



**THE 45<sup>TH</sup> 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/YPA/02)

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**ADVANCING YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS' ENGAGEMENT IN THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3  
IN ASEAN**

*Sponsored by Thailand*

***The Forty-fifth AIPA General Assembly:***

***Recalling*** the importance of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals](#), specifically Goal 3 which aims to encourage healthy lives and promote well-being for all people at all ages;

***Reaffirming*** our enduring commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through [the Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, and Declaration on Future Generation 2024](#), which includes a Global Digital Compact, and a Declaration on the Future Generations, adopted at the UN Summit of the Future on 24 September 2024, stated to accelerate efforts to achieve universal health coverage to, ensure that all young people, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and address all the challenges faced by developing countries in achieving these goals;

***Noting with deep concern*** the escalating global health crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the growing burden of noncommunicable diseases, the emergence of new pathogens, any possible inadequate healthcare resources, shortage of health workforce and referring to the [ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution \(AATHP\)](#), addressing transboundary haze pollution in Southeast Asia by outlining specific actions to address haze pollution, including strengthening air quality monitoring, as well as promoting a healthier and more sustainable region;

***Recognising*** the commitment in the [World Health Organization's Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030 \(GAPPA\)](#) which offers a unified approach to promoting health and well-being globally;

***Emphasising*** the [ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection](#) as a significant step towards a more equitable and resilient ASEAN community as well as a roadmap for ASEAN Member States to enhance social protection systems, ensuring that all individuals have access to the necessary support and services;

***Reaffirming*** the AIPA Resolution [Res.37GA/2016/Soc/02](#) on Strengthening Cooperation among AIPA Member Parliaments on the Implementation on the Plan of

Action to Materialise ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening on Social Protection; the AIPA Resolution [Res.43GA/2022/Soc/03](#) on Strengthening Social Health Protection to Address the Challenges in ASEAN, highlighting its call for support of legislative measures to protect the health of the people affected by COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 3, and complementing relevant ASEAN declarations and frameworks as well as enhancing universal health coverage standards to ensure equitable access to healthcare;

**Realising** the pivotal role of young parliamentarians in fostering a sustainable and equitable future for all, according to the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), by making the most of digital tools to enhance efficiency, collaboration, and data-driven insights essential for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals;

**Noting with concern** the problems that hinder the involvement of young ASEAN parliamentarians in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, including limited experience and resources, insufficient training, and mentorship opportunities, and entrenched institutional barriers that restrict their influence and decision-making power.

**Hereby resolves to:**

**Strengthen** the role of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA) in supporting legislative efforts to drive policies at both national and regional levels to achieve the goal of ensuring good health and well-being for people at all ages, including promoting physical and mental health and well-being, aiming to increase life expectancy for all, prioritising the establishment of a universal health coverage system, access to quality essential health services, and the availability of safe, effective, and affordable medicines and vaccines for present and future generations by 2030;

**Encourage** ASEAN Member States to integrate comprehensive mental health support programs for youth as a key component of their digital transformation strategies, ensuring that the mental well-being of young people is safeguarded. This should include raising awareness of mental issues, building the capacity of educators and health professionals to provide support, and ensuring accessible digital platforms that offer counselling services, mental health resources, and safe online spaces for youth;

**Urge** Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA) to actively participate in reviewing, amending, or drafting laws related to budget approval for health protection, supporting legislative actions to develop universal health coverage standards, enhancing governance and taking part in improving the regulatory framework for operational effectiveness of health systems at all levels, including substantial increase to health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce, and addressing environmental issues affecting health to suit current societal conditions;

**Encourage** Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA) to actively participate in supporting policies, strategies, and mechanisms to strengthen the implementation of social protection program, including the expansion of social insurance, social assistance program for persons with disabilities, elderly, children, and other vulnerable groups;

**Encourage** AIPA Member Parliaments to use existing platform for exchanging of experiences or best practices among AIPA Member Parliaments, AIPA Observer

Parliaments, ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and donors in order to create internationally accepted standards for social health protection;

**Encourage** Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA) to engage in implementing public health campaigns to promote healthy lifestyles, including nutrition, physical activity, and mental health awareness to prevent non-communicable diseases and improve overall well-being and in developing community-based health programs that focus on preventive care, health education including reproductive health, maternal and child health, and the importance of vaccinations;

**Call upon** ASEAN to foster collaboration with relevant stakeholders to promote youth participation in developing standards for primary healthcare and universal health coverage to improve the health and well-being in the ASEAN region;

**Promote** the participation of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA) in enhancing the effectiveness of digital tools to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3;

**Urge** ASEAN to leverage digital tools and mechanisms like project management software, the Internet of Things (IoT) or cloud computing to boost efficiency and data-driven insights for advancing and monitoring Sustainable Development Goal 3.

