



Parliament of Australia

**Report of the Parliamentary Delegation
to
the 43rd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
hosted by Cambodia**

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 20-25 November 2022

November 2024

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Members of the Delegation

Senator Deborah O'Neill
Leader of the Delegation

Mr Llewellyn O'Brien MP

Robert Knight
Delegation Secretary

Introduction

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formed in 1974. Over the years it has grown to 10 member nations: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Australia has a long-standing relationship with ASEAN, becoming its first Dialogue Partner in 1974. A strategic partnership was established in 2014.

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO) was established in 1977, with the aim of contributing to the attainment of ASEAN goals and aspirations through inter-parliamentary cooperation. It became the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in 2007.

Australia attends AIPA each year as an observer. This year, the 43rd General Assembly was hosted in person by the Kingdom of Cambodia after being held virtually for the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was a welcome return to an in-person AIPA. The theme of the assembly was 'Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN'. The delegation wishes to record its appreciation for the work of the Kingdom of Cambodia in holding a successful event.

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

Opening Ceremony

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, The King of Cambodia commenced the opening ceremony on the morning of Monday 21 November with a royal message welcoming delegates on behalf of the Cambodian people. Noting the theme of the 43rd General Assembly of “Advancing together for sustainable, inclusive and resilient ASEAN”, His Majesty spoke of the success of ASEAN in creating a peaceful and resilient Southeast Asia. He stressed the importance of continued efforts to protect and nurture peace, particularly in the face of traditional and non-traditional challenges, such as the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. His Majesty also pointed to the ongoing political crisis in Myanmar, and its impact on the ASEAN community. He highlighted that no matter the challenges faced by ASEAN, all the tools necessary to meet these challenges were present so long as member states all worked together.

Samdech Vibolsena Pheakdei Say Chhum, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, then gave the welcoming address. He stressed the need for ASEAN partners to act together in unity to address all common challenges. President Say expressed his desire that parliamentary partnerships be bolstered further to realise an ASEAN community that benefits our current generation, and those that follow.

The keynote address was given by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Chairman of ASEAN. Prime Minister Hun stated that the world continues to confront nations with many challenges including political, environmental, and economic which not only threaten the lives of people, but also dampen global economies. Prime Minister Hun spoke of the relevance and importance of AIPA as a means of inspiring a shared sense of responsibility to address regional and global challenges.

The 43rd General Assembly was then formally opened by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and President of the 43rd AIPA. In his opening remarks he noted the assembly was being held in a peaceful atmosphere in Phnom Penh, at contrast to the mounting challenges facing the world more broadly. President Heng reflected that heightened geopolitical rivalries, a weakened multilateral system, tensions over Taiwan and the Korean peninsula, maritime disputes, the political and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, and the conflict in Ukraine have each added a layer of hardship to the issues of global energy and food security. In response, President Heng called for AIPA to promote the strengthening of multilateral systems, towards the goals of peace, tolerance, and an international rules-based order.

First Plenary Session

The first plenary session was held on 21 November. It began with statements by eight of the 10 member countries. Contributions focused on the General Assembly's theme of cooperation, resilience and sustainability, reinforcing the importance of ASEAN centrality and working together to address challenges like combating the effects of climate change and post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery. Some national representatives also reflected on broader geopolitical concerns, such as political and economic coercion, and the conflict in Ukraine, with speakers reiterating the importance of ASEAN remaining open, inclusive to provide a unifying framework which fosters trust and cooperation within Southeast Asia and beyond.

The Hon. Mrs Nguyen Tuong Van, Secretary General of AIPA then delivered her remarks, noting the success of AIPA in strengthening relationships amongst and between member parliaments over her tenure, and bidding farewell to participants in this, her final year as Secretary General.

Observer parliaments were then invited to deliver their opening remarks. There were 13 observer parliaments: Australia, Belarus, Canada, European Parliament, India, Japan, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Timor-Leste and Ukraine.

