



**JOINT STATEMENT OF
THE EIGHTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND
DEVELOPMENT (8th AMMSWD)**

6 September 2013, Siem Reap, Cambodia

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers/Heads of Delegations responsible for social welfare and development, convened the Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) with the theme "Social Development for All" on 6 September 2013 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
2. The Opening Ceremony of the 8th AMMSWD was officiated by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In his Opening Speech, Samdech Techo Prime Minister welcomed all the Ministers/Heads of Delegations and delegates of ASEAN Member States to the Meeting. Samdech Techo Prime Minister underlined the importance of social welfare and development sectors in poverty reduction, raising ASEAN identity in the region, and complementing the political and economic development of ASEAN. Samdech Techo Prime Minister believed that ASEAN plays an important role in addressing social issues in the region and globally by ensuring equitable access to services, social welfare and justice, and development of social services for all, as well as by strengthening social protection to bring about prosperity in the region. Samdech Techo Prime Minister highlighted Cambodia's commitment to, among others, enhance employment, reduce vulnerabilities of the poor, strengthen services for victims of natural and other disasters, expand rehabilitation programme for persons with disabilities, and enhance welfare of vulnerable groups, through its implementation of the CRC, CEDAW, CRPD, National Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020), Asia and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022) and Incheon Strategy to Make the Rights Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. As the ASEAN Community building by 2015 is drawing closer, Samdech Techo Prime Minister recommended for the strengthening of ASCC pillar by promoting social protection at national and sub-national levels according to the context of each ASEAN Member State. Samdech Techo Prime Minister emphasized that ASEAN Member States need to continue working together in strengthening appropriate strategies and mechanisms to implement effective social protection. Samdech Techo Prime Minister also called for closer collaboration amongst the ASEAN Plus Three Countries and with stakeholders to ensure the realisation of social welfare for all.

Towards A Socially-Responsible and People-Centred ASEAN Community

3. We were pleased to note the progress of implementation of Actions to promote social welfare and protection of vulnerable groups in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint. We encouraged the Senior Officials to accelerate their efforts to ensure that activities and projects will be implemented in a timely manner to support the ASEAN Community building by 2015.
4. We acknowledged the significance of the ASCC Scorecard and mid-term review of the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint, with emphasis on social welfare and development, as feedback to AMMSWD and SOMSWD in assessing the achievement and impact of our initiatives, and visioning ASEAN's social welfare and development agenda and priorities beyond 2015 that are inclusive, rights-based, socially-responsive, people-centred, and sustainable.

Social Development for All

5. We reiterated our commitment to continue strengthening social protection and mainstream the perspectives and concerns of the vulnerable groups, particularly children, older people and persons with disabilities, in the ASEAN Community. We applauded the Senior Officials for the progress of projects and activities planned in the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development 2011-2015, including the completion and outcomes of the Second ASEAN Conference on Working Toward a Cyber-Pornography and Cyber Prostitution-Free Southeast Asia held on 23-25 April 2013 in Bohol, the Philippines; Training Workshop on Strengthening Capacities of Communities, Practitioners and Policy Makers to Address Violence Against Women (VAW) held on 26-30 November 2012 in Manila, the Philippines; Second ASEAN Workshop on CRPD: "An Inclusive and Accessible Society for All: Employability and Employment" held on 18-20 February 2013 in Chiang Mai, Thailand; Regional Planning Workshop for Child Rights Practitioners on the Implementation of CRC held on 29-30 July 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand; Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) held on 24-27 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand; and ASEAN Dialogue between GOs and NGOs on Disability Issues held on 24-25 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.
6. We noted the convening of the 8th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development on 3 September 2013 and supported the Forum's recommendations on the need to further promote the social protection, quality of life and well-being of vulnerable groups in ASEAN, in particular children, older people, and persons with disabilities, and to reduce the risks that they are facing, including through the engagement of vulnerable groups in policy and planning, facilitation of sharing of good practices in responding to the needs of the vulnerable sector, and building collaboration with relevant stakeholders in delivering care for vulnerable sectors.

Strengthening Social Protection in ASEAN

7. We adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection for submission to the Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in October 2013 in Brunei

Darussalam. The Declaration affirms that everyone, especially those who are poor, at risk, persons with disabilities, older persons, out-of-school youth, children, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups are entitled to equitable access to social protection that is a basic human right.

8. We recognized that social protection is a cross cutting issue that requires inclusive, holistic, and adaptive approaches in strong collaboration of the Governments with private sectors, development partners, civil society, service providers, and other stakeholders where appropriate.

Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Women and Children

9. We adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN for submission to the Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit. The Declaration reaffirms the need to strengthen a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to promote the rights of women and children and adopt a gender responsive, child sensitive, and age-responsive approach in prevention and elimination of violence against women and violence against children.
10. We recognised that violence against women and violence against children which occur irrespective of the stages of the life cycle, whether at home, in school, in the workplace, in public or private spaces (including cyber space) as a result of gender bias, discriminatory and harmful traditional practices must be eliminated.

Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development

11. We expressed appreciation to Indonesia for its confirmation to host the Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development in 2016.
12. We were most thankful to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for its warm and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegation, and the excellent arrangements for the Meeting. We also expressed our sincere appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for its support to the Meeting.

**LIST OF MINISTERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
ATTENDING THE EIGHTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Honourable Penin Dato Haji Hazair Abdullah

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports
Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Dr. Ith Samheng

Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
Cambodia

H.E. DR. Salim Segaf Al-Jufri M.A.

Minister of Social Affairs
Indonesia

H.E. Onechanh Thammavong

Minister of Labor and Social Welfare
Lao PDR

H.E. Datuk Rohani Abdul Karim

Minister of Women, Family and Community Development
Malaysia

H.E. Dr. Myat Myat Ohn Khin

Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Myanmar

H.E. Corazon Juliano-Soliman

Secretary/Minister Department of Social Welfare and Development
The Philippines

H.E. Chan Chun Sing

Minister for Social and Family Development
Singapore

Mr. Vichien Chavalit

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
Thailand

H.E. Pham THi Hai Chuyen

Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
Viet Nam

H.E. Le Luong Minh

Secretary-General of ASEAN