



16th ASEAN GO-NGO FORUM ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

“Strengthening Partnerships towards the Betterment of ASEAN”

15 December 2021, 08:30-16.30 hrs. (GMT+7)

Video conference

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The 16th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development was held on 15 December 2021, via video conference. The Forum was co-chaired by Miss Ramrung Worawat, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, as SOMSWD Co-Chair, and Professor Emeritus Dr. Chanita Rukspolmuang, National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand (NCSWT), as NGO Co-Chair. The Forum was attended by approximately 150 participants, which included SOMSWD Focal Points, Government representatives, representatives from national NGOs and CSOs, academe, representatives from Plus Three countries, representatives from the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), representatives from the organisations awarded with ASEAN Outstanding Social Welfare and Development Awards (AOSWADA) representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, representatives from international organisations and UN agencies, and other delegates from Thailand. The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 1**.

2. Guided by the theme “Strengthening Partnerships towards the Betterment of ASEAN”, the Forum served as a multi-stakeholder platform and venue for the ASEAN Member States, NGOs, CSOs, private sector, academe, and relevant stakeholders to share knowledge and experiences on measures and resources needed to advance social welfare and development in ASEAN, with particular focus on building a more inclusive and resilient post-pandemic world based on the notion of leaving no one behind. The Forum was also provided an opportunity to highlight and explore roles and contributions of NGOs/CSOs and the private sector to society, particularly to the social welfare and development sector, at regional and international levels; to showcase outstanding achievements and share information on the roles and contributions of the AOSWADA Awardees 2021 to social welfare and development in their respective Member State; and to identify actionable recommendations and ways forward to improve capacity and further enhance engagements of CSOs/NGOs and the private sector in social welfare and development at the national and regional levels. The Concept Note and Programme are attached as **ANNEX 2**.

3. The following are the key recommendations arising from the Forum:

CSOs/NGOs:

- a. Define a common definition of CSOs/NGOs in ASEAN and conduct a survey to develop a systematic database for following up the work of CSOs/NGOs dedicated to social welfare and development at both national and regional levels (at least biennially at the national level and triennially at the regional level);
 - i. Provide bio-data on a voluntary basis
 - ii. Arrangement of ease
 - iii. Finding expert trainers
- b. Explore possibilities to establish a CSO/NGO engagement mechanism in ASEAN whose membership is open to all national CSOs/NGOs working in the field of social welfare and development in each ASEAN Member State; and promote on bringing together CSOs/NGOs as a working network in various forms at all levels in terms of target group, issues, and mutual support. This can be done through utilising existing networks or reactivating networks within the region to address current issues in a more regular manner;
- c. Promote establishment of ASEAN CSOs/NGOs and ASEAN Volunteers Network;
- d. Promote and support academic work, development and transfer of knowledge and innovations, working standards and standard operating procedures, to develop and enhance performance capacities of CSOs/NGOs. Capacity-building programs may include trainings on social work and social welfare offered by the ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW); provision of training by private and public universities, especially collaboration between institutions on thematic issues;
- e. Provide support and benefits to personnel of CSOs/NGOs in terms of remuneration and entitlements to welfare services;
- f. Compile a list of AOSWADA awardees to form alumni to serve as mentors to aspire ASEAN CSOs and NGOs;
- g. Revisit, reactivate, and update plans and networks that existed during pre-COVID-19;
- h. Improve the capacity of CSOs/NGOs to articulate ground problems, challenges, issues, through training and sharing of experience and expertise for the purpose of service, and policy consideration;
- i. Initiate dialogue at appropriate levels and support the participation of CSOs and NGOs to consider how to employ new media strategies to engage millennials in tomorrow's virtual world;

The Private sector:

- a. Support establishment, development, implementation of programs and initiatives, capacity-building, networking, and empowerment of social enterprises (SE) in ASEAN;
- b. Support the work of the ASEAN CSR Network by mainstreaming the CSR principles into policies and plans of the private sector, and expanding the membership to all ASEAN Member States, and encouraging the members to represent and advocate for CSR in the business sector in their respective Member State;
- c. Increase awareness of CSR in ASEAN by convening an ASEAN CSR Workshop on a biennial basis;
- d. Establish an ASEAN CSR Fund to support the operations of ASEAN and CSOs/NGOs in ASEAN;
- e. Encourage multinational companies to have an action plan to support the operations of ASEAN;

SOMSWD:

- a. Develop an ASEAN declaration to strengthen roles and contributions of NGOs/CSOs, the private sector and other actors dedicated to social welfare and development in ASEAN;
- b. Enact laws in order to regularise the status and to promote and support CSOs/NGOs in each ASEAN Member State;
- c. Provide a concrete policy guidance for CSOs/NGOs to participate in programs and activities that are related to social welfare and development in their respective country;
- d. Establish a Satellite Account on Non-profit and Related Institutions and Volunteer Work in order to acknowledge that CSOs/NGOs are valuable contributors to social values;
- e. Acknowledge, honour, and recognise the roles and contributions of CSOs/NGOs awarded with the AOSWADA, and encourage them to continue their work and contributions to social welfare and development in their respective country;
- f. Provide funds and/or subsidies to support the operations of CSOs/NGOs at both national and regional levels including hiring of CSOs/NGOs to work as outsourced agency for the public sector;
- g. Promote fundraising activities and provide a tax exemption and deduction incentive for persons, general public and business companies which make a donation in cash, in kind and/or in services to support the work of CSOs/NGOs;
- h. Develop a national action plan for CSOs/NGOs and a multi-layer joint action plan between the public sector and private sector at national, regional, and international levels in keeping up with each country's policies and programs, ASEAN Community Vision and Blueprints 2025, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- i. Encourage CSOs/NGOs to be accredited as an entity associated with ASEAN;
- j. Promote organisation of GO-NGO Forums in various ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and encourage active participation of relevant networks and ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to all GO-NGO Forums;
- k. Promote and support development of capacities of NGOs/CSOs, the private sector and other actors dedicated to social welfare and development in ASEAN;
- l. Explore innovative and appropriate ways to engage NGOs/CSOs, the private sector and other actors. Such engagements should not be confined within the existing formal mechanisms and processes but other alternative configurations such as an interface with SOMSWD, a SOMSWD town hall meeting, as well as other appropriate arrangements should be considered;
- m. Explore possibilities to institutionalise "SOMSWD Think Tanks" in order to meaningfully engage institutes, network of institutes or group of experts, academic institutions, social enterprises and private sector in ASEAN;
- n. Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system under SOMSWD to follow-up recommendations of each annual ASEAN GO-NGO Forum, and track the progress of engagement with NGOs/CSOs, the private sector and other actors;
- o. Provide greater recognition for initiatives that are led by NGOs/CSOs, the private sector and other actors through effective communication strategies and public outreach activities;
- p. Encourage the private sector and dialogue partners to engage, contribute, and support initiatives that are led by NGOs/CSOs, the private sector and other actors in order to ease their resource burden to engage effectively with ASEAN;

ASEAN Secretariat:

- a. Facilitate greater engagements with NGOs/CSOs, the private sector by easing the complexity of the procedure and criteria attached to existing Guidelines on Accreditation of Entities Associated with ASEAN;

- b. Develop a compendium for ASEAN engagement with NGOs/CSOs, the private sector and other actors;
 - c. Maximise the benefits of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community by encouraging effective consultations and dialogues with NGOs/CSOs, the private sector and other actors by providing accessible information on ASEAN Socio-Cultural initiatives, and promoting more effective participation in ASEAN initiatives;
4. The recommendations are endorsed by the 16th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development on the Fifteenth of December in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One (2021) for submission to 17th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD).
