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The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN

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### JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE FORTY FIFTH (45<sup>TH</sup>) GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. We, the Heads of Delegations of the Members of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), gathered in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2024, for the 45<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly under the Presidency of H.E. Xaysomphone Phomvihane, President of AIPA and the President of National Assembly of Lao PDR, and convened in accordance with the AIPA Statutes.
- 2. We reviewed AIPA's progress and reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen AIPA as the sole parliamentary organisation associated with ASEAN that is dynamic and adaptable, with an enhanced role for parliaments in further contributing to the development of ASEAN Community. By enhancing its capacity and institutional effectiveness, AIPA is better equipped to address today's challenges and ensure its continued relevance to the people of ASEAN, the region, and the world. AIPA remains dedicated to supporting ASEAN as a hub of growth and prosperity while advancing parliamentary cooperation to address regional and global issues.
- 3. The 45th AIPA General Assembly, held under the theme "The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN," successfully convened meetings of its six (6) Standing Committees: Political, Economic, Social, WAIPA, YPA, and Organisational. These sessions were pivotal in advancing parliamentary cooperation and regional priorities. The 45th AIPA General Assembly also hosted an AIPA-ASEAN Hearing and conducted 15 Dialogues with Observers, further enhancing partnerships and aligning efforts to promote inclusive growth and strengthen connectivity across ASEAN.



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#### **II. DELEGATIONS**

- 4. The 45<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly received the presence of 8 AIPA Member Parliaments from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.
- 5. The House of Representatives of Indonesia was unable to send a parliamentary delegation to the 45th AIPA General Assembly, due to the Parliament, formed on 1 October 2024, is establishing its external relations body.
- 6. There is no parliamentary delegation from Myanmar to the 45th AIPA General Assembly. The Acting Director General of International Relations of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw attended the General Assembly as a guest of the host, at the invitation of the AIPA President.
- 7. The 45th AIPA General Assembly had the honour of welcoming delegates from the ASEAN Secretariat and 15 Observer Parliaments: Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Norway, Russian Federation, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, and Ukraine. Additionally, the General Assembly was attended by representatives from three (3) National Parliaments—Algeria, Bahrain, and Germany—as Guests of the Host, along with eight (8) AIPA Development Partners: ERIA, ICCF, PCAsia, UNDP, UN FAO, UN Women, USAID, and WFD. This reflects the growing recognition of AIPA and its expanding partnerships with the broader international community.

#### III. AIPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- 8. The Executive Committee approved the AIPA Secretariat's Annual Report, providing an overview of AIPA's key initiatives, activities, and achievements over the past year, reflecting the collective efforts of our Member Parliaments under the Presidency of the National Assembly of Lao PDR.
- Malaysia will assume the next Presidency of AIPA and will host the 46th AIPA General Assembly in 2025. The Executive Committee also welcomed the acceptance of the House of Representatives of the Philippines to host the 47th AIPA General Assembly in 2026.



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- 10. Regarding the implementation of the AIPA Resolution on "Parliamentary Cooperation in Contributing to Long-Lasting Peace in Myanmar" adopted at the 44th AIPA General Assembly, the Executive Committee emphasised that parliamentary actions must align with the efforts of ASEAN Member States and adhere to the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus. It acknowledged existing ASEAN mechanisms that provide channels for addressing the issue and recommended continued support for government initiatives. The Committee further requested the AIPA Secretariat to coordinate with the ASEAN Secretariat on this matter and report back to the Executive Committee Meeting.
- 11. The Executive Committee explored the possibility of convening the AIPA Speakers Summit as a platform for dialogue on the strategic issues and tasked the Organisational Matters Committee to look further into the proposal and report to the Executive Committee Meeting.

The Executive Committee Meeting welcomed in principle the proposal to establish a Study Committee on the transformation of the AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) into the AIPA Advisory Council on Transnational Crime (AIPA-ACT) and tasked the Organisational Matters Committee to look further into the proposal and report to the Executive Committee Meeting.

The Executive Committee Meeting took note of the proposal to establish the Working Group on Capacity Development for AIPA and its Member Parliaments and tasked the AIPA Secretariat to conduct assessment on the capacity-building needs of Member Parliaments and reported to the Executive Committee for consideration.

