

# Annual Report of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

July 1

**2015**

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The Annual Report of the AICHR for the period of July 2014 to July 2015.

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## **Introduction**

The AICHR is pleased to submit the Annual Report 2015 for the consideration of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the AICHR (Article 6.6). This reporting period (July 2014-2015) is marked by three special occasions for the AICHR. First and foremost is the upcoming commencement of the ASEAN Community at the end of 2015, which highlights the growing importance of Community-building efforts by various organs and bodies of ASEAN including those pertaining to human rights which are a fundamental principle of the ASEAN Community by the AICHR. Secondly, implementation of the first Five-Year Work Plan (2010-2015) of the AICHR will come to a close this year and the AICHR is preparing the second Work Plan that will cover the next five-year period (2016-2020) of its operation. Thirdly, the AICHR will face with a milestone change of its membership when the terms of office of the majority of its Representatives expire in 2015. This issue will be elaborated in the main body of the Report.

Because of the above extraordinary circumstances, the AICHR has adopted a different format of the annual report to focus on salient issues that have emerged during the reporting period. The Annual Report 2015 is divided into two parts. Part I of the Report comprises components on observations, challenges and recommendations while Part II contains two annexes. In Annex I, the AICHR incorporates the assessment of the 2010-2015 Work Plan that has already been submitted to the AMM for ease of reference and in view of the expiration of the first Five-Year Work Plan that coincides with this period of the Report. Annex II presents enumeration of activities that the AICHR has conducted during the reporting period.

The AICHR wishes to take this opportunity to convey its deepest gratitude and appreciation to the AMM for the strong and continued support that the AMM has accorded to it over the past year and would like to reaffirm its commitment wholeheartedly to discharge the mandate on the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN ascribed to it by the Terms of Reference.

June 2015

## PART I

### I. Observations

The AICHR presents observations on its operation and activities during the reporting period as follows:

#### 1. Change of the AICHR Representatives

At the outset, an issue that deserves a particular attention is the significant change of the AICHR membership at the end of 2015. According to the Terms of Reference of the AICHR (Article 5.5), each AICHR Representative serves a term of three years and may be consecutively re-appointed for only one additional term. In 2015, there are five Representatives (of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines) who have already served for two consecutive terms and are not eligible for reappointment. One other Representative (of Vietnam) will be replaced due to her diplomatic appointment even before the end of 2015. Therefore what will definitely occur at the commencement of the ASEAN Community in 2016 is the appointment of six new AICHR Representatives. Further, there is no certainty that there will be no change in the remaining four Representatives who will have completed their first term in December 2015. This significant change will be a challenge for the new AICHR Representatives in early 2016. If anything, the present term has yielded a proven lesson of collegiality among the AICHR representatives who, in spite of their differences, have achieved a good degree of balance and common understanding on the modality of works, based on mutual respect and consensus. While appointment of each AICHR Representative is the exclusive discretion of the respective AMS, the fact that their terms of office are relatively short (three years) and potentially the majority, if not all, of them can vacate the office at the same time at the expiry of the first three-year term as will materialize at a crucial juncture of the Community history this year will result in the disruption to the continuity and institutional arrangement of the AICHR. The AICHR respectfully reiterates to the AMM the utilization of staggered terms office of the Representatives in the TOR to ensure a smoother continuation of the work programme.

## **2. Regularization and institutionalization of activities**

A tendency that has emerged more clearly in the second term of the AICHR in general and during this reporting period in particular is the regularization and institutionalization of the AICHR activities. An underlying principle in the conduct of AICHR activities is toward creating an impact in ASEAN as well as relevant ASEAN Member States. Capacity building and awareness raising are two priority objectives of the AICHR; however, the AICHR has avoided repetition and duplication of the conduct of these activities in three ways:

Firstly, while Representatives recognise that capacity building activities require regular organization, different themes are adopted in subsequent years. The case in point is training of stakeholders on human rights issues. The focus as well as targeted participants are shifted from one training to another in the following year. In the previous reporting period, a four-day training was organised for government officials while the training that will occur in this reporting period will focus on journalists.

