



**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/Soc/01)

RESOLUTION ON

**UNITING THE PARLIAMENTS FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND
SUSTAINABLE ASEAN IN ADDRESSING CONTEMPORARY DRUG
CHALLENGES**

Sponsored by the 8th Meeting of AIPACODD

The Forty-sixth General Assembly:

Recalling the [ASEAN Declaration of Principles to Combat the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs](#), adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the five ASEAN founding members on 26 June 1976 in Manila;

Reaffirming our shared aspiration to achieve a Drug-Free region as stipulated in the [ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025](#) and effectively implement provisions set out in the [ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016–2025](#), adopted by the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters in Singapore on 19-20 October 2016, as well as welcoming the [ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Enhanced Cooperation Against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Precursor Chemicals](#) adopted on 9 October 2024, which underscores the region's commitment to coordinated and intensified action;

Underscoring that the [Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol](#), the [Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971](#) and the [United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988](#), through international cooperation, constitute the cornerstone of the global drug control system;

Recalling further AIPA Resolutions No. [Res.39GA/2018/Soc/01](#) on Securing a Drug-Free ASEAN Community for Future Generations sponsored by the 1st Meeting of AIPACODD; [Res.44GA/2023/Soc/01](#) on Supporting Inclusive Economic Growth for Drug-Free ASEAN sponsored by the 6th Meeting of AIPACODD; and [Res.45GA/2024/Soc/01](#) on Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Addressing Drug

Matters for the Realisation of a Drug-Free ASEAN sponsored by the 7th Meeting of AIPACODD;

Noting with concern the escalating production and trafficking of synthetic drugs in the region, particularly methamphetamine, as highlighted in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) [World Drug Report 2024](#), the UNODC [Report on Synthetic Drugs in East and Southeast Asia 2025](#), and the [ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2023](#), and further recognising the role of transnational organised crime networks in driving this trend by exploiting new smuggling routes, non-controlled precursor chemicals, and the use of technology and cyberspace across the entire supply chain, often in convergence with other organised criminal activities;

Reaffirming also the commitment of AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen regional cooperation in combating the illicit drug trade and addressing substance abuse, as expressed in various AIPACODD resolutions and the collective aspiration for healthy and safe ASEAN communities;

Acknowledging that contemporary drug challenges in the region have evolved significantly due to the proliferation of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), particularly the increasing abuse of controlled substances, shifting trafficking patterns and the growing use of digital platforms for drug distribution;

Deeply concerned by the insufficient regulation and oversight of precursor chemicals that has resulted into the diversion and exploitation of these materials by criminal entities for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs;

Recognising that the Golden Triangle region remains a complex challenge requiring coordinated responses and enhanced cooperation among ASEAN Member States and partners, including efforts to address root causes, respond to the underlying socio-economic drivers of drug production through sustainable development means, and strengthen cross-border enforcement and governance mechanisms;

Concerned about the security implications of drug trafficking and its connections to other forms of transnational crime, including human trafficking, wildlife trafficking, illicit financial flows, money laundering, and cybercrime, which threaten regional stability and development;

Recognising that illicit drug abuse and trafficking pose a serious threat to the health, safety, and security of ASEAN societies, undermining public health, social stability, and economic development;

Appreciating the proactive efforts of ASEAN Member States in expanding regional and cross-border cooperation to dismantle drug syndicates, intercept precursor flows,

and improve regional information-sharing through platforms such as AIPACODD and the Mekong MOU framework;

Mindful that drug challenges disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including youth, women and marginalised communities, which requires inclusive approaches with full respect for human rights and dignity that address the unique needs of these groups;

Emphasising that sustainable solutions to drug challenges require a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, and scientific evidence-based approach, which integrates supply reduction efforts with evidence-based demand reduction measures, and combines enforcement with health and socio-economic approaches, including prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and alternative development, while also recognising the need to address its root causes and consequences, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility, to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse;

Recognising the vital importance of strengthening practical cooperation between AIPACODD, UNODC, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) as well as the crucial role of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), and other related ASEAN led mechanisms to develop coordinated and effective responses to contemporary drug challenges;

Acknowledging the socio-economic factors and the accelerated digital transformation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, which have impacted drug trafficking patterns and substance abuse behaviours, which necessitated adaptive strategies and increased regional cooperation;

Stressing the critical role of parliaments in enacting appropriate legislation, allocating sufficient resources, providing oversight and promoting evidence-based policies to address drug challenges effectively; and

Reaffirming that uniting parliamentary effort across AIPA Member Parliaments creates a powerful collective force for addressing drug challenges, enhancing regional policy coherence and strengthening the legislative foundation for effective drug control measures that respond to the needs of all ASEAN communities.

