

**JOINT STATEMENT**  
**13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING**  
**6 September 2017, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam**

WE, the Ministers of Health of ASEAN Member States (AMS), representing Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, convened the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) in September 2017 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

RECALLING the ASEAN Leaders' vision of an ASEAN Community outlined in the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community and the simultaneous endorsement of "ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together" containing among others, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

REAFFIRMING the commitment to the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" as agreed by leaders at the 70<sup>th</sup> United Nations Assembly in 2015 which has an overarching health goal to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages."

FURTHER REAFFIRMING our commitment to the vision of "A Healthy, Caring, and Sustainable ASEAN Community" pledged at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting held in September 2014 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam which identified four clusters on a) promoting healthy lifestyle; b) responding to all hazards and emerging threats; c) strengthening health system and access to care; and d) ensuring food safety, in order to achieve the goals of the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda.

UNITED by the common aim to promote a healthy and caring ASEAN Community, where the people achieve maximal health potential through healthy lifestyle, have universal access to quality health care and financial risk protection; have safe food and healthy diet, live in a healthy environment with sustainable inclusive development where health is incorporated in all policies, the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting discussed and exchanged views on preparation, and in response, to future health challenges identified in the new health agenda and agreed to the following resolutions:

1. We agree to strengthen our political commitment to intensify ASEAN cooperation in health development based on a whole-of-society approach with emphasis on strong and effective multi-sectoral collaboration as well as on concrete actions that translate to better health for the ASEAN people.
2. We reiterate our commitment to effective implementation of prevention and control strategies that will enhance our preparedness and response to emerging and re-

emerging diseases, as agreed upon at the ASEAN Health Ministers' Special Video Conference on the Threat of Zika Virus in the Region in September 2016, the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers' Special Video Conference on the Threat of MERS-CoV in the Region in July 2015, and the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Special Meeting on Ebola Preparedness and Response in December 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand; and therefore support the implementation of existing regional initiatives mechanisms, including the ASEAN-EOC Network, the ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (APT-FETN), and regional innovation tools that will strengthen ASEAN Member States in enhancing the effectiveness of regional surveillance for and response to infectious diseases and public health emergencies.

3. We renew our commitment to the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases in ASEAN adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in October 2013 in Brunei Darussalam.
4. We are pleased to note the achievements made by the ASEAN Senior Officials on Health Development in strengthening health cooperation and operationalizing the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda and we therefore endorse the Consolidated Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Health Clusters so as to operationalize the Governance and Implementation Mechanism that will ensure a smooth transfer of mechanism from the "ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development for 2010 to 2015" to the "ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda".
5. We endorse the five-year Health Cluster Work Programmes and Terms of Reference for the four health clusters of a) promoting healthy lifestyle; b) responding to all hazards and emerging threats; c) strengthening health system and access to care; and d) ensuring food safety, which will support the operationalization of the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda and we commend the leadership of Indonesia as the Chair of Health Cluster 1, Malaysia as the Chair of Health Cluster 2, Philippines as the Chair of Health Cluster 3 and Thailand as the Chair of Health Cluster 4 in the development of each five-year work programme.
6. In fulfilling the ASEAN Health Sector's goal in engaging entities and external partners with a view of maximizing outcomes of the ASEAN Health Cooperation towards strengthening the health systems of ASEAN Member States towards achieving good health and well-being of the people in the region, we take note of the progress made in developing the Principles and Mechanisms for the ASEAN Health Sector Engagement with Entities respecting the criteria of engagement with ASEAN.
7. We task the ASEAN Senior Officials on Health Development on the following:

- i) Support the cooperation across pillars towards achieving food and nutrition security in the region by integrating nutrition into all relevant ASEAN Sectoral framework and develop a monitoring mechanism to support the delivery and progress of quality nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and programs towards the eventual achievement of the 2025 global nutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases targets, the Second International Conference on Nutrition Rome Declaration and Framework for Action, and Sustainable Development Goals 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and other SDGs relevant to nutrition, in line with the proposed *ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition*.
  - ii) Develop an ASEAN Strategic Plan to Combat Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) which focuses on key priority areas outlined in the proposed *ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR): Combatting Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) through One Health Approach*; engage other sectors beyond human health, in the implementation and operationalization of the Strategic Plan; and monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
  - iii) Develop and support an effective collaboration mechanism for disaster health management in line with *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)* and the proposed *ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management* and initiate a forum to promote regular dialogues among relevant ASEAN sectors and stakeholders.
  - iv) Monitor the implementation of the five-year Health Cluster Work Programmes for the four health clusters.
8. We recognize and appreciate the contribution by, and further commit to collaborate closely with, development partners, including the World Health Organization, the development banks, bilateral development partners, civil society organizations and private sectors, respecting the criteria of engagement with ASEAN.

We look forward to further exchanges of views and collaboration in health development at our next Meeting in Cambodia in 2019.

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