Secondly, to spread the knowledge and expand awareness of regional human rights mechanisms and issues across the ASEAN region, a practice has emerged whereby some activities such as youth debate on human rights that will help foster ASEAN youth integration and a sense of Community among them should be organised on a recurring basis and the organising country for the AICHR will rotate among the Member States. First organised in the Philippines in 2013, the Youth Debate that will take place this year will be organised by Singapore and the one scheduled for 2016 will be organised by Malaysia.

Thirdly and perhaps most significantly, some activities that are organised by the same country are deepened in their content and result in a more specialised and focused outcome.

### **3. Broader coverage of programme of activities**

In this reporting period, there is an expansion of activities to include subject matters that were not undertaken in the previous years. New topics and target groups such as environment and climate change, peace, the role of women in small and medium enterprises, education, legal aid, journalists and persons with disabilities are added to the repertory of the AICHR activities, reflecting the increasing dynamism of human rights in the ASEAN region.

### **4. Programmatic planning of activities**

A most prominent development in terms of project implementation is the adoption of a programmatic approach in the planning and implementing programme of activities. This approach eschews organisation of stand-alone activities and focuses on a more result and goal-oriented perspectives, recognizing the ongoing necessity to raise awareness and conduct activities that mainstream human rights principles across all pillars of ASEAN. It should be pointed out that the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD that the ASEAN Leaders signed in 2012 have become central documents to which most if not all of AICHR activities are referred. Thus, benefiting from the regional comprehensive human rights document, the AICHR has a longer term perspective of planning and implementing whereby activities will gradually help the AICHR realise in concrete terms the protection mandate alongside activities pertaining to human rights promotion that it has actively organised.

### **5. Delayed implementation and organisation of some activities**

Some activities have suffered from delayed in implementation and organisation. The case in point is the thematic studies. While the AICHR successfully launched the first thematic report on Corporate Social Responsibility in 2014—itself taking more than four years to complete, subsequent thematic studies that the AICHR has adopted have not been implemented or finalised within the stated timeline. This is due in large part to the current methodology of implementing and preparing national reports through researchers in respective member states and in part to the lack of qualified personnel to undertake such studies at the national level. To accelerate the priority programmes especially the

thematic studies, the AICHR will discuss the weaknesses of the present methodology and deliberate on the ways and means toward its enhancement or adoption of a new one.

## **6. Expanded External Relations**

This reporting period witnesses proliferation of dialogue partners as well as embarkation of a new phase of partnership with existing ones. The AICHR has embraced a practice of interfacing with dialogue partners and has engaged with new dialogue partners such as the United States (through US Progress) and UNICEF. It has also deepened the relations with existing partners such as Japan (through JAIF), the European Union (through EU READI facility) and UN Women. The EU has extended an invitation to the AICHR for a second study visit to its headquarters in Brussels in October 2015. Through the conduct of its priority programmes, the AICHR also have an opportunity to interact with institutions from other regions such as the Inter American Commission on Human Rights, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation. The AICHR remains positive on the prospect of interacting and cooperating with other organisations in the next reporting period and will strive to execute more effectively its coordinating role as the overarching institution on human rights issues with these external partners on behalf of ASEAN.

## **7. Enhanced relations with Civil Society Organisations**

These has been a favourable development on the relations with CSOs. The AICHR has interfaced with representatives of the CSOs in a number of occasions, most importantly in the two regional consultations aiming at contributing to the review of the TOR of the AICHR. This development culminates in the final adoption of the Guidelines on the Relations between the AICHR and Civil Society Organisations that will enable the AICHR to establish systematic interactions with the CSOs in the near future. The Guidelines will be operationalised in due course with the setting up by the AICHR of its screening panel.

## **II. Challenges**

There are three challenges that constantly arise in the work of the AICHR and apparently more so during this reporting period.