Hereby resolves to:

Strengthen the role of AIPACODD as the premier platform for parliamentary unity on drug matters by enhancing cross-parliamentary dialogue, monitoring of legislative measures, facilitating the regular exchange of parliamentary delegations focusing on

drug issues, and creating a parliamentary knowledge network that enables real-time sharing of, among others, legislative best practices, emerging threats, and successful oversight mechanisms among AIPA Member Parliaments;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen or enact legislative frameworks addressing contemporary drug challenges, with particular focus on NPS, stricter controls on precursor chemicals, the abuse of controlled medicines, and technology-facilitated drug crimes that incorporate enforcement mechanisms as well as socio-economic and public health considerations;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to allocate the necessary resources for implementing evidence-based prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programmes; sustainable development initiatives including Alternative Development, integrated community-based services; mental health support; and vocational reintegration programmes; while also developing gender-responsive and age-appropriate drug policies that address the specific needs of vulnerable populations, particularly youth, women, and marginalised communities, ensuring that no one is left behind in our collective measures to drug challenges;

Call upon ASEAN Member States to strengthen the exchange of best practices and experiences in drug treatment and rehabilitation, including the development, implementation, and harmonization of evidence-based treatment protocols, with particular emphasis on addressing synthetic drug addiction;

Address the growing challenge of online drug trafficking by developing harmonised legislative frameworks and enhancing regional cooperation to detect, monitor, regulate, and prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals for synthetic drug production, as well as the abuse of e-commerce platforms, darknet markets, and social media channels for the sale of illicit drugs, controlled substances, and precursor chemicals;

Strengthen the cooperation between AIPACODD and key stakeholders, including the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD), ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), the ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM), the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs, the ASEAN Ministers/Attorney-General of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, other relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms, and the UNODC, through formalised arrangements for structured consultations, joint capacity-building initiatives, technical assistance, knowledge exchange, and collaborative research on contemporary drug issues affecting the ASEAN region. Such cooperation should ensure alignment between legislative and executive approaches to drug control, move beyond symbolic engagement to practical cooperation with tangible outcomes, and enhance cross-border operational conditions through strengthened use of Border Liaison Officers (BLOs) among ASEAN Member States;

Collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNODC to develop and promote evidence-based standards for drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation that are adaptable to ASEAN contexts, whilst ensuring balanced access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes in accordance with international conventions and public health needs;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen legislative oversight and policy development on drug-related issues, including where appropriate, the establishment, designation, or enhancement of relevant parliamentary mechanisms, in accordance with their respective systems and internal structures, to support the development and implementation of the relevant measures in this critical area;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments and encourage ASEAN Member States to support comprehensive prevention policies and enhance collaboration in raising awareness across society, particularly among youth, on the dangers and negative impacts of drug abuse, including through community, school, and family education programmes, youth outreach, and life-skills training to build resilience against drugs;

Call upon ASEAN Member States to enhance the integration of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and digital solutions into drug enforcement strategies, ensuring their alignment with operational requirements and responsiveness to current and future challenges; and

Approve the [Report](#) of the 8th Meeting of the AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs.

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 drug landscape across ASEAN has undergone a profound transformation, presenting unprecedented complexities, whilst the Golden Triangle remains the epicentre of regional drug challenges. Recent UNODC data reveals alarming trends: methamphetamine seizures in East and Southeast Asia reached a staggering 236 tonnes in 2024, a historic high while synthetic drug production has industrialised, evidenced by record-low wholesale prices despite massive prohibitions. This evolving threat landscape demands a united parliamentary response that addresses both traditional and emerging challenges through inclusive and sustainable approaches.

The "Uniting Parliament for an Inclusive and Sustainable ASEAN in Addressing Contemporary Drug Challenges" resolution represents a timely and comprehensive parliamentary response to these evolving threats. Drawing on the collective wisdom and commitment of AIPA Member Parliaments, it provides a strategic framework for strengthening regional cooperation, enhancing legislative responses and ensuring that drug control measures are inclusive, sustainable and evidence-based.

Contemporary drug challenges in ASEAN have evolved significantly beyond traditional narcotics to include New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), increasing abuse of controlled medicines and substances, shifting trafficking patterns and the exploitation of digital platforms. These developments require adaptive and delicate policy responses that balance enforcement with public health considerations. Of particular concern is the unprecedented convergence of drug trafficking with other forms of transnational crime, including human trafficking, wildlife trafficking, illicit financial flows and cybercrime, creating sophisticated criminal ecosystems that exploit governance vulnerabilities and threaten regional stability.

The digital transformation of drug markets presents perhaps the most formidable challenge. Transnational criminal organisations have weaponised e-commerce platforms, encrypted messaging applications, social media and darknet marketplaces to facilitate drug distribution whilst evading traditional detection methods.

The unregulated online sale of controlled medicines and substances has emerged as a special interest phenomenon, with prescription drugs, controlled medicines and substances diverted into illicit channels through fraudulent online pharmacies and digital marketplaces. This digital transformation and evolution have been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted traffickers to pivot toward home-delivery models and digital payment systems.

