



**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE TWELFTH ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION
(12th AMRDPE)**

**26 November 2021
Boracay, Philippines and through video conference**

The ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication;

HAVING gathered virtually on 26 November 2021, for the Twelfth ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (12th AMRDPE) hosted by the Philippines adopted the theme “*Accelerating Recovery and Strengthening Resiliency of ASEAN for Sustainable Rural Development and Poverty Eradication*” for the meetings and forum;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to promote rural development and poverty eradication in the ASEAN region pursuant to the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals, and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework;

RECALLING the AMRDPE Special Meeting on Reducing Poverty and Building Resilience: Towards COVID-19 Recovery held on 19 August 2020 through video conference wherein protection of the poor and vulnerable from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic is crucial in alleviating poverty and strengthening resilience;

COMMENDING the remarkable progress in pursuing strategic initiatives that leverage regional cooperation to accelerate inclusive development in rural and urban settings as well as reduce poverty, which include the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2021-2025, the ASEAN Development Outlook, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Research & Development Platform – Poverty Action among others;

ENCOURAGED by the milestones in our collective efforts to achieve inclusive and sustainable development underlying Complementarities Initiative between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which include the 5th ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium: Enhancing the Roles of Youth in Achieving the SDGs held on 8 April 2021, the ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Accelerating Actions to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals on 20 September 2021;

ENCOURAGED FURTHER by the strong partnership with the ASEAN Plus Three Countries and ASEAN's long-standing partners such as the Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA);

RECOGNISING that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in long-term and gendered-impacts on the capacities and livelihoods of families, households, and communities in rural and urban settings, increasing the incidence of poverty and deepening pre-existing inequalities.

STRESSING the urgency to accelerate collective action on mitigating the impacts of climate change, and the need to undertake adaptation measures to ensure that poor people living in rural and urban areas are empowered and resilient to natural hazards and climate risks;

MINDFUL of the opportunities brought about by the digital revolution to accelerate rural transformation and enable participation in socio-economic opportunities, towards reducing poverty that is doubly felt in rural areas;

DO HEREBY:

ENCOURAGE all Member States to review and assess relevant policies and programmes towards improving the economic and social living conditions of poor people in all settings, and empowering the poorest of people living in rural areas to benefit from development;

ENHANCE interconnectivity of rural-urban communities to facilitate the dynamic interactions of people and enterprises as well as productive activities across the urban, peri-urban and rural areas;

STRENGTHEN inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursue actions in line with the general recommendations arising from the ASEAN Symposium on COVID-19 Socioeconomic Recovery Efforts for the Poor and Marginalized Sectors” and the 10th ASEAN PPPP Forum on RDPE with the theme, “Accelerating Recovery and Strengthening Resiliency of ASEAN for Sustainable Rural Development and Poverty Eradication”;

REAFFIRM the ASEAN Joint Statement on COP26 adopted by the ASEAN Leaders during the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summit, and leverage action on rural development and poverty eradication to accelerate mitigation and adaptation measures;

ENDEAVOUR to surface the gender dimensions of pursuing rural development by locating the presence of rural women in agricultural value chains, recognising, reducing, and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work, and promoting rural women economic empowerment and women entrepreneurship;

STRENGTHEN multi-stakeholder rural development mechanisms especially for rural women and youth participation, consultative stakeholder engagements with rural women and rural youth, pursue engagements with the awardees of the ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards, as well as substantively

and meaningfully engage ASEAN's partners, civil society organisations, and key stakeholders.

TASK the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) to undertake cross-sectoral and inter-pillar collaboration with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN's partners to implement the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2021-2025, ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its implementation plan and other relevant ASEAN cross-pillars and cross-sectoral documents, and to develop an ASEAN master plan on rural development that reflects a whole-of-ASEAN approach to rural development and poverty eradication.

Agreed by the Ministers/Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Member States on this Twenty-Sixth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One.
