



VIDEO REMARKS

**THE VISIBILITY AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING
WORKSHOP ON WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY IN ASEAN**

AIPA

**Tuesday, 17 March 2026
Jakarta, Indonesia**

*Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives of the ASEAN Committee on Women
and other Sectoral Bodies and Institutions,
Ambassador of the United Kingdom to ASEAN,
Ambassador of Canada to ASEAN,
Representatives of UN Women,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

1. It is a distinct privilege for AIPA and a personal honour for me for AIPA to join this Visibility and Knowledge-Sharing Workshop on Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN today. This occasion is both timely and important, offering us an opportunity not only to reflect on the progress achieved, but also to reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing Women, Peace and Security agenda across the region.
2. Allow me to extend AIPA's sincere appreciation to ASEAN, UN Women, and all distinguished partners for their sustained efforts in promoting this important agenda.
3. At a time when many parts of the world continue to face conflict, uncertainty and deepening fragility, the relevance of Women and of Peace and Security is clearer than ever. It reminds us that durable peace, sustainable development, inclusive governance and resilient societies cannot be achieved without the full and meaningful participation of women. In ASEAN, this makes our collective efforts all the more urgent and genuinely significant.
4. Inclusive governance requires attention at both the community and institutional levels. While grassroots initiatives play an essential role in promoting dialogue, reconciliation, and social cohesion, they must be complemented by the meaningful presence of women in political and decision-making structures. Without adequate representation in leadership and strategic

positions, the voices and experiences of women at the community level may not be reflected in decisions shaping the future of our ASEAN Community as a people's centred family.

5. From AIPA's perspective, the commitment to advancing women's participation in political life are firm and consistent. It has been an integral part of AIPA's institutional development since the establishment of the Women Parliamentarians of AIPO in 1998, now WAIPA, which was created to strengthen women's representation within AIPA and across ASEAN parliaments, while ensuring that issues affecting women remain reflected in the parliamentary agenda.
6. To further advance these objectives, AIPA Member Parliaments, with the support of UN Women, adopted the Resolution on Enhancing ASEAN Resilience through Women Leadership and Gender-Responsive Parliaments at the 44th AIPA General Assembly in Indonesia. This resolution laid the foundation for the Plan of Action and Implementation Framework on Women's Political Participation and Leadership 2024–2030, which was subsequently adopted at the 45th AIPA General Assembly in Lao PDR.
7. Their adoptions marked a significant milestone by providing AIPA and its Member Parliaments with a clearer and more coherent framework for action in strengthening parliamentary efforts towards gender equality and women's leadership in ASEAN. It also reflects AIPA's contribution to broader regional initiatives under the programme Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace: Preventing Violence and Promoting Social Cohesion in ASEAN, supported by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada and the Republic of Korea.

8. One of its most significant contributions has been the strengthening of the role of parliamentarians in advancing women's participation in political decision-making at the national level. It has helped translate commitment into practical parliamentary action through its functions, and engagement with communities and civil society.
9. This is particularly important as many initiatives advancing Women, Peace and Security tend to prioritise engagement with grassroots actors. While such initiatives play a vital role in addressing social tensions and strengthening local resilience, they are most effective when complemented by meaningful representation of women within political and decision-making structures.
10. Many peace and security decisions, particularly those related to regional and geopolitical developments, continue to be shaped within leadership structures that have historically been male-dominated. Increasing women's participation in political leadership therefore becomes essential, not only to strengthen democratic representation, but also to ensure that women's perspectives contribute to policies and decisions that shape peace and security outcomes.
11. AIPA's close collaboration with UN Women has been especially valuable in this journey. Beyond technical expertise, UN Women has provided practical support for the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Plan of Action. This cooperation has also been reflected in initiatives such as the WAIPA Women Political Leaders Forum, the National Parliamentary Dialogue in Brunei Darussalam, the WAIPA Townhall in Indonesia, AIPA ConNEXT mentoring program, and support for AIPA's participation in the ASEAN WPS Summit.

12. Looking ahead, the priority is to sustain momentum through effective implementation and oversight. This requires stronger national ownership, continued capacity-building, and better use of monitoring and knowledge-sharing mechanisms, while recognising that Member Parliaments operate from different starting points and national contexts.

13. In this spirit, AIPA reaffirms its strong commitment to working closely with ASEAN institutions, UN Women and partners to advance Women's Political Participation and Leadership, and to strengthen the Women, Peace and Security agenda in our region. May our collective efforts continue to support ASEAN's journey towards a peaceful, prosperous, and people-centred Community.

Thank you.