#### IV. KEY DELIVERABLES

12. The Standing Committees proceeded with their meetings to consider the agenda assigned by the General Assembly.



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#### **Political Matters**

- 13. We adopted the Resolution on the Adoption of Report of the 13th ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface at the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits, under the theme ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience which outlines the proceedings of the meeting, including the AIPA Message delivered by the AIPA President and interventions by the ASEAN Leaders.
- 14. We adopted the Resolution on Encouraging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion Efforts to Empower People of ASEAN and Ensure Cooperation for Regional Peace, Stability, Security and Prosperity. The Resolution recognises that cybercrime significantly threatens ASEAN's stability, economic growth, and public safety, exposing the region to organised crimes. The Resolution urges AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage their governments to strengthen regional and global peace and security through cyber confidencebuilding measures. It also emphasises the need for best practices in cyberspace, advocating for a rules-based cybersecurity framework. The Resolution calls AIPA Member Parliaments to enact laws targeting cybercrime, especially online scams, to ensure peace, security, and digital inclusivity in a technology-driven future. Additionally, the Resolution encourages international organisations and external partners to enhance regional cooperation by advancing digital infrastructure, bridging the digital divide, investing in capacity building and emerging technologies, and developing comprehensive cybersecurity strategies for the peaceful use of Information, Communication and Technologies (ICTs) among ASEAN Member States.
- 15. We adopted the Resolution on Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Connectivity and Inclusive Growth through ASEAN Political-Security Cooperation. The Resolution acknowledges the progress made in implementing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025) and the ASEAN Political Security Community Blueprint 2025, and highlights the vital roles of AIPA Member Parliaments in promoting ASEAN's relevance. The Resolution urges AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage their governments to fully implement MPAC 2025, enhancing physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity. Furthermore, it calls on regional and international organisations to support ASEAN's



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efforts and prioritise connectivity as a key driver of regional and global integration. The Resolution encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to oversee the implementation of ASEAN connectivity projects at the national level, as well as participate in the formulation and evaluation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan, ensuring alignment with long-term integration goals, while drawing on lessons learned from MPAC 2025.

16. We adopted the Resolution on Promoting People's Participation in Advancing Regional Peace, Stability, and Development. The Resolution recognises that establishing a rules-based, people-oriented, and people-centred ASEAN Community is vital for enhancing the well-being of ASEAN peoples. The Resolution encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to support their judicial systems and legal infrastructures, fostering cooperation between legislative and executive branches for a rules-based ASEAN. It also urges AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States to promote democracy, rule of law, good governance, and human rights, aligning with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. Furthermore, the Resolutions acknowledges ASEAN's commitment to fostering solidarity and unity among its Member States and their peoples, and encourages international organisations and external partners to continue supporting ASEAN's initiatives focused on building a people-oriented, rules-based community, ensuring that all individuals and sectors can actively contribute to and benefit from a more integrated region.

#### **Economic Matters**

17. We adopted the Resolution on Strengthening ASEAN Cyber Resilience Through Parliamentary Cooperation: Towards a Future Safe and Vibrant Digital Economy. The Resolution emphasises the importance of strengthening ASEAN's cyber resilience through parliamentary cooperation to support a secure and thriving digital economy. It encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to enhance national cybersecurity policies by adopting best practices, harmonising laws, increasing investments in infrastructure and talent development, and addressing cross-border cyber threats effectively. Given that the Resolution is a follow-up to the 15th AIPA Caucus and the Tripartite Forum, the Resolution also adopts the Report of the 15th AIPA Caucus.



