achieving our shared goal of narrowing the development gap among and within ASEAN Member States; and strengthen cooperation in environmental protection, smart agricultural development and sustainable management of natural resources to ensure sub-regional food, water and energy security during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted on the tenth day of September 2020 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

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