

## **Joint Statement of the Third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)**

**25 October 2018, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

**WE**, the ASEAN Ministers/Heads of Delegations, responsible for gender equality and women empowerment, gathered in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 25 October 2018 for the Third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women with the theme “Social Protection for Women and Girls: Toward the ASEAN Community Vision 2025”;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in the ASEAN region as stipulated in the ASEAN Vision 2025, the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in the ASEAN (2013), the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2013) and the Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals (2017);

**COMMENDING** the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women (RPA EVAW) and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children (RPA EVAC) as well as the continuous efforts in mainstreaming gender across the three pillars of ASEAN;

**RECOGNISING** that to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, social protection measures are crucial to create an enabling environment for women and girls to realise their full potentials, to make their own life choices, and to stand resilient amidst risks and uncertainties;

**ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER** that gender equality is both the principle, the process and the practice whereby cross-sectoral efforts are required along with concerted endeavors in other areas of sustainable development namely social protection, education, poverty eradication, economic empowerment, environment protection, and climate action, among others;

**DO HEREBY:**

**ENCOURAGE** all Member States to work together to accelerate the gains and the progress on gender equality and gender mainstreaming across the three pillars for people-centered, people-oriented inclusive ASEAN;

**PROMOTE** the incorporation of gender in all areas of sustainable development and the inclusion of the voices and needs of women and girls in the design and the implementation of policies and programmes that affect their lives and livelihoods;

**ACCELERATE** the implementation of ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection and the Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection;

**URGE** all Member States and all three pillars to synergise and establish strategic partnership among Member States and with external partners to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls and to make impactful and lasting difference in the lives of women and girls in ASEAN;

**STRONGLY SUPPORT** the engagement of boys and men as agents of change in espousing gender equality and in instigating positive changes in gender norms and behaviours which are the pre-requisites of any structural transformation towards equality;

**TASK the ACW** to forge ahead the implementation of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan 2016-2020 and to assure that the intersectionality and diversities of women and girls of ASEAN are taken into account in the next ACW Work Plan (2021-2025);

**STRENGTHEN** our commitment to take concrete steps to address gender inequalities and mainstream gender in the political-security, economic, and socio-cultural spheres and contribute to realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Agreed by the Ministers/Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Member States on this Twenty Fifth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Eighteen in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

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