

VIENTIANE DECLARATION ON ENHANCING GENDER PERSPECTIVE AND ASEAN WOMEN'S PARTNERSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

We, the Ministers/Heads of Delegations of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 19 October 2012 for the First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW);

Reaffirming our commitment to pursue a holistic and cooperative approach in advancing the participation of women and enhancing gender perspective in the political-security, economic and socio-cultural aspects of the ASEAN Community-building process;

Upholding the goals, purposes and principles of ASEAN in the ASEAN Charter and Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015);

Recalling the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 13th ASEAN Summit held on 20 November 2007 in Singapore;

Reiterating the commitments of ASEAN to promote gender equality and empower women as reflected in the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17th ASEAN Summit held on 28 October 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, ASEAN Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region signed at the 37th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) held on 30 June 2004 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region signed at the 21st AMM held on 5 July 1988 in Bangkok, Thailand;

Noting with satisfaction the significant achievements made in implementing the regional projects and activities agreed in the Work Plan of the ASEAN Committee on Women (2011-2015) to promote gender equality, social justice, well-being and rights of women in the region;

Acknowledging the commitment of ASEAN Member States to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), BPFA+5 Outcome Document, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Noting the outcome of the Women Leader's Summit at the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012 on the Future Women Want; and

Recognising that women represent a large untapped potential for environmental sustainability and the need to mainstream gender perspective and promote women's partnership and participation in sustaining the environment in ASEAN through holistic and effective strategies in collaboration and coordination with other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, with the participation of stakeholders, and in partnership with external partners, including ASEAN Dialogue Partners;

Do hereby declare our commitment to promote:

1. Women's knowledge and skills in environmental management and biodiversity conservation;
2. Women's knowledge and skills in climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction and management;
3. Women's knowledge and skills in soil conservation and appropriate land use technologies under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus (REDD+) and ensuring gender responsiveness of the REDD+ implementation in ASEAN Member States which would contribute to environmental protection and sustainability of livelihood;
4. Women's capacity in coping with the social and environmental impacts of deforestation and diversion of agricultural land for industrialisation and urbanisation;
5. Women's access, ownership and control over resources to support sustainable livelihoods and their active involvement in mitigating pollution and contamination of ecosystems;
6. Gender mainstreaming and active involvement of women in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of environmental policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels;
7. Women's full and substantive participation in the decision making process particularly concerning climate change and natural resource management at all levels;
8. Women's adequate protection and safety during the time of natural disasters and climate change hazards;
9. Legal measures, policies, strategies, and programmes on environmental sustainability for women especially those from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

We task the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) to effectively implement this commitment and monitor its progress in collaboration and coordination with the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies including the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Environment (ASOEN) and ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM). ASEAN Member States shall support these ASEAN sectoral bodies in the implementation of this Declaration through maximum efforts by such appropriate instruments as may be necessary and consistent with their respective national laws and policies.

We task the ACW to collaborate with the concerned ASEAN sectoral bodies to mobilise resources to implement this Declaration and to foster closer cooperation with external partners,

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including ASEAN Dialogue Partners, as well as other relevant stakeholders in building ASEAN as a gender-responsive and environmentally-responsible Community.

ADOPTED on this Nineteenth Day of October in the year two thousand and twelve in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

LIST OF MINISTERS / HEADS OF DELEGATIONS ATTENDING THE FIRST ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON WOMEN (AMMW), 19 OCTOBER 2012, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR

H.E. Pehin Dato Hazair Abdullah

Minister
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Dr. Kantha Phavi ING

Minister
Ministry of Women's Affairs
Kingdom of Cambodia

H.E. Linda Amalia Sari Gumelar

Minister
Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection
Republic of Indonesia

H.E. Sysay LEUDEDMOUNSONE

President
Lao Women's Union
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Mr. Harjeet Singh

Deputy Secretary General (Strategic)
Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development
Malaysia

H.E. Dr. Myat Myat Ohn KHIN

Minister
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

H.E. Remedios I. Rikken

Chairperson
The Philippine Commission on Women
Republic of the Philippines

H.E. Halimah Yacob

Minister of State
Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports
Republic of Singapore

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H.E. Santi PROMPHAT

Minister
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
Kingdom of Thailand

H.E. Pham Thi Hai Chuyen

Minister
Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
