

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/Org/05)

RESOLUTION ON

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AIPA LEADERS FORUM

Sponsored by Cambodia

The Forty-sixth General Assembly:

Recalling the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms of the peoples of ASEAN, as well as upholding ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture;

Guided by the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), which affirms the commitment of ASEAN Member States to peaceful coexistence, mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference, and the peaceful settlement of disputes;

Reaffirming the aims and purposes of AIPA as stipulated in Article 3 of the AIPA Statutes, including to promote solidarity, understanding, cooperation and close relations among parliaments of ASEAN Member States, to facilitate the achievement of ASEAN's goals, and to provide parliamentary contributions to ASEAN integration;

Recalling the Message delivered by the President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly at the 14th ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface during the 46th ASEAN Summit, which noted the initiative to establish an AIPA Leaders Forum involving all chambers of parliament, recognising it as an idea worth exploring to create a more inclusive platform for high-level dialogue and to further strengthen parliamentary cooperation;

Recognising the growing need for enhanced inter-parliamentary cooperation and inclusive dialogue to effectively address complex regional and global challenges in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, which aspires for a resilient, dynamic, and inclusive ASEAN Community rooted in peace, stability, and shared prosperity;

Acknowledging that AIPA Member Parliaments have varying parliamentary structures, with most represented through a unicameral chamber or lower house, and some having bicameral systems with distinct upper-house leadership;

Acknowledging that flexibility in its timing and format would allow Host Parliaments to determine arrangements best suited to their capacities, thereby supporting broader ownership and sustainability.

Hereby resolves to:

Support the establishment of the AIPA Leaders Forum as an inclusive platform for Parliamentary Leaders of ASEAN Member States to exchange views, share national experiences, and discuss regional and global developments of shared interests, thereby reinforcing ASEAN Centrality and advancing the ASEAN Community Vision 2045;

Encourage the participation of leaders from all chambers of AIPA Member Parliaments, in accordance with each Member Parliament's internal arrangements, in a manner consistent with the AIPA Statutes and respectful of each Parliament's structure, and, where appropriate, the invitation of Observer Parliaments, in accordance with established AIPA engagement guidelines to broaden dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy;

Agree that the AIPA Leaders Forum be organised as an initiative under AIPA, in accordance with the AIPA Statutes, and convened at the discretion of the Host Parliament, in consultation with the AIPA Secretariat, preferably in conjunction with ASEAN visions or AIPA General Assemblies, to ensure continuity, inclusivity, and alignment with AIPA priorities;

Task the AIPA Secretariat to work jointly with the AIPA Members at the secretariat level to provide substantive, technical and financial study for the AIPA Leaders Forum, and supporting, if feasible, the Host Parliament's efforts in mobilising resources for its organisation for consideration and adoption by the AIPA General Assembly.

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

Over nearly five decades, AIPA has contributed substantively to the ASEAN community-building by producing policy recommendations and developing mechanisms that strengthen regional cooperation. In navigating issues ranging from political-security concerns and geopolitical rivalries to pandemic recovery, climate change, and socio-economic resilience, AIPA has consistently adapted its work to remain responsive to the evolving needs of the region. As ASEAN's parliamentary dimension, AIPA has a natural responsibility to amplify parliamentary perspectives in advancing ASEAN's vision and priorities.

The ASEAN Community Vision 2045 reaffirms ASEAN Centrality and calls for a resilient, dynamic, and inclusive ASEAN that upholds peace, stability, and shared prosperity. The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) provides the normative foundation for this vision, affirming ASEAN's commitment to peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, non-interference, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Parliamentary leadership has a vital role in upholding these principles, both in shaping enabling laws and policies and in fostering dialogue that reflects the voices of diverse constituencies.

It was in this context that, at the ASEAN-AIPA Leaders Interface during the 46th ASEAN Summit, the AIPA Message delivered by the AIPA President noted the initiative to establish an AIPA Leaders Forum involving all chambers of parliament. The Message recognised it as an idea worth exploring to create a more inclusive platform for high-level dialogue and to further strengthen parliamentary cooperation. Building on this, the proposed Forum would convene parliamentary leaders to deliberate on strategic issues of regional significance, complement ASEAN's intergovernmental processes, and reinforce ASEAN Centrality.

An inclusive platform of this nature would not only strengthen AIPA's internal cohesion but, should Observer Parliaments be invited, also provide a broader stage for parliamentary diplomacy. This would amplify AIPA's visibility, foster mutual understanding, and create additional avenues for collaborative solutions to shared challenges in support of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the TAC's guiding principles.

In considering the design of this Forum, it is recognised that AIPA Member Parliaments have different structures. While most are represented in AIPA through a unicameral chamber or the lower house, a number have bicameral systems with distinct upper-house leadership. The Forum could accommodate these differences in a manner consistent with the AIPA Statutes, ensuring participation reflects institutional realities while promoting inclusivity.

By maintaining a balance between inclusivity and practicality, and aligning with ASEAN's long-term vision and foundational principles, the AIPA Leaders Forum can serve as a valuable platform for parliamentary diplomacy. Its convening could be determined when deemed necessary, such as in conjunction with significant regional milestones, to address urgent matters, at the discretion of the Host Parliament. This flexibility would ensure that the Forum remains relevant, manageable, and responsive to the priorities of AIPA Member Parliaments and the evolving regional context.

The AIPA Leaders Forum aims to:

- Provide an inclusive platform for parliamentary leaders to articulate their perspectives on regional and global developments, thereby strengthening AIPA's role in advancing the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, upholding the TAC, and reinforcing ASEAN Centrality;
- Foster broad participation by accommodating the parliamentary structures of AIPA Member and Observer Parliaments, while ensuring consistency with the AIPA Statutes;
- Promote open and constructive dialogue among parliamentary leaders on regional shared priorities;
- Encourage the sharing of national experiences, innovations, and best practices to address common challenges and harness opportunities for collaboration;
- Identify strategic areas for enhanced inter-parliamentary cooperation that contribute to regional stability, prosperity, and people-centred development in line with TAC principles.

By balancing inclusivity with practicality, and aligning with ASEAN's long-term vision and foundational principles, the AIPA Leaders Forum has the potential to become a flagship

platform for parliamentary diplomacy, amplifying AIPA's voice, deepening its engagement with ASEAN and externals, and reinforcing its relevance in shaping the region's future.