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- 18. We adopted the Resolution on Parliamentary Roles in Supporting the Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors. The Resolution emphasises the role of AIPA Member Parliaments in promoting sustainable investment in food, agriculture, and forestry through legislation, policy oversight, and collaboration with development partners to align national policies with ASEAN RAI, ensuring transparency, accountability, and resilience. While recognising the diverse circumstances of the ASEAN Member States, the Resolution supports the development and application of the ASEAN RAI Parliamentary Implementation Framework as a guiding tool for AIPA Member Parliaments to promote responsible investment in food, agriculture, and forestry sectors.
- 19. We adopted the Resolution on the Role of Parliament in Promoting Capital Mobilisation for Sustainable Infrastructure Development Towards the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and Beyond. The Resolution emphasises the need to mobilise capital for sustainable infrastructure development to advance the implementation of MPAC 2025 and beyond. It calls on AIPA Member Parliaments to pursue measures that enhance mechanisms, coordinate and work closely with relevant stakeholders to incentivise and to mobilise adequate financial resources through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, and other international financial institutions.
- 20. We adopted the Resolution on the Role of Parliament in Promoting ASEAN Digital Technological Integration, Towards the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and Beyond. The Resolution emphasises the role of AIPA Member Parliaments in advancing ASEAN's digital integration to drive economic growth and connectivity, aligning with the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. The resolution calls for harmonised policies and prioritised legislation on digital literacy, infrastructure, and cybersecurity, with particular attention to underserved areas.
- 21. We adopted the Resolution on Strengthening ASEAN's Path to a Harmonised Carbon Trading System for Sustainable Growth and Environmental Resilience. The Resolution emphasises the importance of advancing a harmonised carbon trading system across ASEAN to promote sustainable growth, environmental



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resilience, and regional carbon neutrality by 2050. It also emphasises the need for AIPA Member Parliaments to enact legislation aligning economic strategies with climate goals, facilitate the transition from voluntary to compliance carbon markets, and support Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in carbon credit trading. The Resolution urges AIPA Member Parliaments to promote regional collaboration, enforceable carbon credit certification laws and frameworks, and integrate renewable energy into carbon markets to reduce fossil fuel dependence and total emissions across ASEAN.

- 22. We adopted the Resolution on Harnessing Eco and Cultural Tourism Potential for Sustainable Economic Recovery in ASEAN. The Resolution discusses the severe impact of global crises— such as COVID-19, geopolitical tensions, and climate-related disasters— on ASEAN's tourism sector, stressing the need for adaptive strategies to ensure sustainable recovery, build resilience, and address vulnerabilities. The Resolution emphasises eco and cultural tourism as key to long-term sustainability, urging alignment with national and regional strategies, preservation of tourism sites, adoption of sustainability standards, and empowerment of local communities.
- 23. We adopted the Resolution on Improving Institutional Capacity to Promote Transport Connectivity in the ASEAN Region. The Resolution emphasises advancing ASEAN's transport connectivity as vital to regional integration and economic growth, aligning with the ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025, the ASEAN Economic Community's vision, and sub-regional initiatives. It highlights the importance of harmonising standards, addressing regulatory disparities, and enhancing the existing ASEAN transport coordinating bodies to facilitate policy dialogue, harmonise regulations, and coordinate cross-border projects for safe, efficient, and sustainable connectivity. The Resolution further encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen cooperation to share best practices, support initiatives, and adopt resolutions for seamless, inclusive connectivity in the transport system across ASEAN.
- 24. We adopted the Resolution on the Encouragement in Strengthening Collaboration Among ASEAN Member States on Artificial Intelligence. The Resolution emphasises the importance of ASEAN Member States and AIPA



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Member Parliaments taking the lead in mainstreaming AI, aligning efforts with the ASEAN Digital Masterplan and supporting digital integration initiatives. It recommends that ASEAN Member States develop National Strategies for the research, development, and application of AI to enhance knowledge exchange within the region. The Resolution also urges AIPA Member Parliaments to discuss and agree on measures to encourage and strengthen collaboration among ASEAN Member States in the field of AI.

#### **Social Matters**

- 25. We adopted the Resolution on Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Addressing Drug Matters for the Realisation of A Drug-Free ASEAN, as the outcome of the 7th AIPACODD Meeting held on 7-8 August 2024 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. The resolution urges ASEAN Member States to enhance cooperation to combat synthetic drug production and trafficking, disrupt networks, and strengthen cross-border efforts. It calls for harmonised legislation, community-based interventions, and alternative livelihoods to address poverty and prevent drug abuse. The Resolution emphasises the need for capacity building, technology use to combat drug-related cybercrimes, and evidence-based prevention programs, while promoting knowledge exchange and soft-power approaches through education and social media. It also encourages international partnerships for technical and financial support and endorses continued collaboration between AIPA, ASEAN bodies, and the UNODC. The Resolution also endorses the Report of the 7th AIPACODD Meeting.
- 26. We adopted the Resolution on Integrated ASEAN Action Towards the Initiative for a Global Plastics Treaty. The Resolution reaffirms regional commitments to reducing plastic pollution and underscores the need for coordinated regional and global efforts to address this issue. It recommends that ASEAN Member States actively engage in safeguarding the environment by enhancing collaboration, particularly in the context of the Global Plastics Treaty, an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Furthermore, the Resolution urges cooperation and coordinated efforts among AIPA Member Parliaments, industry stakeholders, policymakers, and the public to



