

### THE 44<sup>TH</sup> 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/02)

## **RESOLUTION ON**

# MOBILIZING PARLIAMENTARY ACTIONS ON PROMOTING GREEN JOBS AND SKILLS TO SUPPORT GREEN ECONOMIC TRANSITION

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#### The Forty-fourth AIPA General Assembly:

**Recalling** the 2018 ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN Community and the 2021 Regional Study on Green Jobs Policy Readiness in ASEAN conducted by the International Labor Organization (ILO);

**Recalling** the AIPA Resolution RES.35GA/2014/ECO/01 on "Fostering Green Growth Development Strategy in ASEAN which emphasizes the need to accelerate green economic development";

*Noting* the increasing growth of green jobs opportunities in the Asia Pacific including in Southeast Asian region as a result of continuous gradual development of low-carbon economy;

*Aware* that out of ASEAN's population of more than 640 million, 68 percent are in the working age population which can be projected to support future economic development and become an asset to fulfil the demand for green industry;

*Welcoming* the ASEAN Green Jobs Forum which has provided a platform for exchange information and views on implementing the ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN Community;

**Recognizing** the increasing need for cooperation in addressing the impacts of the environment both regionally and globally, which in turn is generating high demand for low-carbon development-skills and jobs;

**Understanding** importance of gender equality and equal employment opportunity in promoting green economy for both women and men, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;

**Noting** the varied green economic development progress among ASEAN Member States as well as disparity in public awareness in developing green jobs and skills which highlights the urgency for cross-border collaboration;

**Reaffirming** the central role of parliaments in promoting green jobs as well as other low-carbon development agendas as one of the priorities in the preparation of human resources to fulfil regional economic growth.

#### Hereby resolves to:

*Encourage* AIPA Member Parliaments to enact legislation and national green economic policy and framework that will promote just transition to green economy;

*Call upon* the governments of ASEAN Member States to strengthen the commitment to preparing human resources and social capital to harness green economic opportunities and further strengthen the ASEAN Community;

**Urge** AIPA Member Parliaments to conduct researches, raise public awareness, and have public engagement, according to national contexts, about the bright prospect of green jobs opportunities in many sectors such as clean energy, clean technology, sustainable agriculture, eco-friendly transport, sustainable tourism, and sustainable urban planning;

*Fully support* ASEAN Member States to prioritize and integrate/incorporate green jobs promotion and green skills development within national development plans, including in sectoral development programs, such as promotion of better workforce and education;

*Call upon* ASEAN Member Parliaments to strengthen regional cooperation to promote green jobs and skills in ASEAN countries, including resource mobilization, knowledge and information sharing, capacity building, and skills development;

**Recommend** AIPA as an inter-parliamentary platform that promotes green investment and encourages business actors to provide a better ecosystem and workforce ready for green jobs;

**Encourage** greater parliamentary and AIPA roles in supporting business and private sectors in employment transition to green skills jobs by taking into account gender balance and gender equality employment policies;

*Call upon* governments of ASEAN Member States to facilitate socio-preneur initiatives concerning the green economy and sustainable environment including initiatives that utilize information technology and artificial intelligence, whenever possible;

*Encourage* the Governments to issue a set of measurement indicators for green growth including green jobs development of each country, followed by moving towards a set of measurement indicators for green growth of ASEAN;

**Encourage** ASEAN Member States to promote widespread application of cleaner production; minimize, save and increase the efficiency of the use of natural resources

while at the same time reduce carbon emissions, while upholding environmental standard for human health, and limit the increase in pollution to protect One Health;

*Call upon* ASEAN Member States to have solutions to improve workforce productivity, reduce the unemployment rate especially the youth unemployment rate, reducing the rate of informal employment, transforming the economic structure in association with green economic goals, green and sustainable jobs;

**Urge** AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen and leverage existing platform and information sharing platforms to facilitate dialogue among policymakers and stakeholders to discuss, identify and share best practices in developing green skills in ASEAN Member States;

