



**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/YPA/03)

RESOLUTION ON

**STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS TO
FOSTER A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND INCLUSIVE ASEAN**

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

The Forty-sixth General Assembly:

Reaffirming the United Nations General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/74/121](#) on “Policies and Programmes Involving Youth”, which advocates for inclusive policies to harness the full potential of the youth;

Emphasising the indispensable role of the youth as principal agents in advancing the sustainability and inclusivity agenda, and recognising their capacity in catalysing transformative and inclusive development across ASEAN Member States, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the [ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future](#);

Acknowledging the findings of the [Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024](#) which highlights the pressing need to accelerate progress towards Goals 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions); recognising these goals as intrinsically linked to the advancement of youth development and empowerment;

Recognising the significant role of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in fostering regional integration and economic prosperity through a competitive, inclusive, and highly integrated economy; future economic frameworks depend on the active participation and contributions of young people, with the adaptability and innovative spirit needed to navigate these complex transitions;

Reaffirming the commitments embodied in AIPA Resolution No. [Res.45GA/2024/YPA/01](#) on “Empowering Youth in Building a Secure, Resilient, and Inclusive ASEAN Community” adopted at the 45th AIPA General Assembly in 2024, as well as Resolution No. [Res.44GA/2023/YPA/01](#) on “Advancing Youth Engagement for Inclusive Development, Economic Transformation, and Democratic Participation”, adopted at the 44th AIPA General Assembly in 2023;

Emphasising the importance of empowering the youth to actively participate in policymaking, community development, economic innovation, and urging ASEAN Member States to enhance institutional support, allocate adequate resources, and implement inclusive policies to foster a sustainable economy and build an inclusive ASEAN community where youth can fully contribute and thrive;

Commending the ASEAN Foundation for the creation of the Social Enterprise Development Programme (ASEAN SEDP 4.0), which aims to strengthen social enterprises across the ASEAN region by providing enhanced access to entrepreneurship opportunities, capacity-building, and mentorship, with particular focus on empowering ASEAN youth;

Recognising the [ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025](#) and the ongoing development of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030, which envisions ASEAN as a leading digital community and economic bloc, and further acknowledging the 5th ASEAN Digital Ministers’ Meeting (ADGMIN), which aims to accelerate regional economic growth, enhance a safer digital environment, promote regional connectivity through the establishment of consistent digital and cybersecurity standards across ASEAN Member States;

Further recognising the initiatives of the ASEAN AI Safety Network (AI SAFE), which seek to institutionalise governance and ethical principles concerning Artificial Intelligence (AI) among ASEAN Member States, thereby promoting social equity; and **facilitating** the digital transformation of ASEAN youth;

Noting with concern the persistent challenges faced by ASEAN youth that hinder their meaningful engagement in the implementation of SDGs and taking into account the recommendations made during the 2nd Consultative Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA), held on 6th May 2025, under the theme “Ensuring ASEAN’s Future: Youth in Action for Sustainability and Inclusivity”;

Welcoming the valuable contributions of the Young Parliamentarians at the AIPA Roundtable Discussion: Youth in Action, which emphasised the urgent need to address key issues facing youth, especially regarding their future job, unemployment, well-being, and health.

Hereby resolves to:

Strengthen the roles of AIPA Young Parliamentarians in championing youth related issues such as the high rates of youth unemployment and underemployment, mental health challenges and youth wellbeing, and advocating for policies and legislative measures that promote inclusive opportunities for personal and professional development of the youth, in line with the [Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024](#) and relevant ASEAN youth frameworks;

Urge ASEAN Member States to adopt medium- and long-term youth development plans designed to enable, ensure, and promote the active, meaningful, and holistic participation of the youth in society, particularly in the following ten centers of participation: (1) Health and Well-being; (2) Education and Lifelong Learning; (3) Economic Empowerment and Employment; (4) Social Inclusion and Equity; (5) Peacebuilding and Security; (6) Governance and Political Participation; (7) Active Citizenship and Civic Engagement; (8) Environment, Climate Action, and Disaster Resilience; (9) Digital Transformation, Science, and Innovation; (10) Culture, Arts, and Heritage; (11) Global Mobility and Regional Integration; (12) Agriculture and Food Security; (13) Sports and Creative Industries;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments to advocate the conduct of a National Youth Assessment Study aimed at determining the priority needs, prevailing attitudes, and values of the youth, as well as assessing existing services and identifying gaps in addressing their basic requirements, the results of which shall serve as the basis for formulating policies and programs that are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the youth;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to advocate for increased investment in youth mental health services and psychosocial support systems, particularly within educational institutions and digital platforms, recognising the growing mental health challenges facing youth in the post-pandemic, climate anxious, and digital era;