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



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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

**RESOLUTION ON ADVANCING YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS'  
ENGAGEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3 IN ASEAN**

Sustainable Development Goal 3, which ensures healthy lives and promotes well-being for all at all ages, is a cornerstone of national development. Promoting health, preventing diseases, providing quality healthcare, and strengthening health systems significantly improve the quality of life for our population. Achieving SDG 3 requires a comprehensive approach that addresses a wide range of health challenges, including the strengthening of disease surveillance systems, the creation of healthier environments, and the reduction disease risk factors.

Addressing the sustainability of health issues; arising from Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), pathogens on epidemics, and environmental factors - particularly transboundary haze pollution - in Southeast Asia and globally involves tackling several complex issues. Since late 2002, there has been an emergence of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which was the first instance of a new and severe respiratory illness. Following this, numerous other emerging infectious diseases have appeared, including Ebola haemorrhagic fever. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) virus, emerged, claiming millions of lives and posing a significant threat to global health. Moreover, there still are several pressing challenges that require ongoing and intensified action. These include the anticipated emergence of diseases resulting from environmental degradation and pollution, the deterioration of health due to global economic downturns, and inequities arising from political and developmental changes amid the rapid digital transformation. Additionally, the transition towards an ageing society presents further complexities that must be addressed.

At the global level, [the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030 \(GAPPA\)](#) offers a unified approach to promoting health and well-being. This comprehensive plan provides countries with the tools and guidance needed to increase physical activity levels and reduce sedentary behaviour. By implementing the plan, we can achieve significant improvements in public health, economic productivity, and environmental sustainability.

At the regional level, ASEAN has taken significant steps towards achieving SDG 3 through the [ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection](#). This declaration serves as a key framework for enhancing the health security of ASEAN Member States. Furthermore, the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting, held biennially, provides a platform for ASEAN countries to collaborate on health issues and adopt policy documents and five-year health plans to address emerging health challenges.

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) recognizes and prioritizes collaboration with ASEAN in addressing these challenges. The [AIPA Resolution](#) on Strengthening Social Health Protection to Address Challenges in ASEAN, adopted at the 43<sup>rd</sup> AIPA General Assembly, underscored the need for AIPA to support legislative measures to protect the health of the people, especially vulnerable groups affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This will contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 3, and complement relevant ASEAN declarations and frameworks. Furthermore, it calls for enhancing universal health coverage (UHC) standards to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all.

In an era marked by the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution (4IR), where progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals has been slow and youth have been underrepresented, parliaments must play a pivotal role in empowering young people to drive innovation and technological advancement. By doing so, we can create a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Furthermore, AIPA has been at the forefront of promoting youth engagement and leadership in legislative and policy-making processes at both national and regional levels. By nurturing young parliamentarians, AIPA aims to cultivate a new generation of leaders who can drive sustainable change in the region. Given the ageing population, these young parliamentarians will play a crucial role in shaping the future of ASEAN. Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA) have been actively contributing to the achievement of SDG 3 by engaging in regional cooperation and policy advocacy to ensure health and well-being for all. YPA members have also been instrumental in reviewing and formulating legislation related to social health protection budgets, and facilitating knowledge sharing among parliamentarians.

Young parliamentarians are anticipated to serve as a conduit between youth perspectives and the democratic process, articulating the interests of young people on issues affecting their generation. Emphasizing these priority areas, the Young Parliamentarians of AIPA should advocate for policies and initiatives that foster the inclusion of young parliamentarians in Southeast Asian countries, with the goal of increasing their representation in legislative bodies. Additionally, it is crucial to encourage inter-regional knowledge exchange and collaboration among young members of parliament to share best practices, strategies, and experiences in advancing youth engagement and strengthening democratic institutions.

As representatives of the public, parliamentarians have a crucial responsibility to champion inclusive and participatory governance, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of young people are incorporated into policy-making processes. This responsibility encompasses efforts to enhance electoral participation among youth and to establish formal mechanisms that allow them to develop and exercise their political

skills. Furthermore, it is essential to support initiatives that build enduring trust and explore innovative channels for youth involvement in policy-making. AIPA can play a pivotal role by supporting measures to increase both the number and the capabilities of young parliamentarians, as well as fostering young people's understanding and confidence in political institutions and democratic processes. Establishing conducive environments and opportunities for engagement between governments and citizens, with particular emphasis on youth, is vital for facilitating regular information exchange and ensuring meaningful participation.