To begin with, the human rights concept encompasses a broad category of rights and issues that are underpinned by the principles of interdependence and interrelatedness, making it challenging to prioritise and sequence activities pertaining to them. In its operation, the AICHR has benefited from the fact that it is composed of Representatives from diverse backgrounds, interests and expertise, which stimulates a healthy discourse on both the substantive and procedural aspects of human rights.

The second challenge is the constraint of time. Because AICHR Representatives perform multiple functions and duties at the same time, it has been a demanding task to organise meetings that effectively reconcile with the professional requirements and schedules of the Representatives.

The third challenge relates to the urgency of the AICHR's mission to mainstream human rights across the three pillars in furtherance of the Community-building process and in anticipation of the commencement of the ASEAN Community. The task is rendered cumbersome and complicated by the fact that a number of institutions and bodies lack cognizance of the relevance of human rights which permeates through every sector of the Community. With this backdrop, one can appreciate more fully the complexity of the tasks on hand of the AICHR that reaches its decisions and carries out its activities through consensus and consultation in accordance with the ASEAN Charter.



### **III. Recommendations**

#### **1. Strengthening of the AICHR Secretariat and National Support Units**

It can be immediately observed from the points illustrated above that as the AICHR broadens and deepens the scope of activities in the implementation of its mandate, the issues of institutional strength and human capital at the disposal of the AICHR have become increasingly formidable. This urgency is true at both the ASEAN Secretariat and the Member States levels. It is necessary that in order to be able to discharge its mandate more effectively and efficiently, the AICHR as a body and AICHR representatives individually are assisted by capable Secretariats that are sufficiently staffed. It is worrying that if such capable units are not institutionalised and provided in a timely manner, the stream of works of the AICHR may be compromised and rendered less effective. It is also worth noting that a Member State has taken an initiative to establish a dedicated unit with budget and personnel to support its Representative. The AICHR remains optimistic and wish to be guided by the wisdom of the AMM in the ways and means that are most suitable to strengthen its ASEAN Secretariat unit. The AICHR wishes also to reiterate its unanimous view that the placement of the unit in the ASEAN Secretariat that supports the AICHR should be under the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC) Department in accordance with the reporting line of AICHR and the cross-cutting nature of human rights. The AICHR is hopeful that the AMM will endorse the continuous placement of the AICHR's supporting unit under the APSC Department in the ASEAN Secretariat.

#### **2. Mainstreaming of human rights across the Community pillars and enhanced engagement and alignment with Community organs and bodies**

The AICHR as the overarching human rights institution for ASEAN will continue discharging its mandate through closer cooperation and collaboration with other Community organs and bodies. Regular interaction has served as a vehicle for the incorporation of human rights across ASEAN as well as mitigation of duplication and streamlining of works and activities pertaining to human rights that may be carried out by

ASEAN Sectoral bodies. Already the AICHR has shown a leadership role in convening a dialogue with ASEAN Community Councils with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming of human rights into the ASEAN Vision 2025 and its attendant documents. The dialogue has shown great promise in imbuing cognizance of human rights principles that are a building block of ASEAN into key Community documents and, equally importantly, fostering a fruitful interface between the AICHR and regional stakeholders. This will be followed by the AICHR-SOMTC Joint Workshop on Human Rights-based Approach to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The AICHR will further discuss about the regularization of such a dialogue to further enhance the good relationship and coordination with other ASEAN organs and bodies while improving its effectiveness. It goes without saying that the continued support of the AMM is vital for the success of this endeavour.

### **3. Dissemination and Promotion of Adherence to the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD**

The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD represent the first comprehensive human rights instrument for the ASEAN region and since their adoption in 2012 have become central in the planning and implementing of activities for the AICHR. As they are adopted by ASEAN leaders, the twin documents are a basic document on human rights for ASEAN. The AICHR has implemented a number of projects to disseminate their texts, including their translation into national languages. It will further promote the reference and adherence to the two documents by ASEAN organs and bodies through coordination and consultation. The AICHR stands ready to be guided by the AMM on the ways forward to achieve the regional application of the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of AHRD and appeals that the AMM actively join the AICHR in encouraging other ASEAN organs and bodies to make reference to the two documents when addressing issues pertaining to human rights in ASEAN.

