



**Message of the President of the 43rd General Assembly of
ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
AIPA-ASEAN Interface at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits
10 November 2022
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia**

- Your Majesty
- Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo **HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Chairman of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits,
- Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government of ASEAN Member States, Speakers and Presidents, **Vice Presidents** of AIPA Member Parliaments,
- Your Excellencies Secretaries General of AIPA and ASEAN,

1. As President of the 43rd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and on behalf of AIPA Members, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate **Samdech Prime Minister HUN SEN** for his stewardship of ASEAN as the regional organization is capable of navigating through challenging times.

2. We wish to take this opportunity to deeply appreciate ASEAN's collective efforts in **striving** for peace, stability and prosperity in our region, particularly in our collective efforts to advance the post-COVID-19 recovery.

3. Today, ASEAN, along with the rest of the world, is at an inflection point in the face of a myriad of intertwined and increasingly complex regional and international challenges. Never in our recent history have international solidarity and multilateralism been so needed. Only by acting together can we hope to mobilize an action-oriented multi-stakeholder partnership to develop solutions and advance together.

4. In this context, AIPA fully supports Cambodia's proposed theme of ASEAN this year, **"ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together"** is more relevant and timely than ever before. The theme seeks to build a harmonious ASEAN Community that is peaceful, stable and prosperous, underpinning ASEAN's engagement with the wider region and regional responses to the impacts and uncertainties posed by regional and global challenges."

Distinguished Delegates,

5. Parliamentary diplomacy is becoming even more crucial in forming this multi-stakeholder approach to address emerging complex regional and global issues, based on our common values of the AIPA as enshrined in its statute, inter-alia to promote the principles of human rights, democracy, peace, security and prosperity in ASEAN. More importantly, AIPA needs to be more actively and proactively engaged in the ASEAN Community building, the promotion of ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture, and its contribution to addressing regional and international issues. Therefore, cooperation among AIPA Member Parliaments need to be further broadened and deepened.

6. For the AIPA General Assembly later this month, we have our own theme of **“Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN”** focusing on advancing the post-COVID-19 recovery, strengthening multilateralism to ensure regional peace and security, and building ASEAN’s resilience.

7. Concerns have been raised by our fellow ASEAN parliamentarians on issues of significant importance, which include:

- Doubling down collective efforts to advance economic recovery in the context of financial and economic uncertainty amid Covid-19 and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine;
- Addressing non-traditional security issues, including climate change and natural disasters, drugs and human trafficking, cybercrime, and migration;
- Promoting democratic values, the respect for human right, women empowerment and gender equality;
- Further enhancing digital transformation and reducing development gaps;
- Promoting the water-food-energy nexus; and
- Preserving cultural heritage, diversity, and regional identities.

Distinguished Delegates,

8. Allow me to share five policy issues for the ASEAN Leaders to consider.

9. **First**, we need to ensure a sustainable and resilient recovery by enhancing climate resilience and investing more in clean and renewable energy transition. We should utilize the potential of our combined governments’ immense purchasing power to encourage and influence the market in producing green products and using

environmentally-friendly processes with policies that acknowledge and support green public procurement. In this regard, it is vital to develop a regional regulatory roadmap on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) with clear mechanisms and action plans to achieve a resilient green ASEAN include with Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen's initiative on the ASEAN Green Deal.

10. **Second**, people must be at the centre of our recovery plan in order to ensure that no one is left behind. In this respect, transportation connectivity and logistic network, digital and financial inclusion, social protection, gender equality, women empowerment and people-centred development are imperative. In this regard, we cannot lose sight of achieving the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals, which would also lead us out of the current challenges.

11. **Third**, ASEAN needs to enhance regional mechanisms for cooperation, coordination, technical assistance and resource mobilization in all aspects of disaster management, especially through the effective implementation of the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management.

12. **Fourth**, there is a strong need for us to deepen our regional parliamentary cooperation and partnerships by sharing knowledge of laws and regulations. We therefore plan to propose the establishment of an AIPA Digital Law Library as a regional digital resource center for AIPA Member Parliaments.

13. **Fifth**, we need to further enhance parliamentary partnership in promoting human rights, democracy, good governance, including Women, Peace and Security Agenda,

and accelerating the ASEAN Community building through the harmonization of regional legal frameworks

14. To conclude, I wish the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and related Summits great success. May all delegates be blessed with good health, peace, happiness, harmony, and prosperity.

Thank you.
