



**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE EIGHTH ASEAN PLUS THREE
MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

(8th AMMSWD+3)

29th August 2025

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Video Conference

.....

The Eighth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development was convened on 29 August 2025 via video conference. The meeting was chaired by Myanmar and the People's Republic of China, guided by the theme "Enhancing Responsive Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups in the ASEAN Community."

We reaffirmed our collaboration toward ASEAN's fulfillment of its commitment to strengthening social protection that are age and gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and adaptive to the needs of persons in vulnerable situations in the ASEAN Community, building on the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 and working towards the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its Strategic Plan, as well as to implementing the Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2015), the Regional Plan of Action to Implement the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN (2021), the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2018), the Declaration on Disability-Inclusive Development and Partnership for a Resilient ASEAN Community (2023), the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (2015), the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2023-2028), the Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Nutrition (2019), the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening

Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community (2020), the ASEAN Declaration on The Prevention of Child Labour, Including The Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour (2024), the ASEAN Roadmap on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025, the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (2021), and the ASEAN Declaration on Gender Equality and Family Development (2023).

We recognised the continuing and emerging challenges affecting persons in vulnerable situations across the region, including poverty, inequality, disasters including climate-related extreme events, pandemics, demographic changes and economic uncertainty.

We reaffirmed our shared aspiration of building an inclusive and resilient ASEAN Community through social protection systems that safeguard the well-being, dignity and rights of all, especially persons in the most vulnerable situations.

We reiterated the commitment to further strengthening and deepening the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and underscored the mutually reinforcing and complementary nature of the ASEAN Plus Three with other ASEAN-led frameworks.

We noted the deliberations of the Twentieth Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (20th SOMSWD+3) held on 28 August 2025 via video conference, and further noted the progress of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on social welfare and development since the 7th AMMSWD+3 held in 2023.

We appreciated the significant progress achieved under the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2021-2025), particularly in the areas of promoting social welfare and development which scaled-up opportunities for cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three Countries.

We applauded the convening of the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) International Forum on Response to Ageing on 5-7 November 2024, in Beijing held by China, which demonstrated strong support to the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in addressing issues arising from ageing societies.

We commended the successful outcomes of the 21st ASEAN-Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies held on 28-30 November 2023 and that of the 22nd Meeting held on 25-27 November 2024, which fostered cooperation in building and promoting societies where everyone at all ages can lead a healthy life and achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) in the region. We also appreciated Japan's initiative for persons with developmental disabilities in the ASEAN region, which provided a framework for further cooperation in this field.

We further commended the convening of the ASEAN+ROK Conference on Care and Support for Older Persons under the SOMSWD Work Plan 2021-2025 led by Malaysia and supported by the ASEAN+ROK Cooperation Fund (AKCF). This initiative elevated ASEAN's cooperation on building age-friendly societies through improved care and support systems across the region.

We reaffirmed our shared commitment in promoting equitable access to inclusive social welfare and social protection services through the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN China Strategic Partnerships for Peace and Prosperity (2021-2025), the Implementation Plan of the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: Trusted Partners, and the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Plan of Action to Implement Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership (2021-2025).

We recognised the invaluable and sustained support of the ASEAN Plus Three Countries and look forward to deepening our collaboration and partnership on promoting social welfare and development through responsive, adaptive and inclusive social protection as embodied in the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the ASCC Strategic Plan.

We agree to

REAFFIRM our commitment to collaboratively working together to improve equitable access to social welfare and development through strengthening social protection and ensuring that it is responsive, adaptive, inclusive and future-proofed, and benefiting persons in the most vulnerable situations,

including women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons, with a view to achieving universal health coverage;

ENDEAVOUR to scale-up our cooperation through regional dialogues and exchanges of learnings and good practices as well as practical approaches on enhancing responsive and adaptive social protection, including in the areas of, among others: 1) child protection; 2) women empowerment and gender equality; 3) active ageing society; 4) disability inclusion and empowerment; 5) social protection data system and adaptive mechanisms; 6) mental health and biopsychosocial support service; and 7) victims of trafficking, towards building resilience to disasters and other external shocks such as pandemics;

ROLL-OUT our cooperation on strengthening social work service and the wider social service work force for quality service provision and effective community engagement and mobilization through exchanges of knowledge building and strengthening networks, educational and fellowship programmes, as well as development of tools and guidelines, among others;

ENCOURAGE civil society organizations to participate in victim support work, promote learning from experiences, and enhance the capacity of officials working to support victims of trafficking;

STRENGTHEN social protection data systems, and institutional and inter-agency coordination of data and information holders to provide relevant and reliable data that will inform policy and programme development;

LEVERAGE digital technologies and innovations that facilitate ease of operations and ultimately ensure accessibility of social protection for persons in vulnerable situations;

ENCOURAGE ASEAN Member States and Plus Three Countries to enhance social assistance systems for groups in vulnerable situations—including older persons, persons with disabilities, the poor, victims of trafficking, and other groups eligible for social protection—by strengthening community-based services, expanding home-based health and social care, and investing in capacity building for social work professionals and caregivers. These efforts aim to promote inclusive, equitable, and resilient societies across the region; and

TASK the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD+3) to implement this statement, support the implementation of the SOMSWD Work Plan 2021-2025 and its Results Framework and work together to develop the regional priorities in the SOMSWD Work Plan 2026-2030.