#### **4. Review of the Terms of Reference of the AICHR**

The AICHR wishes to take the opportunity when submitting this annual report to highlight the issue of the review of its TOR. During this reporting period the AICHR organised two consultations to contribute to the review of the TOR and convened a special meeting to deliberate on the results of those consultations, the outcome of which has already been transmitted to the AMM. Apart from the issue of terms of office and vacation from office of the majority of the AICHR Representatives in 2015, there are a number of additional topics for review that were expressed at the consultations, one noticeable stream of suggestions focuses on the enhancement of the protection mandate of the AICHR to strike a good balance with the promotion mandate that has regularly been exercised. As ASEAN is entering the new phase of its development which is to be marked by the auspicious commencement of the ASEAN Community in 2016, the AICHR deems pivotal the review of its TOR to ready itself to be able to discharge effectively its role as the focal institution on the promotion and protection of human rights in the people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community.

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## **PART II**

### **ANNEX A**

#### **AICHR's Assessment and Recommendations on the Review of the TOR for the consideration of the AMM**

*Adopted on 4 October 2014 and submitted to the Chair of the AMM by letter dated 5<sup>th</sup>  
October 2014 by the Chair of AICHR*

CHA-AM HUA HIN DECLARATION ON THE ASEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (AICHR) 2009:

RECOGNISE that the TOR of the AICHR shall be reviewed every five years after its entry into force to strengthen the mandate and functions of the AICHR in order to further develop mechanisms on both the protection and promotion of human rights. This review and subsequent reviews shall be undertaken by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting.

Article 9.6 TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AICHR (TOR) 2009:

This TOR shall be initially reviewed five years after its entry into force. This review and subsequent reviews shall be undertaken by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, with a view to further enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights within ASEAN.

Article 9.7 TOR:

Pursuant to Article 9.7 of the Terms of Reference of AICHR, the AICHR shall assess its work and submit its recommendations for the consideration of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting on future efforts that could be undertaken in the promotion and protection of human rights within ASEAN consistent with the principles and purposes of the ASEAN Charter and the TOR.

In this respect the AICHR has conducted its own assessment by taking stock and analyzing the activities it has conducted over the past 5 years through its Annual Priority Programmes in line with its Five Year Work Plan. In conducting this analysis, the AICHR

took note that in the span of its five years since its inception, AICHR has managed to achieve several milestones in the promotion and protection of human rights such as the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the signing of the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD by our ASEAN Leaders, the completion of their first thematic study on Corporate Social Responsibility and Human Rights and the exploration of third generation rights in ASEAN such as the thematic study on the right to peace, the intersection of human rights and environment / climate change and discussion on post 2015 Millennium Development Goals.

In its analysis, the AICHR noted that there were certain challenges and limitations in the implementation of their Five Year Work Plan:

1. The ambitious annual priority programmes of the AICHR which in some cases could not be completed in the year due to shortage of manpower, insufficient time to fully discuss and reach consensus in adoption of the concept papers.
2. The inability to complete all intended activities under the Five Year Work Plan;
3. The outputs and outcomes of conducted activities have not been assessed in terms of their human rights impact. In this regard, monitoring and evaluation of activity implementation has to be incorporated in the concept papers;
4. The AICHR is unable to fully discuss and assess its activity reports because of the rich agenda of all its meetings, thereby hindering possible follow up for programmatic development of the issues concerned;
5. The national secretariats/units/offices of the AICHR Representatives may need to be established or strengthened to assist the work of the AICHR Representative at the national level.

6. No overall monitoring and evaluation of projects that should be carried out by their regional secretariat due to low human resources for the unit based at the ASEAN Secretariat that serves the AICHR.

In conducting their assessment, AICHR also sought views from stakeholders. In this regard, AICHR agreed to conduct two regional consultations to seek inputs and recommendations on the review to the Term of Reference of AICHR which will be conducted by the AMM pursuant to Art 9.6 of the TOR of AICHR. The first regional consultation took place in Jakarta in April 28-29, 2014. This consultation was conducted in two parts. The first day consultation was with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies. The second day consultation was with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from ASEAN Member States including regional CSOs.