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promote sustainable plastic management practices and facilitate the transition towards a circular economy for plastics in the ASEAN region. It also emphasises the role of AIPA Member Parliaments to collaborate with the ASEAN Member States in encouraging stakeholders to align with the action plan, and calls on AIPA Member Parliaments to enhance private sector engagement in combating marine plastic pollution. Lastly, the Resolution encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to share knowledge, support policies, and promote coordinated action among ASEAN Member States in preparation for the upcoming international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution once it comes into force.

- 27. We adopted the Resolution on Promoting the Role of Parliaments in Digital Healthcare Innovation. The resolution affirms the importance of accessible and affordable healthcare services to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC), in which the existing gaps in digital infrastructure, particularly in disadvantaged and rural areas, were noted as challenges to inclusive socio-economic development. The Resolution acknowledges the existing gaps, thus calls upon the AIPA Member Parliaments to collaborate with ASEAN Member States on developing a digital healthcare system that ensures data privacy, ethical use of technology, and upholds health as a human right, while also enhancing digital skills among healthcare workers, particularly in rural and remote areas. Furthermore, the Resolution encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to promote public-private partnership initiatives, and strengthen experience sharing and cooperation at national, subregional, and international levels. It urges AIPA Member Parliaments to promote UHC in ASEAN through the establishment of mechanisms that will allow the interoperability of digital healthcare systems and portability of social health insurance in the region.
- 28. We adopted Resolution on Promoting the Rights, Social Welfare, and Employment Opportunities for the Older Persons in the ASEAN Region. The Resolution addresses the ageing demographic within the ASEAN region, reaffirming the urgent need to promote the rights, welfare, and employment opportunities of older persons. It emphasises the importance of ensuring their active participation in society. The Resolution underscores the importance of allocating resources and implementing policies to address these needs, including the need to invest in



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essential infrastructure and services to enhance the quality of life for older persons. It also encourages ASEAN Member States to develop sustainable employment strategies, including vocational programmes aligned with labour market demands, and to foster age-friendly workplaces through flexible arrangements and inclusive practices. Furthermore, the Resolution calls for greater collaboration among ASEAN Member States to strengthen policies that support older persons. It further recommends AIPA Member Parliaments to work closely with national governments and relevant stakeholders in promoting active ageing and ensure the effective implementation of comprehensive, age-friendly policies across the region.

29. We adopted the Resolution on Strengthening Collaboration for Advancing Tobacco and Nicotine Control in ASEAN. The Resolution recognises the significant health risks posed by tobacco and nicotine use, particularly due to the growing availability of new products such as e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products (HTPs). While acknowledging progress made by some ASEAN Member States, it notes that the current pace of reduction remains insufficient to meet regional and global targets. The Resolution calls on AIPA Member Parliaments to urge ASEAN Member States to control and prevent the uptake of cigarettes, heated tobacco, and other new nicotine products through bans or stringent regulations. It emphasises the need to facilitate data collection, research, and monitoring to assess the availability and impact of these products across the region. Additionally, the Resolution encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to raise public awareness of the health, economic, and social harms associated with tobacco and nicotine products and to ensure that regulations on these products are integrated with comprehensive tobacco control policies. It also stresses the importance of cooperation between AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States, promoting regional collaboration and information-sharing to exchange best practices and enhance coordination on tobacco and nicotine control across the region.

### Meeting of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA)

30. We adopted the **Resolution on Fostering Gender-Responsive Parliaments for a Resilient, Connected, and Inclusive ASEAN Community**. The meeting reaffirms the importance of fostering gender-responsive parliaments to advance women's political participation and leadership, recognizing barriers such as discrimination and



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gender-based violence. The Resolution urges to accelerate gender equality initiatives, engage male allies, reinforce gender-balanced legislation, and strengthen mentorship programs to empower women leaders.

