



**RECOMMENDATIONS  
THE SIXTH ASEAN GO-NGO FORUM FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

*“Establishment of the Social Protection Floor on Social Welfare and Development  
Within ASEAN”*

**20 September 2011, Bangkok, Thailand**

We, the participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development held on 20 September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam;

Acknowledged that everyone, as a member of society, is entitled to have equal access to social protection covering essential services including social security schemes; healthcare services; nutrition, care and education for children; as well as social assistance transfers (cash or in-kind) for the poor and vulnerable groups;

Acknowledged that social protection plays an important role in reducing vulnerabilities of the disadvantaged groups in the society including the older persons, people with disabilities, children, women, people living in poverty, and those working in the informal sector who may not be comprehensively covered by the existing social protection schemes;

Further acknowledged that the existing social safety nets in ASEAN Member States may not be adequate in protecting the people from the risk of falling through the nets and, thus, there is a need to set up or strengthen the social protection floor;

Mindful that while many of ASEAN Member States have already relatively comprehensive social protection systems for the formal sector, there is a need to expand the coverage and delivery systems to cover all citizens;

Agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation amongst ASEAN Member States towards universal coverage of social protection to the peoples of ASEAN through the following actions:

1. Ensure participatory and rights-based approach in designing, implementing and monitoring social protection schemes in ASEAN Member States;

2. Promote the mainstreaming of the concerns of everybody in the society, especially the vulnerable groups such as older persons, people with disabilities, children and women, and their participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of social protection legislations, policies and programmes in ASEAN Member States;
3. Enhance the support systems and commitment to improve social protection for all, especially the vulnerable groups of society, to enable them to live in dignity as well as to have equal opportunities to employment enabling them to be self-reliant by setting up minimum standards of social protection in ASEAN;
4. Encourage study on the existing legislations, policies and programmes and their impacts to the human development in ASEAN Member States with the intention of exploring the possibilities and challenges of expanding social insurance schemes to cover informal sector comprehensively;
5. Convene a platform to enhance the knowledge among government officials, NGOs, and social workers on the social protection floor initiative (SPFI) and their capacity to implement social protection schemes progressively;
6. Continue information sharing and exchange of views among government officials, NGOs, international organisations, and other stakeholders in ASEAN Member States on social protection with the objective of learning from the best practices and experiences of each other in improving the social protection coverage and delivery service;
7. Mobilise resources and promote CSR role of the private sector in the region to ensure that adequate financial and human resources are secured for sustainable social protection that is widely accessible to all peoples especially the vulnerable groups;
8. Develop regional statistical indicators in ASEAN to measure the development of vulnerable groups as the result of social protection implementation in ASEAN Member States;
9. Establish an inter-sectoral consultative mechanism in ASEAN and its Member States to promote information sharing, regional cooperation and evaluate the implementation of social protection initiatives;
10. Encourage all ASEAN Member States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) and foster its implementation at community level;
11. Recommend the Senior Officials on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to issue an ASEAN Declaration that expresses the commitment of

ASEAN Member States at a higher level to strengthen the social protection floor initiative (SPFI) implementation.

The participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development expressed their high appreciation to the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of the Forum. The participants also expressed appreciation for the information sharing by the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Disabled Peoples' International Asia Pacific (DPI-AP) in the Forum.

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