The AICHR held their second consultation in Bangkok on 27 – 28 June, 2014. This two day workshop involved a large number of national, regional and international CSOs. The consultation was also participated by UN Agencies and experts from other regional human rights mechanisms, academia and national human rights institutions. This was the first regional consultation of the AICHR that involved such varied stakeholders and enabled extensive sharing of experience and exchange of thoughts.

All the consultations were rich and solicited many responses and ‘wish-lists’ from the various stakeholders. It also elucidated to the AICHR that many CSOs in ASEAN do not have much understanding of the AICHR and of the basic tenets, principles and purposes of ASEAN. Therefore, it is not surprising that some of the recommendations received were seeking changes to established ASEAN practices. AICHR consistently informed the stakeholders of the ASEAN’s principles and purposes.

ASEAN Sectoral Bodies: In the consultations, several ASEAN Sectoral Bodies expressed that they would like for the AICHR to engage with them more on specific issues related to human rights. For instance ASLOM, would like AICHR to consider the drafting of ASEAN legal instruments to uphold human rights in ASEAN and to mainstreaming of

human rights in the laws of ASEAN Member States / mainstream human rights in ASEAN cooperation. AICHR's information on their intention to look at drafting of legal instruments on human rights using the human rights based approach was appreciated.

There was also a call to the AICHR to encourage ASEAN Member States to ratify more international human rights instruments pursuant to Art 4. 9 of the TOR. Currently only the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) enjoys the ratification of all 10 ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Sectoral Bodies would like for other international human rights conventions to reach similar status.

The AICHR appreciated their inputs and looked forward to enhancing specific cooperation with more ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN Organs.

#### CSOs, academia, think-tanks, national human rights institutions, UN Agencies

The consultations, both in Jakarta and Bangkok, allowed for many national CSOs, academia, think-tanks, national human rights institutions, UN Agencies, regional and international CSOs to provide their assessment and recommendations. Their varied inputs also included practical and strategic ways for the AICHR to engage more concretely on human rights with them.

The AICHR held a Special Meeting in Singapore on 10-11 July, 2014. This meeting was dedicated to discussing these inputs from the various stakeholders and submitting recommendations for the consideration of the AMM. On the assessment and recommendations on the review of the TOR, there were some similar calls to AICHR to strengthen or improve several key areas.

The AICHR discussed these inputs and recommendations. There were divergent views from the AICHR Representatives on many of the recommendations and calls for changes to the TOR. These divergent views were noted.

Finally, with a view to further enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights within ASEAN, the following proposals are put forward to strengthen the work of AICHR in accordance with the ASEAN Charter and its TOR:

1. As the overarching human rights institution in ASEAN, the AICHR will mainstream human rights across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community, in consultation with relevant ASEAN Sectoral bodies.
2. To advance implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), and Article 2.3 of the AICHR's TOR, the AICHR may be invited by any ASEAN Member State on a voluntary basis, to engage in a dialogue on national implementation of human rights commitments in accordance with the AHRD and obligations under regional and international human rights instruments to which Member States are party.
3. Further on the implementation of Article 2.3 of the AICHR's TOR, on the basis of the voluntary invitation of the ASEAN Member State concerned, the AICHR may be engaged in thematic visits to share best practices on the promotion and protection of human rights organized by the inviting Member State in a non-confrontational and non-politicized manner, having full respect for the national situation in the ASEAN Member States and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the AHRD.
4. The AICHR, upon the request and consent of an ASEAN Member State, can assist in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter, including for the establishment or strengthening of national human rights institutions/bodies or any other national mechanisms that are suited for that ASEAN Member State.