Additionally, we are encouraged to promote gender-responsive policies through capacity-building, gender mainstreaming, and equitable resource allocation, while strengthening women leaders' digital skills to enhance their leadership opportunities. The Resolution adopts the Women's Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL) Plan of Action 2024-2030 and its Implementation Framework as advocacy tools, and support the potential partnerships with legal development partners, coordinated by the AIPA Secretariat, to facilitate resource mobilisation for effective implementation at both regional and national levels.

31. We adopted the **Resolution on Promoting the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children in the ASEAN region**. The Resolution acknowledges violence against women and children as a human rights violation that hinders women's full participation in economic, political, and social life. The Resolution urges to enhance legal and policy frameworks aimed at preventing and eliminating such violence, while ASEAN Member States are encouraged to allocate sufficient resources to support these efforts.

The Resolution also highlights the importance of regional and international cooperation through the exchange of best practices, technical assistance, and capacity-building initiatives. Furthermore, the Resolution also calls to engage men and boys as key partners in combating violence and to work with ASEAN Member States in leveraging technology to address these challenges.

#### Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA)

32. We adopted the **Resolution on Empowering Youth in Building a Secure, Resilient, and Inclusive ASEAN Community**. The Resolution reaffirms the critical role of youth as agents of positive change and transformation. It underscores the importance of intergenerational dialogue and engagement in policy and decision-making processes to safeguard the needs and interests of future generations. It urges AIPA Member Parliaments to work with ASEAN Member States to empower



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ASEAN youth and take effective measures toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025.

- 33. We adopted the Resolution on Advancing Young Parliamentarians' Engagement in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 3 in ASEAN. The Resolution reaffirms the critical role of Young Parliamentarians in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being (SDG 3) in ASEAN, strengthening the commitment to supporting legislative efforts aimed at ensuring health and well-being for all. It encourages ASEAN Member States to integrate comprehensive mental health support programs for youth to safeguard their mental well-being. It highlights the need to support policies, strategies, and mechanisms, as well as implement public health campaigns that promote healthy lifestyles and develop community-based health programs focused on preventive care and education.
- 34. We adopted the Resolution on Strengthening the Role of AIPA Young Parliamentarians in Implementing the 9th IPU Global Conference Statement of Young Parliamentarians. The Resolution calls upon ASEAN Member States to develop national digital transformation programs aimed at gradually digitising parliaments and governments to enhance youth engagement and encourage their active participation in decision-making and legislative processes. It calls on ASEAN Member States to promote the development of cultural industries and foster interreligious and intercultural exchanges among ASEAN youth. It also encourages ASEAN Member States to formulate legal frameworks, socio-economic agendas, and mechanisms that promote innovation and entrepreneurship. It urges ASEAN Member States to take the lead in fostering a digital innovation environment, ensuring market access through digital technologies, enacting cybersecurity legislation, and prioritising investment in digital literacy and skills training programs for youth.

#### **Organisational Matters**

35. We adopted the **Resolution on Audited Financial Report 2023-2024.** The Resolution acknowledges the adoption of AIPA's new financial year cycle, considers



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the Audited Financial Report of the AIPA Secretariat, and notes the Balance Sheet as of 31 July 2024. The Resolution approves the Financial Report with some edits requested by the Committee on Organisational Matters.

- 36. We adopted the Resolution on the Budget Proposal of the AIPA Secretariat for the period of 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025. The Resolution acknowledges the Budget Proposal details for the aforementioned financial year. The Resolution resolves to approve the proposed estimated expenditure, including additional expenditures from the AIPA savings account, the AIPA Special Fund, and supplementary budget estimates to cover the period from 1 August 2025 to 31 October 2025.
- 37. We adopted the **Resolution on the Amendments to the AIPA Statutes**. The Resolution recognises the amendments resulting from the development of Guidelines and Procedures of AIPA Engagement with Externals. It approves the changes to relevant articles of the AIPA Statutes to facilitate external relations and funding compliance in which the annual contributions from AIPA Member Parliaments and Observer Parliaments shall be remitted within three months after each General Assembly.
- 38. We adopted the Resolution on the Guidelines and Procedures of AIPA Engagement with Externals. The Resolution acknowledges the increasing engagement of AIPA with Observer Parliaments and Development Partners as well as the opportunities for broader collaboration. It approves the Activity Report of the AIPA Task Force on these Guidelines and Procedures and endorses their adoption and implementation. The Resolution encourages active collaboration between AIPA Member Parliaments and external parties and mandates continuous review and refinement of these Guidelines and Procedures to ensure they remain relevant and responsive to the evolving needs and priorities of AIPA.
- 39. We adopted the **Resolution on the Terms of Reference of the AIPA Digital Law Library (AIPALync)**. The Resolution recalls the previous establishment of the AIPA Digital Law Library, acknowledging the deliberations from the AIPA Task Force Meeting on its guidelines, and notes the successful launch of AIPALync at the Tripartite Forum on 10 June 2024. It emphasises AIPA's commitment to promoting the harmonisation of laws within ASEAN, affirms the role of AIPALync as a digital



