



**THE 46TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

16-22 September 2025
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Parliament at the Forefront for Inclusive Growth and
Sustainable ASEAN*

(Res 46GA/2025/Pol/06)

**RESOLUTION ON
THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING AND PROTECTING
HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASEAN**

Sponsored by Thailand

The Forty-sixth General Assembly:

Reaffirming our commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the purposes and the principles as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and AIPA Statutes, including the principles of democracy, rule of law and good governance;

Reiterating ASEAN Member States' commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and other international human rights instruments, to which ASEAN Member States are parties as well as the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and other relevant ASEAN documents and frameworks pertaining to human rights;

Reaffirming the complementarities between ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, ensuring access to justice, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels;

Reaffirming also our adherence to the Human Rights Declaration of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), adopted at the 14th AIPO General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as a cornerstone for AIPA Member Parliaments in upholding universal human rights standards and guiding their efforts in promoting and protecting human rights in ASEAN;

Recalling AIPA Resolution No. Doc.12GA/91/Res-P-02 on Human Rights in ASEAN; Doc.13GA/92/Res-P-02 on Regional Guidelines on Human Rights in ASEAN; Res.29GA/2008/Pol/02 on Strengthening Democracy, Promotion, and Protection of Human Rights; Res.30GA/2009/Pol/02 on Strengthening of Democracy and Promotion of Human Rights;

Commending the important work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) as the overarching institution responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN outlined in the AHRD as well as other AICHR key documents;

Expressing concern that evolving traditional and non-traditional challenges, including armed conflict, act of aggression, civil strife, economic and social inequality, resources scarcity, climate change and environmental degradation, as well as transnational crimes such as cybercrime and peace and security threats, may affect the enjoyment of human rights in ASEAN; and recognising the need for timely, inclusive, and coordinated responses from all stakeholders, including parliamentarians;

Recognising the crucial role that parliaments play not only in translating international commitments into national policies and laws, but also in ensuring government accountability and connecting ASEAN human rights commitments with the voices and aspirations of the peoples of ASEAN, and hence in contributing to the fulfilment by each ASEAN Member State of its human rights obligations and commitments under relevant international human rights instruments to which respective ASEAN Member State is signatory, and to the strengthening of the rule of law;

Acknowledging the significant role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), as the world organization of national parliaments, in contributing to the work of the United Nations, particularly the Human Rights Council and United Nations human rights treaty bodies, and recognising its complementary role to regional parliamentary mechanisms, including the AIPA;

Taking into account the potential and the need for AIPA, as the sole parliamentary organisation associated with ASEAN, to consider the merits of a platform and the possibility of convening dialogues, while taking into consideration the varying capacities, legal frameworks, and national priorities of Member Parliaments, which would serve to foster cooperation between AIPA Member Parliaments and relevant stakeholders on promoting and protecting human rights, facilitate information-sharing and the sharing of best practices, and contribute meaningfully to the work of ASEAN, particularly AICHR.

Hereby resolves to:

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to support the implementation of the international human rights treaties and instrument to which their respective ASEAN Member States are signatories, in accordance with their national laws, priorities, and circumstances;

Suggest AIPA Member Parliaments to enact new legislation or amend existing laws to comply with international human rights commitments to which their respective ASEAN Member States are parties, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and ensure an inclusive, sustainable, rules-based, and people-centred ASEAN Community that upholds human dignity and fosters a higher quality of life for all ASEAN peoples;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to regularly monitor, oversee, and provide recommendations on their respective governments' policies and implementations to ensure compliance with international human rights commitments, using appropriate parliamentary mechanisms and processes;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to allocate adequate and sustained budgetary allocations to relevant human rights institutions and agencies, while taking into account gender-responsive and age-appropriate budgeting, in order to ensure effective implementation and to strengthen institutional capacity in promoting and protecting human rights;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to facilitate inclusive public engagement in law-making processes, including participation from all relevant stakeholders and all sectors of society, ensuring that their rights are promoted and protected and their voices are duly heard;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen cooperation with all relevant stakeholders and all sectors of society, in order to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices; to conduct human rights capacity-building programmes and activities for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and government officials; to raise public awareness; and to mainstream human rights into parliamentary processes.

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the Twentieth Day of September, in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Original Version

ASEAN Member States have made commitments to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the Statutes of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), and numerous international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Human Rights Declaration of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) also provide guiding principles for parliamentary efforts to advance these commitments.

However, the enjoyment of human rights across the region faces evolving and complex challenges, including armed conflicts, socio-economic inequalities, scarcity of resources, climate change, environmental degradation, and transnational crimes such as cybercrime. These challenges require timely, coordinated, and inclusive responses from all stakeholders. Parliaments, as representatives of the people, have a vital role in translating international commitments into national legislation, ensuring effective implementation, and overseeing government compliance with human rights obligations.

Recognising the crucial contribution of other parliamentary forums such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), AIPA is uniquely positioned to strengthen parliamentary cooperation on human rights, facilitate dialogue among Member Parliaments, and contribute meaningfully to ASEAN, particularly through engagement with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

This draft resolution seeks to reaffirm the commitment of AIPA Member Parliaments to promote and protect human rights in line with international and regional obligations. It aims to strengthen the legislative, oversight, and representative functions of parliaments in ensuring government compliance with human rights commitments, while encouraging inclusive participation in law-making processes to ensure that the voices of civil society, the private sector, and vulnerable and marginalised groups are heard. It also endeavours to promote regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing among parliaments, human rights institutions, and other stakeholders, as well as to explore the feasibility of establishing an AIPA mechanism on human rights to encourage harmonisation of

legislation as well as alignment of their national laws with international obligations, monitor implementation, and support ASEAN's human rights agenda.

The recommendations set out in the resolution include urging AIPA Member Parliaments to ratify and domesticate relevant international human rights treaties; enacting or amending national legislation to align with these obligations; and using parliamentary mechanisms and processes to regularly monitor government compliance. It also calls for the allocation of adequate and sustained budgetary resources, including gender-responsive and age-appropriate budgeting, to relevant human rights institutions and programmes. The resolution further encourages inclusive public engagement in the legislative process, with participation from civil society, the private sector, and marginalised communities, as well as strengthened cooperation with governments, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), ASEAN bodies, and relevant international and inter-parliamentary organisations.

To institutionalise regional parliamentary cooperation on human rights, the resolution proposes the establishment of a working group to explore the feasibility of an AIPA mechanism on human rights. The AIPA Secretariat, in consultation with Member Parliaments, is mandated to prepare the Terms of Reference for this working group to be submitted for deliberation at the 47th AIPA General Assembly. By adopting this resolution, AIPA Member Parliaments will reinforce their commitment to human rights, strengthen parliamentary cooperation, and contribute to building an inclusive, sustainable, rules-based, and people-centred ASEAN Community.