5. An annual consultation between the AICHR and civil society shall be held on promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN and implementation of the AHRD. Modalities for the consultation shall be decided by the AICHR.
6. The AICHR to publish their Annual Report on its website.
7. Seek the establishment of a dedicated unit within the ASEAN Secretariat to support the work of the AICHR.
8. Establish national secretariat/unit/office to assist the AICHR Representative for its national work.
9. Stagger the term of office of the AICHR Representatives in order to maintain the institutional memory of the AICHR.
10. We recommend the ASEAN Foreign Ministers to consider the contribution of the AICHR on the review of the TOR as an input to the review process that shall be undertaken by the Foreign Ministers.

## **ANNEX B**

### **AICHR's Development and Activities from July 2014 – July 2015**

#### **I. Developments in the AICHR since mid-2014**

In July 2014, the AICHR adopted its Contribution to the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision. This document emphasized that human rights and fundamental freedoms shall be one of the central elements of the Post-2015 Vision, that the human rights-based approach must be the key intersection point in the development goals of ASEAN, and that while particularities are continued to be respected, all AMS must endeavour individually and collectively to enhance their capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights.

In August 2014, the AICHR endorsed a proposal from the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) on developing a disability-friendly AICHR website. By the end of 2014, disability-friendly functionality of the website had been implemented and had gone through some debugging. In addition to this, some ASEAN Member States (AMS) have launched their respective AICHR National Websites.

In the Meetings last July and August 2014, the AICHR discussed its Assessment and Recommendation for the Review of the ToR for the consideration of the AMM. The AICHR completed and adopted its assessment and recommendations for the AMM. The prospective review of the ToR is still pending at the AMM early in 2015.

In October 2014, the AICHR met separately with representatives from UN Women and US-PROGRESS to discuss possible future cooperation. As of February 2015, the AICHR had been considering invitations to the EU and African Union.

Also in February 2015, the AICHR adopted the Guidelines for AICHR's Relations with Civil Society. The adoption signalled the end of a long period of careful deliberation on

the Guidelines and moves the AICHR a major step towards institutionalized interaction with civil society organizations from the region. Alongside this development, the AICHR also adopted its Guidelines for Alignment on Between AICHR and ASEAN Sectoral Bodies Dealing with Human Rights. As of March 2015, the Guidelines for Alignment had been communicated to the concerned Sectoral Bodies and waiting for comments and inputs from them.

The AICHR had completed its first thematic study, focused on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and human rights. The study recommended, among other things, that the ASEAN Member States must take the lead role in implementing CSR within the business sectors and as a policy strategy for the region. The study is published online on the AICHR website.

Bearing in mind the July 2014 inputs of the AICHR to the Central Elements of the ASEAN Community's post-2015 Vision, the AICHR also conveyed in April 2015 its inputs to the ASEAN Political-Security Community 2025 and its Attendant Document. In keeping with the assertion of the cross-cutting nature of human rights, the AICHR continues to promote the inclusion of human rights and the human rights based approach to the evolving vision of the ASEAN Community. The AICHR had set aside a dedicated meeting on this matter of the post 2015 Vision.

The AICHR had also set a dedicated meeting for the next 5-Year Work Plan 2016-2020. With the nearing conclusion of the current Work Plan 2010-2015, the new Work Plan lays guidance for the future direction in regional human rights policy.

At the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AICHR which was convened on 6 – 9 May 2015, the AICHR conducted its annual Meeting with Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN to exchange updates on their respective developments and discuss issues of paramount importance, such as the strengthening of cooperation between the CPR and the AICHR as well as the enhancement of ASEAN Secretariat's Support for AICHR. In this respect, the AICHR reiterated its unanimous

stand that the proposed Human Rights Division as per the HLTF's recommendation, should be placed under the APCS Pillar at the ASEAN Secretariat in line with its reporting line and that AICHR has been created as an ASEAN Organ under the Charter. The AICHR also met with Representatives of Japan's Mission to ASEAN and UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office to identify possible areas of cooperation, among others. The Meeting also worked on finalizing its Priority Programmes for 2016 including the Five Year Work Plan of AICHR.