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database for Member Parliaments, and reiterates the importance of public accessibility to enhance legal awareness. The Resolution calls upon AIPA Member Parliaments to support the development of AIPALync, and tasks the AIPA Secretariat to collaborate with national secretariats in providing national law data. The Resolution approves the Terms of Reference for AIPALync.

- 40. We adopted the Resolution on the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between AIPA and Inter-Parliamentary Assemblies and Associations. The Resolution recalls the Task Force Meeting on AIPA's engagement with externals and acknowledges proposals for establishing relations with AIPA through MoUs from the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP) and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP). The Resolution supports the establishment of MoUs with both IPTP and ICAPP, directs the AIPA Secretariat to review the proposed MoUs for alignment with the AIPA Strategic Plan 2023-2030, and encourages the signing of these MoUs upon adoption.
- 41. We adopted the Resolution on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AIPA and a Development Partner. The Resolution acknowledges the proposal from the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) to establish relations with AIPA. The Resolution supports the establishment of the MoU with UNOCT, directs the AIPA Secretariat to ensure the proposed MoU aligns with the AIPA Strategic Plan 2023-2030, and encourages the signing of the MoU upon its adoption.
- 42. We adopted two (2) resolutions regarding the accreditation of observer members for AIPA: Resolutions on Accrediting the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Bahrain as an Observer of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and Resolution on Accrediting the German Bundestag as an Observer of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). These Resolutions acknowledge the applications from the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the German Bundestag to join AIPA as observers and noted the collective decision of AIPA Member Parliaments to accept these applications.
- 43. We adopted three (3) Resolutions conferring the AIPA Distinguished Service Award: Resolution on AIPA Distinguished Service Award to H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Judin



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Haji Asar of Brunei Darussalam, Resolution on AIPA Distinguished Service Award to Hon. Hou Sry of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Resolution on AIPA Distinguished Service Award to Hon. Prof. Kanchanaratt Leevirojana of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Resolutions recognises H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Judin bin Haji Asar of Brunei Darussalam, Hon. Hou Sry, a Member of Parliament of Cambodia, and Hon. Prof. Kanchanaratt Leevirojana for their valuable service, outstanding contributions, and tireless efforts toward AIPA's goals. These nominations received unanimous support from all delegations.

- 44. We adopted the **Resolution on Appreciating the Service of H.E. Xaysomphone Phomvihane as President of AIPA.** The Resolution acknowledges the conclusion of his term and recognises his valuable dedication and contributions to the assembly's success. It expresses deep appreciation and gratitude for his leadership and guidance, welcoming his continued support and involvement in the development and growth of AIPA.
- 45. We adopted the Resolution on Expression of Gratitude to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for its Voluntary Contribution of USD 20,000.00 to AIPA in 2024. The Resolution acknowledges this contribution as vital for implementing AIPA's aims and supporting activities aligned with the AIPA Strategic Plan 2023-2030. It also encourages other voluntary contributions from AIPA Member Parliaments to further support AIPA's efforts in fostering parliamentary cooperation both regionally and beyond.

