



**THE 46<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
16-22 September 2025  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

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

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(Res.46GA/2025/Soc/05)

**RESOLUTION ON  
  
PROMOTING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND QUALITY  
HEALTHCARE FOR ALL IN ASEAN**

***Sponsored by Malaysia  
Co-sponsored by Cambodia***

***The Forty-sixth General Assembly:***

***Acknowledging*** the significance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a cornerstone for sustainable development and social equity, and reaffirming the commitment of ASEAN Member States to advancing equitable, affordable, and accessible healthcare for all citizens;

***Recalling*** the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3](#) (SDG 3) which aspires to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages,” and the [Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage](#) (UHC) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 23 September 2019 and [Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage](#) on 21 September 2023, which uphold to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

***Recognising*** the guidance provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) [Framework on Integrated People-Centred Health Services](#) (2016), which advocates for health systems that are equitable, accessible and responsive to the needs and preferences of all individuals;

***Further recalling*** the [International Health Regulations](#) (IHR 2005, amended 2024), which established global framework for building resilient health systems and fostering international cooperation to address health emergencies which underscores the critical importance of strengthening sustainable and resilient health security and health systems as a foundation for equitable access, pandemic and public health emergency preparedness, and regional stability;

**Reaffirming** the commitments articulated in the [ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management](#) (2017), and the [ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda \(2021- 2025\)](#), which seek to strengthen health systems, reduce inequalities and promotes UHC within the regions and reinforce health security through sustainable and resilient approaches;

**Underscoring** the objectives of the [ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan 2025](#), which prioritises the enhancement of regional health systems and the social protection for vulnerable groups through inclusive health policies;

**Recognising** the [ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future](#) and [ASEAN Community Vision 2025](#) as frameworks for an inclusive and resilient ASEAN that prioritises the well-being and protection of its people;

**Highlighting** previous commitments by ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), including [Res.45GA/2024/Soc/03](#) on Promoting the Role of Parliaments in Digital Healthcare Innovation, [Res.43GA/2022/Soc/03](#) on Strengthening Social Health Protection to Address the Challenges in ASEAN, and [Res.38GA/2017/WAIPA/01](#) on Promoting the Health of Women Migrant Workers;

**Welcoming** the outcomes of the [Port Vila Communiqué on Strengthening Regional and National Health Workforce](#) adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health (APFPGH) held on 4–6 September 2024 in Vanuatu, which emphasised workforce development strategies to enhance Human Resources for Health (HRH) governance and stewardship in ASEAN and beyond, supported by the WHO Western Pacific Region;

**Acknowledging** the ongoing disparities in healthcare access, affordability, and quality across ASEAN Member States, particularly affecting vulnerable communities, including but not limited to low-income families, rural population, women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and migrant communities; and

**Recognising** the critical role of parliaments in advancing legislative initiatives, securing budgetary support, and fostering regional cooperation that promotes collaboration for equitable access to healthcare, to ensure that no one is left behind.

**Hereby resolves to:**

**Urge** AIPA Member Parliaments to reaffirm healthcare as a fundamental human right and prioritise the realisation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in their national legislative agendas, ensuring equitable, affordable, and accessible essential healthcare services;

**Advocate** for the enactment and periodic review of national legislative and health

financing mechanism that enhance affordability and inclusivity, with a focus on vulnerable communities such as but not limited to low-income families, rural population, women and children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and migrants;

**Support** the development of harmonised and integrated regional health systems and cross-border healthcare, including reciprocal healthcare agreements to facilitate mobility and access across ASEAN Member States;

**Call** upon AIPA Member Parliaments to advocate for increased and strategically targeted national budget allocations for public health emphasising the enhancement of primary healthcare infrastructure, capacity-building for HRH, and expansion of mobile and community-based health outreach, and developing policies to attract and retain qualified health professionals in rural and remote areas, including through the promotion of family medicine models;

**Call upon** AIPA Member Parliaments to support budget allocations for the development of healthy lifestyle and health personnels in order to strengthen proactive services aimed at improving public health behaviours for the effective prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), as well as to enhance community-based care and utilise healthy lifestyle as a mechanism to reduce long-term government expenditure and address health inequities;