**Encourage** ASEAN Member States to identify the skills gap of the workforce vis-à-vis the required skill set of green jobs across economic sectors and establish programs for worker's reskilling and upskilling for green jobs;

**Recommend** to ASEAN Member States that social protection should be in place to ensure that a green job must also be a decent job that provides adequate social security, decent wages and covered by sufficient occupational health and safety regulations;

*Call upon* ASEAN Member States to provide incentives in recognition of individuals and business enterprises in creation of green jobs;

*Encourage* ASEAN Member States to strengthen workforce market intelligence and job placement programs as part of green jobs promotion strategy;

**Recommend** to ASEAN Member States to establish a mechanism for cooperation among relevant government agencies, private sector, workers, and other key stakeholders; and

**Encourage** ASEAN Member States to better align national education policies with the rising demand for green jobs with greater emphasis on skills development as well as linking TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) institutions' according to national context needs with green employment opportunities.

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



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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

## RESOLUTION ON MOBILIZING PARLIAMENTARY ACTIONS ON PROMOTING GREEN JOBS AND SKILLS TO SUPPORT GREEN ECONOMIC TRANSITION

Along with tightened global commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation, the green economic transformation has become a key agenda across the globe. Many countries have formulated respective national strategies by reformulating their economic policy and shaping economic behavior with reference to the green economic paradigm. This paradigm shift is not merely a change in the economy but also influences the structure and landscape of the labor market. The development of the green economy and low-carbon industries are accelerated by a massive influx of green investment which could generate new employment opportunities.

Investment in this sustainable sector has doubled in the past four to six years reaching about \$3.6 trillion which spurs green economic activity (IMF 2021). From a labor standpoint, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has projected that the decarbonization and low-carbon economy will be able to generate up to 24 million green jobs or a net increase of 18 million job opportunities by 2030, where most of them are in Asia. In the next couple of years, demand for green skills will be a new game-changer in the labor market. It creates green employment in many various sub-sectors from solar technology, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, circular economy, waste management, and urban transportation to green urban planning.

In line with that development, the transition to a green economy has also become a key agenda during the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit. Aspiring to become the world's epicentrum of growth as enshrined in this year's Indonesian chairmanship, ASEAN Member States are also working intensely to spur economic growth including new low-carbon economic development. Although every country may undergo different pathways, this transformation is likely to change the jobs market and employment opportunities in the region. Demand for green-related skills will continue to rise along with a massive influx of green investment.

During the last few years, regional commitments among Southeast Asian countries have been made. The Government of ASEAN Member States has adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN Community in 2018. Following that, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ILO had formulated a Regional Study on Green Jobs Policy Readiness in ASEAN in 2021 which traced progress and identified challenges for green jobs development among ASEAN countries. In parliamentary forum, the 35<sup>th</sup> AIPA GA 2014 has first raised parliamentary awareness to promote green growth development through the Resolution on Green Growth Development Strategy in ASEAN. This resolution can become an initial background to advocate the importance of green employment sector.

The draft resolution on *Mobilizing Parliamentary Actions on Promoting Green Jobs and Skills to Support Green Economic Transition* aimed at invigorating parliamentary role in creating a more resilient ASEAN community while also underpinning ASEAN economic growth. It is crucial for the Parliament of ASEAN Member States to lead the transformation in the labor market by putting stringent commitment in promoting and mainstreaming green employment. The Parliament of ASEAN Member States must lead the transformation in the labor market by making an uncompromising commitment to promoting and mainstreaming green employment. Parliamentarians shall be at the forefront to spearhead campaigns regarding green job creation and preparing green industry-related skills. Parliamentarians should also take a vital role in channeling demands in the green economic labor market.

At regional level, streamlining green jobs across the ASEAN region agenda and within national development is also extremely important. As country progress is comparably different across the region, collaboration and sharing knowledge are also vital to carry forward the green employment agenda. Massive parliamentary effort to prioritize the development of human resources through green skills development goes hand in hand with climate adaptation as well as a low-carbon economic agenda.