

ASEAN Plus Three Statement on Active Ageing

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, gathering at the 19th ASEAN Plus Three Summit on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR;

RECOGNIZING the growing trend of ageing population in the region and the need to address the challenges in providing adequate care and support and promoting the quality of life and well-being of older persons;

COGNISANT of the significance of consolidating the ASEAN Community by realising a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centered ASEAN Community, where people enjoy higher quality of life, as envisioned in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

REAFFIRMING the commitment by all states to global and regional frameworks related to active ageing, especially to implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), advanced further by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of which Goal 3 is to "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"; the UN Principles for Older Persons (1991); the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002); and the Shanghai Regional Implementation Strategy on Ageing (2002);

RECALLING World Health Assembly(WHA) resolution 69.3 (2016) on the global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020: towards a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life;

RECALLING ASEAN's collective commitments in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN (2015); and the Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly (2010);

NOTING that older persons can contribute to, and remain active members of their communities, and can offer opportunities for both individuals and societies, and that good health including functional ability is of great importance;

RECOGNIZING the wisdom of older persons, including their authority in the family, and their inspiration to children and youth to stay away from drugs and criminal activities, value the importance of education, and become upright members of the community;

SUPPORTING ASEAN's effort in the development of an ASEAN regional action plan on ageing as assigned in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing to promote capacity building of ASEAN Member States in effectively dealing with an ageing society;

PROMOTING a holistic approach, which is required in raising the quality of life and well-being of older persons and in addressing the multi-dimensional nature of ageing, which includes security, health, self-reliance and community participation;

ANTICIPATING the finalization of the ASEAN Active Ageing study which endeavors to come up with an ASEAN definition and framework on active ageing, and further develop regional initiatives in promoting active ageing through development of regional guidelines, fostering collaborative efforts among member states, proposing change management processes on programs on ageing and examining replication and adaptability of the best practices of each member state;

WE DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Promote greater inclusion for active aging in national policy making and action plans, including active employment policies, social protection, welfare and healthcare services, as well as mainstreaming those policies and action plans across government sectors, adapted to national priorities;

Elderly Care and Health

2. Promote an inclusive approach and a community-based model in elderly care with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

3. Facilitate exchanges and sharing of lessons learned, experiences, and practices in social protection for older persons and the design and delivery of targeted assistance for the needy elderly;

4. Promote capacity building and expertise in elderly care for the family, community, and social as well as medical personnel in gerontological services and increase the availability of care takers through home visit services by health professional or community health workers;

5. Encourage the establishment of official standardization and certification for social workers and caregivers servicing older persons in order to enhance their competencies;

6. Promote awareness on the role of family in caring for the older persons and to enhance capacity building of care givers in providing quality care;

7. Enhance regional efforts to promote the life course approach and access to healthcare services aligned with the needs of older populations and address barriers to healthcare services;

8. Promote access to affordable and appropriate health services for older persons and develop a sustainable health financing system, protecting older persons against illness-induced poverty and undue out-of-pocket payment, which work to deliver universal and equitable healthcare;

9. Promote collaboration in research and development on elderly health issues identified as priorities by ASEAN Plus Three countries;

Economic Empowerment

10. Encourage older persons to be economically active after retirement, including through promotion of part-time employment, promotion of self-employment, promotion of tax incentives for entrepreneurs, improvement of working environments and

working conditions conducive to job retention, and encouragement of private saving during work years;

11. Enhance regional effort in mobilizing financial resources for active ageing, bearing in mind the differences of demographic trends and income support schemes for older persons;

12. Promote lifelong learning opportunities and access to vocational training;

Supportive Environment for inclusive society

13. Encourage social interest groups as an active platform for older persons to enhance their engagement and connection to the community;

14. Promote age-friendly communities including in rural areas through sustainable and accessible hard and soft infrastructures, as well as the development of healthcare industries that facilitate older persons to be self-reliant in their daily life, and provide convenient access to public services;

15. Encourage the exchange and sharing of experiences among member countries in embracing universal design and innovations to promote supportive environments for older persons, including those that require intensive care/with mobility constraint. For example, the ASEAN+3 Regional Conference Age-Friendly Environment which was held in Thailand in February 2016 and the Track 1.5 Workshop “Caring for Elderly in ASEAN Plus Three-Research and Policy Challenges in Long Term Care” which was held in Singapore in March 2016;

16. Encourage scientific and research institutions in ASEAN Plus Three countries to build networks and strengthen their research capacity on ageing to develop innovative solutions that address specific needs and promote better quality of life and well-being of older persons; and

17. Promote intergenerational solidarity towards a society for all ages by raising public awareness on the issues and challenges of all ages and ageing through traditional and new media.

ASSIGN the ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD+3), with the support of ASEAN Plus Three Senior Official Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD+3) to coordinate and collaborate with related ASEAN sectoral bodies for the effective implementation of this statement, including mobilizing appropriate resources.

Adopted in Vientiane, Lao PDR, this Seventh Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen.