Throughout the reporting period, there have been several programmes and activities carried out by the AICHR since July 2014. These include the following:

- A. Regional Workshop on the Reporting Obligations: Experience and best practices
  - The AICHR conducted a workshop aimed at gathering insights on country reporting practices and experiences in relation to national reporting obligations to various UN human rights mechanisms. Among the topics were common standards and practical procedures, implementation of mechanism recommendations and possible reforms to current processes.
- B. First Coordination Meeting for the thematic study on the Right to Peace
  - As a preparatory step to a full thematic study on the Right to Peace. The aim of the prospective study is to realize this right as embodied in Article 38 of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and contribute to the development of an emerging international discourse on peace as a human right.
- C. Workshop on Human Rights, Environment and Climate Change
  - The AICHR held a workshop with the aims of increasing the regional awareness on the relationship between human rights, the environment and climate change. The range of topics included human rights-based approaches (HRBA) to environmental policy, mapping the human rights obligations arising under Art. 28 (f) AHRD and any other relevant ASEAN Instruments, in relation to the 'right to a safe, clean, and sustainable

environment' in ASEAN, the role of AICHR in strengthening environmental protection, and formulating a regional approach to sustainable development.

D. Follow up Workshop on Post 2015 MDGs and Human Rights;

- From the outcome recommendations of a workshop on Millennium Development Goals post 2015 and Human Rights held in December 2013, the AICHR held a follow up workshop aimed at identifying how an HRBA had been applied within the framework existing ASEAN Roadmap on the attainment of MDG's that involve the National Focal Points of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Sectoral Bodies related with the implementation of MDG's in ASEAN. The series of workshops aimed to produce an outcome document that can be submitted to the UN General Assembly (GA) open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals that will serve as an ASEAN contribution in the drafting process of post 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals that will be adopted by UN GA in September 2015.

E. AICHR Workshop on Regional Mechanisms

- The AICHR conducted workshop with invited guests from the European Council, the Organization of American States and academic experts on the African Union for the purpose of identifying and sharing the good practices, programs, frameworks as well as challenges of regional mechanisms from around the world. The other aims of the workshop were to examine the developmental challenges of establishing regional human rights mechanisms, and to foster cooperation between such mechanisms.

F. AICHR's Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme for Law Enforcers

- The AICHR held a capacity-building workshop geared at providing law enforcement officers from ASEAN with the tools for conducting human rights training in their respective home agencies and ministries. The

workshop also set out to create a platform for the sharing of experiences between the ASEAN Member States.

G. AICHR Regional Workshop on Comparative Domestication of Human Rights Treaty Obligations with National Laws in ASEAN

- The AICHR held a workshop with the view of undertaking a comparative study of the harmonization of human rights treaty obligations with national laws in ASEAN. The workshop was a platform for Member States to review and share best practices in the practical legal procedures in drafting domestic legislation in compliance with international obligations.

H. Workshop on Strengthening AICHR's Protection Mandate by Exploring Strategies to Protect Women and Girls from Violence in ASEAN

- Consistent with the recurring calls from various stakeholders for AICHR to begin developing its protection mandate, the Workshop undertook consultations with relevant stakeholders, experts, and government in order to share expertise, generate discussions, and identify possible ASEAN-wide mechanism and strategies for the protection of women and girls from violence in the region. The Workshop produced a draft strategy paper for the AICHR's consideration on possible protection mechanisms for Women and Children

I. Dialogue with ASEAN Community Councils

- The AICHR conducted a dialogue for the purpose of identifying and consulting on how human rights norms and values, as stipulated in the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD, could be mainstreamed in the three pillars of ASEAN Community. It aimed to discuss and formulate a human rights-based approach to be infused into the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its Attendant Documents

J. Training of Trainers for Journalists in ASEAN

- The AICHR will conduct a training aimed at equipping journalists with knowledge about human rights, their standards and mechanisms as well as state of human rights in Southeast Asia and rights of some specific groups. The training will be implemented to create a network among journalists from ASEAN Member States as well as a regional platform for sharing of experiences and practices on the promotion and protection of human rights.
-