



THE 43RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER - PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)

20-25 November 2022, Phnom Penh – Cambodia



**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
OPTIMIZING THE PARTICIPATION OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(MSMEs) IN THE TOURISM SECTOR FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

(Proposed by Indonesia)

The Forty-Third AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the AIPA Resolution on “The Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post Covid-19” that stresses the importance for ASEAN Member States to implement measures to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 on businesses across ASEAN, including in tourism.

Firmly supporting the Joint Statement of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers on Strengthening Cooperation to Revitalise ASEAN Tourism adopted on 29 April 2020 that underscores the need to strengthen ASEAN coordination mechanism to overcome challenges to the tourism sector.

Reaffirming the Resolution number Res. 42GA/2021/Eco/02 on the Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery: Tourism Cooperation in ASEAN adopted in Brunei Darussalam, and Resolution number Res. 42GA/2021/Eco/01 on Promoting Inclusive Digital ASEAN to Empower MSMEs and Strengthen the ASEAN Economic Integration adopted in Brunei Darussalam, which underline the crucial roles of MSMEs and tourism sector for economic development.

Reaffirming ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025 that encourages responsible, sustainable, inclusive and balanced tourism development to advance socio-economic well-being of ASEAN people further.

Acknowledging the reliance of ASEAN member states on travel and tourism to realize economic development, as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Deeply concerned about the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector, including travel restrictions that halted worldwide and national travel, adversely affecting businesses, employment, and livelihood of local communities.

Emphasizing the important the role of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the tourism sector, particularly their participation and contribution to advance economic recovery in the tourism sector.

Recognizing the significant role of AIPA Members Parliaments through their legislative, budgeting, oversight as well as parliamentary diplomacy function to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic recovery in the tourism sector.

Hereby resolves to:

1. **Call upon** AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage ASEAN Member States to ensure the meaningful participation and contribution of MSMEs in the tourism sector, as part of measures to advance economic recovery and development.
2. **Call upon** ASEAN Member States to ensure that economic recovery measures in the tourism sector encompasses access to financing and other types of assistance needed for MSMEs to retain and gain access to markets and consumers as well as to innovate and develop in the tourism destinations.
3. **Call for** the acceleration of MSMEs' digitalization and tackle digital technology challenges, including digital security, digital privacy and digital divide among groups and between urban and rural tourism destinations.
4. **Urge** AIPA Member Parliaments to increase participation of MSMEs actors in the tourism sector, including women-led MSMEs, in the policy or law formulation process in order to ensure inclusiveness of such policy or law.
5. **Urge** ASEAN Member States to effectively use the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025 as a guidance and strategies for economic recovery in the tourism sector.
6. **Recommend** AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States to galvanize efforts and intensify close and meaningful cooperation, including but not limited to sharing of information, exchange of best practices and capacity building, in view of confronting the existing obstacles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic on MSMEs in the tourism sector.