



JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE NINETEENTH (19TH) ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC) COUNCIL

21 MARCH 2018, REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

1. We, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam gathered together on 21 March 2018 in Singapore, for the 19th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC) Meeting, under the chairmanship of the Republic of Singapore.
2. We extended our full support to Singapore's 2018 ASEAN Chairmanship and its theme of a *"resilient and innovative ASEAN"* that goes hand in hand with the ASCC 2025 Vision *"for an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the peoples and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic"*.
3. We supported Singapore's priority areas for the ASCC pillar. These include youth initiatives to strengthen youth development, strengthening ASEAN's commitment to addressing climate change, affirming the importance of digital literacy and cyber wellness, developing a more socially responsible media in ASEAN as well as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. We encouraged all sectoral bodies and stakeholders under ASCC Pillar to leverage on innovation and technology to improve the lives of our people.

4. We noted the steady progress in the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025. As an indication, out of a total 109 strategic measures with a total of 929 activities as of 28 February 2018 in the ASCC pillar, 8% was completed with 47% was on-going and 45% to be implemented in the remaining years. All activities from ASCC Sectoral Bodies' work programs have contributed to the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025.
5. We reaffirmed the commitment to promote inclusive and sustainable growth, employment and decent work and recognized that a managed transition process from informal to formal employment of workers plays an important role in enhancing the well-being of workers and their families, promoting inclusive growth, and eradicating poverty. In this regard, we commend the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting for their work and endorse the "*Regional Action Plan of the Vientiane Declaration on the Transition from Informal Employment to Formal Employment towards Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN*" for notation by ASEAN Leaders at their 32nd ASEAN Summit.
6. We agreed to further strengthen cross-sector and cross-pillar collaboration and encouraged the ASCC sectoral bodies to enhance collaboration with the AEC and APSC sectoral bodies. This would enable better coordination and enhance our capacity to address regional and international issues of common concern. We noted with appreciation the ongoing efforts in promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, and efforts in fostering resilience in ASEAN including ASEAN's commitment to respond to complex disaster situations through the Implementation of the One ASEAN One Response Declaration.
7. We affirmed the need to take proactive measures and mainstream the culture of prevention in the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. In this regard, we convened an ASCC Council Ministerial Retreat to deliberate the way forward following the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention (CoP) for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society. We discussed strategic ways to promote the culture of prevention in the region, especially in fostering and inculcating the preventive mindset. Deliberations at our Retreat focused on preventive policies

and best practices that ASEAN could adopt, sustainable partnerships and collaborations that ASEAN could pursue, and effective cross-sector and cross-pillar coordination to support the CoP agenda.

8. We expressed our sincerest thanks to Singapore for chairing and hosting effectively the 19th ASCC Council Meeting. We look forward to the 20th ASCC Council Meeting and ASEAN activities that will be held under Singapore's 2018 ASEAN Chairmanship.

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