**Promote** regulatory legislative initiatives that emphasise on the importance of achieving universal healthcare services and to improve the availability and affordability of essential medicines, diagnostics, vaccines, and medical equipment, through transparent procurement strategies and pricing frameworks;

**Recommend** the integration of community-based health strategies and culturally appropriate practices and healthy lifestyle into national health policies to ensure equitable access, particularly in underserved Indigenous and rural areas;

**Encourage** the adoption of digital health technologies and mobile platforms to address healthcare disparities, including support for telemedicine, digital health records, and remote diagnostic tools, with a particular focus on geographically isolated areas and underserved populations, while ensuring equity, inclusiveness, the protection of personal data and privacy, and the sustainability of digital health strategies for the long term;

**Support** the formulation of national health equity strategies and establishment of robust monitoring mechanisms to address disparities in health outcomes and service delivery across economic or social status, gender, age, and geography;

**Call for** the use of parliamentary oversight mechanisms to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in healthcare governance independent audits, public

feedback systems, and anti-corruption safeguards, taking into account national contexts and regulations;

**Advocate** for the institutionalisation of inter-parliamentary dialogue and the exchange on best practices in health policy, innovation initiatives in healthcare delivery, financing, and governance through regular AIPA-organised workshops and joint initiatives;

**Urge** active engagement with development partners, ASEAN bodies, and international organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations (UN) agencies to mobilise technical expertise and resource support for strengthening healthcare system; and

**Utilise** existing platforms and mechanisms such as the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting, to enhance coordination on policy development, implementation, and evaluation.

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*

The resolution, **"Promoting Access to Affordable and Quality Healthcare for All in ASEAN,"** deals with a challenge that genuinely resonates with people in this region. It is about ensuring that all individuals in ASEAN have access to the healthcare they require without facing excessive expenses, regardless of their financial status or location. Despite the progress our economies have made, healthcare services often face underfunding and uneven distribution. The World Health Organisation (WHO) tells us that, on average, individuals in ASEAN countries spend about US\$630 on healthcare, which is a mere 4.7% of our GDP<sup>1</sup>. This highlights a significant disparity compared to high-income nations, where per capita healthcare investment surpasses US\$4,000<sup>2</sup>. In 2021, ASEAN households collectively expended a considerable US\$46 billion on healthcare, exacerbating financial hardship and instability for many already vulnerable individuals<sup>3</sup>.

Progress toward universal health coverage (UHC) has been gradual. In 2021, the UHC Service Coverage Index for ASEAN nations spanned from 52 to 89, indicating only modest advancements since 2015. Despite an increase from 46% in 2010 to 61% in 2019, the critical healthcare score for Southeast Asia remains below the global average. These figures highlight significant disparities, particularly among those living in rural areas, who are over 65, women, or individuals working in the informal economy. Some countries, like Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Myanmar, still struggle with inadequate infrastructure and vast differences in healthcare access, despite achieving some progress in establishing sound healthcare systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has clarified the shortcomings of our regional institutions. It served as a clear signal that health is not merely a social issue; it is essential for the resilience of our nation and the security of our region. This resolution urges AIPA Member Parliaments to advocate for the expansion of our pre-payment and risk-

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<sup>1</sup> Current Health Expenditure Per Capita

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.CHEX.PC.CD?locations=8S&>

<sup>2</sup> Universal health coverage in the South-East Asia <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/health-topics/universal-health-coverage>

<sup>3</sup> Universal health coverage in the South-East Asia <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/health-topics/universal-health-coverage>

sharing systems, the enhancement of primary healthcare, and the pursuit of universal health coverage. It is imperative that the right to health be prioritised in both national and regional expenditures. It also recommends that ASEAN consider the potential for portable health insurance and technology to collaborate in order to facilitate the movement of our workers, particularly those from overseas, throughout the region.

This resolution, which is essential for the present and future, is consistent with regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Agenda and the ASEAN 2045 "Our Shared Future" Vision. It also endorses global commitments, such as the universal healthcare declaration and the United Nations' excellent health and well-being goal. This highlights the profound commitment of the nations of our region that the goal of affordable and accessible healthcare for all within ASEAN is not merely an aspiration, but a critical element of the region's ongoing prosperity.