Online sales have become the norm of life and the main alternative for communities to obtain their desired goods or services. In line with this trend, the way medicines are supplied has also fundamentally changed. Medicines are now advertised online through websites, e-commerce portals, social media sites or smartphone applications. This situation indirectly exposes ASEAN communities to three critical dangers: the illegal sale of medicines by unlicensed sellers, the sale of counterfeit or unregistered medications that can be life-threatening, and the promotion and advertisement of drugs without the approval of regulatory authorities.

Conversely, the regulatory framework for online sales of pharmaceutical products has struggled to keep pace with these rapid developments, creating dangerous gaps in oversight and enforcement. The challenge of ensuring proper prescription requirements and regulatory compliance in digital pharmaceutical markets has become increasingly apparent across the region. However, authenticating legitimate online pharmacies remains challenging for consumers and authorities alike.

Also, the vulnerability of ASEAN's youth population presents particular cause for concern, as young people are increasingly targeted through sophisticated digital marketing strategies that normalise drug use and circumvent traditional prevention efforts. Regional authorities have identified concerning trends with new synthetic drug products like 'K pods' containing ketamine and etomidate delivered through vaping products. Detection of etomidate in e-liquids across multiple ASEAN countries highlights how these substances specifically target younger users through modern delivery methods that appear less harmful than traditional drug forms. As Malaysia assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025 with the theme of "Inclusivity and Sustainability," this resolution offers a timely opportunity to align drug control efforts with these overarching regional priorities, ensuring that we leave no one behind in our collective response to drug challenges.

The resolution establishes a comprehensive framework focusing on five interconnected pillars:

First, it strengthens AIPACODD as the premier platform for parliamentary unity on drug matters, enhancing cross-parliamentary dialogue and promoting consistent legislative approaches through model legislation. By facilitating regular exchanges of parliamentary delegations and creating a knowledge network for sharing best

practices, AIPACODD will amplify the collective influence of AIPA Member Parliaments in addressing drug challenges.

Second, it calls upon AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen legislative frameworks addressing contemporary drug challenges, with particular focus on New Psychoactive Substances, controlled medicines abuse and technology-facilitated drug crimes. This includes developing harmonised regulatory frameworks for monitoring online pharmaceutical sales and establishing mechanisms for verifying legitimate online pharmacies to protect public health while ensuring access to essential medicines.

Third, it urges adequate resource allocation for evidence-based prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programmes, with special attention to vulnerable populations. This inclusive approach ensures that drug control measures respond to the unique needs of youth, women and marginalised communities, leaving no one behind in our collective response.

Fourth, it addresses the growing challenge of online drug trafficking through harmonised legislative frameworks and cooperation with technology companies. This component is crucial for regulating the digital marketplace, preventing the abuse of online platforms for distributing illicit drugs and controlled substances and establishing regional standards for monitoring suspicious transactions involving pharmaceuticals.

Fifth, formalised arrangements for structured consultations, joint capacity-building initiatives and collaborative research strengthen cooperation between AIPACODD and key stakeholders, including AMMD, ASOD, UNODC and WHO. This multi-stakeholder approach ensures alignment between the legislative and executive branches in drug control efforts and promotes evidence-based policies informed by international best practices.

The resolution further calls for establishing specialised parliamentary committees on drug issues, developing gender-responsive and age-appropriate policies, a comprehensive resource toolkit for parliamentarians and a regular review mechanism to ensure continuity and accountability in implementation.

The "Drug-Free ASEAN", vision has served as a cornerstone of regional cooperation, galvanising collective action against illicit drugs and underscoring their profound threat to security, health and development. The 8th AIPACODD firmly embraces this aspiration whilst recognising that contemporary challenges—including synthetic drug proliferation, digitised trafficking and increasingly sophisticated criminal networks—necessitate a more nuanced strategic approach. This evolution represents not a retreat from our shared commitments but their advancement through more comprehensive, evidence-informed methods.

Global evidence increasingly demonstrates that integrating robust enforcement with evidence-based public health approaches yields more sustainable outcomes in reducing supply and demand. This balanced strategy addresses the health dimensions of drug dependence whilst enhancing enforcement effectiveness by targeting root causes, reducing recidivism and minimising associated harms. By incorporating principles of inclusivity and sustainability, this approach ensures tailored interventions for different population groups, including youth, women and marginalised communities, leaving no segment of society behind in our collective response.

By embracing this evolved approach, AIPA Member Parliaments demonstrate forward-thinking leadership that responds to current realities while maintaining an unwavering commitment to the welfare of ASEAN communities. This perspective positions ASEAN at the forefront of innovative drug policy that balances tradition with evidence, enforcement with compassion and immediate action with sustainable impact. The 8th AIPACODD represents not a departure from our shared aspirations for a Drug-Free ASEAN but their reinforcement through more effective, inclusive and sustainable means.