Urge ASEAN Member States to enhance youth engagement in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of National Youth Development Policies at various levels and to support youth-led initiatives that empower and educate youth to implement ideas enabling sustainable change and delivering long-term social and economic impact such as ASEAN Youth Economic Forum (AYEF) and eMpowering Youths Across ASEAN (eYAA) that build capacity, leadership, and sustainable development awareness, with measurable impact on long-term social and economic outcomes;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to conduct regular reviews and provide legislative oversight of regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Digital Talent Exchange that promote regional digital workforce development and cross-border digital learning

platforms among ASEAN countries, with a view to exploring alignment of ASEAN regional digital skills framework with international standards and responsive to emerging industry demands;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to promote inclusive digital technological integration by exploring ways to bridge the digital divide, ensuring equitable access to digital infrastructure, and building digital capacity, particularly for marginalised and rural youth, through targeted investment, public-private partnerships, education-sector integration, and appropriate legislative mechanisms;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to engage and empower youth-led social enterprises through legal recognition, access to financing, mentorship programs, and capacity-building initiatives aimed at improving product development and sustainable business models, thereby creating inclusive and accessible entrepreneurship opportunities;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to consider developing initiatives that enable youth to meaningfully contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic development through support for the creative industries, job apprenticeships, industry-based skills programs and trainings, decent work, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurship, to ensure these efforts are aligned with the goals outlined in the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future, with clear indicators for youth employment and economic empowerment; and

Calls upon AIPA Member Parliaments to explore and adopt legislative strategies and mechanisms that strengthen the development and implementation of youth-centered policies, with the aim of securing decent employment opportunities for young people, enhancing their health and well-being, promoting equal access to early childhood education across the ASEAN region, and ensuring the integration of innovation and digital transformation into long-term regional strategies.

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

Southeast Asia boasts a vibrant and dynamic youth population, making up nearly thirty-four percent of the region's total population. This demographic is the largest and most significant generation of young people the region has ever seen and presents a powerful opportunity to drive positive change and shape the region's future. Our youth play a pivotal role for the advancement of the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As stated in the Political Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum (A/RES/78/1) the 2030 Agenda remains the world's commitment to the children and youth of today. United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has previously stressed young people hold the key to creative solutions, and as digital natives, they can drive innovation and accelerate progress.

The resolution outlines several key actions urging AIPA Member States to undertake:

- 1. Strengthening the roles of AIPA Young Parliamentarians:** through championing youth related issues and advocating for policies that create opportunities for youth personal and professional development.
- 2. Empowering Youth-Led Social Enterprises:** Encourage ASEAN Member States to empower youth-led social enterprises that aim to amplify their social and economic impact, national and regional policy-making involvement and contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 3. Advancing Digital Innovation and Inclusive Technology Access:** Strengthen digital technologies while promoting digital inclusion through equitable access and literacy training to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 4. Fostering Youth Entrepreneurship for Social Enterprises:** Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to support youth-led social enterprises to promote inclusive entrepreneurship opportunity.

5. Empowering ASEAN Youth for the Future: Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to support the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future by strengthening youth-led initiatives to foster sustainable and inclusive future for ASEAN youth.

According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, youth are twice as likely as adults to be in working poverty; employed people who live in households that fall below an accepted poverty line. Technology has expanded educational opportunities, but it has also widened inequalities, leaving millions of people, especially in marginalised and low-income communities, without access to education. Alarming, the untapped potential youth continued to face higher unemployment rates, a situation exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This resolution highlights the critical role of young parliamentarians in addressing youth-related issues, inclusive engagement in policy-making, digital inclusion and accessibility, youth-led social enterprises support and higher opportunity in decent jobs, particularly for ASEAN youth, including rural and marginalised communities.