#### Other Matters Forwarded by the Executive Committee

46. The Meeting on Organisational Committee deliberated on the proposal for an AIPA Speakers Summit, addressing concerns on resources, timing, observer delegations and representation and whether it should be considered a "summit". There were proposals to hold the event in conjunction with the General Assembly and to convene it periodically in alignment with significant milestones or achievements, rather than on an annual basis. Members acknowledged the possible significance of 2025 and the launch of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. The Committee requested the AIPA Secretariat provide further details on the proposed plan, agenda and mechanisms of engagement. Members emphasised the need for practicality, in



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- particular the alignment with existing ASEAN mechanisms. The Committee also recommended that AIPA circulate further information on this proposal.
- 47. Regarding the proposal to establish a study committee on transforming the AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) into the AIPA Advisory Council on Transnational Crimes (AIPA-ACT), the Committee acknowledged the need to address the growing complexities of transnational crime and emphasised that this transformation could enhance AIPA's capacity to tackle regional challenges, particularly drug-related issues, while aligning with ASEAN's collective efforts. The Committee tasked the AIPA Secretariat to conduct study and provide recommendations on the Terms of Reference (ToR), including a review of the terminology "Advisory Council," for the Committee's consideration.

#### AIPA - ASEAN Hearing

- 48. We convened the 3rd AIPA-ASEAN Hearing under the theme "Advancing ASEAN's Connectivity and Inclusive Growth: Enhancing Dialogue, Collaboration, and Consultation between AIPA and ASEAN." We highlighted the urgent need for deeper and more effective cooperation between the legislative and executive branches, as well as between AIPA and ASEAN. We emphasised the pivotal role of parliamentarians in ensuring the regional policies are aligned with the aspirations of our people of tomorrow.
- 49. We discussed ways to strengthen ties between AIPA and ASEAN, including joint initiatives like parliamentary briefings to improve understanding of ASEAN's strategic goals. We also focused on regional priorities, such as expanding digital infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable policies, and addressing the urgent situation in Myanmar, highlighting the need for stronger cooperation.

#### **Panel Dialogue with AIPA Observer Parliaments**

50. We convened Dialogue with 15 AIPA Observer Parliaments, including Australia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Morocco, Norway, the Russian Federation, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, and Ukraine. Under the theme "Parliamentary Cooperation towards Integration and Inclusive Growth," we engaged in in-depth discussions, exchanging views on strengthening parliamentary collaboration to improve quality of life, ensure equitable access to



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opportunities, drive economic growth, foster digital transformation, encourage sectoral cooperation, and promote human rights. The dialogue provided diverse perspectives aligned with ASEAN goals, supporting legislative development to enhance integration and inclusive growth, contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity through collaborative parliamentary cooperation among AIPA Members and its Observer Parliaments.

#### V. 46<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AIPA

51. We are pleased to announce that the 46th AIPA General Assembly will be hosted by the Parliament of Malaysia from 7 to 14 September 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We look forward to coming together once again under Malaysia's leadership to continue our shared efforts in strengthening regional parliamentary cooperation, fostering unity, and advancing the goals of a more connected and inclusive ASEAN community.

#### VI. APPRECIATION TO HOST COUNTRY

52. We express our heartfelt appreciation to the National Assembly and the Government of Lao PDR for their exceptional hospitality and excellent arrangements that ensured the success of the 45th AIPA General Assembly. The Assembly was held in the true spirit of ASEAN's traditions of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation, reinforcing our shared commitment to enhancing connectivity and inclusive growth of ASEAN.



17-23 October 2024
Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic



The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN

# REPORT OF 45<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)

Signed in Vientiane, Lao PDR on the Twenty First of October, in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four:



For the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam

(BRUNEI DARUSSALAM)

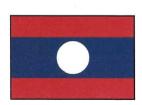
H.E. PEHIN DATO ABDUL RAHMAN TAIB



For the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

(CAMBODIA)

SAMDECH MAHA
RATHSAPHEATHIKA
THIPADEI KHUON SUDARY



For the National Assembly of Lao People's Democratic Republic

(LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)

H.E. SOUNTHONE XAYACHACK



17-23 October 2024 Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic



### The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN



For the Parliament of Malaysia

(MALAYSIA)

H.E. TAN SRI DATO (DR.) JOHARI BIN ABDUL



For the Congress of the Philippines

(PHILIPPINES)

HON. GLONA G. LABADLABAD



For the Parliament of Singapore

(SINGAPORE)

H.E. SEAH KIAN PENG



For the National Assembly of Thailand

(THAILAND)

H.E. WANMUHAMADNOOR
MATHA





17-23 October 2024
Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN



For the National Assembly of Viet Nam

(VIET NAM)

H.E. VU HAI HA

H.E. XAYSOMPHONE PHOMVIHANE

AIPA PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF LAO PDR

(LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)