Senator O'Neill made an opening statement on behalf of the Australian delegation, thanking the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

for hosting AIPA and reinforcing Australia's commitment to the Southeast Asian region and community. Senator O'Neill also underlined the necessity of an international rules-based approach to ensure peace, stability and prosperity around the world, highlighting and condemning the actions of Russia in Ukraine. A copy of her full statement is at Appendix A.

Finally, guests of the host were invited to provide a statement. Guests included delegations from Azerbaijan, Nepal, the United States of America the Asian Vision Institute, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, and Global Council for Tolerance and Peace.

Dialogue with Australia

As an observer country, Australia was invited to participate in a dialogue with AIPA member countries. The dialogue was chaired by the Hon. Mr Hun Many, Chairman of the Commission on Education, Youth, Sports, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Senator O'Neill provided opening remarks once again reiterating Australia's commitment to the Southeast Asia region, and outlining new initiatives undertaken by the Australian Government. Senator O'Neill's full remarks are at Appendix B.

Cambodian representatives noted Australia's support to Cambodia's COVID-19 recovery and ongoing development projects. Interest was shown in receiving further assistance

from Australia to build capacity to respond to future disease outbreaks.

Laotian representatives expressed their commitment to a peaceful, sustainable and inclusive region in line with the theme of the 43rd AIPA. They remarked upon 70 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Laos, and expressed their gratitude that Australia has been such a long standing and dependable partner.

Delegates from the Philippines thanked Australia for its support to COVID-19 recovery initiatives. Delegates also reflected on Australia's support the Philippines in the wake of natural disasters. Also discussed was the indelible links between Australia and the Philippines, with nearly 300,000 Filipinos working in Australia as well as 10,000 tertiary students. Concerns were expressed about reports of exploitation of seasonal and itinerant workers in Australia. Delegates also mentioned the reciprocal Visiting Forces Agreement between our two nations and expressed a desire for an expanded involvement between Defence forces. Representative Geraldine Roman finished by expressing a desire to learn from Australian anti-discrimination laws.

Delegates from Singapore remarked on being the ASEAN nation with the strongest relationship with Australia, noting recent high-level visits, the long-standing Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and the opening of borders post-COVID-19 before many other nations. Singaporean delegates discussed their nation's desire to undertake mutually beneficial initiatives in the digital

economy, smart cities, Defence, and cyber security. Singaporean delegates also expressed a desire to see more ASEAN events held in Australia.

Thailand representatives also expressed their desire to see more involvement from Australia in the ASEAN region. Delegates discussed upgrading the Australia-Thailand Free Trade Agreement, and the deepening of Australia's commitment to combatting transnational crime.

Vietnam representatives spoke about Australia's importance as an economic partner of ASEAN and stressed all nations across the region should work together to focus on post COVID-19 economic recovery. Delegates expressed a desire to see a greater level of connection through parliamentary exchanges. Vietnamese delegates discussed their interest in developing a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and Vietnam and concluded by expressing interest in learning from Australia's experience in closing the digital access gap between urban and rural communities.

Indonesian delegates finished the dialogue by expressing how Australia is one of Indonesia's closest and most reliable partners.

Senator O'Neill responded to each of the delegations, touching on key points raised by each. Senator O'Neill reiterated that Australia was very keen to continue developing strong relationships within the ASEAN region.

Bilateral meetings

The Australian delegation held seven bilateral meetings with representatives of other delegations.

Ukraine

Issues discussed with the Ukraine delegation included Australia's material and non-material support in combatting Russia's invasion, as well as post-war rebuilding efforts.

Laos

The meeting with the Laotian delegation opened with expressions of gratitude and mutual respect, noting the long-standing relationship between Australia and Laos in areas such as education, military cooperation and capacity building. The Laotian delegation expressed a desire to draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Parliament and the National Assembly of Laos aimed at assisting with the development of skill in English language and parliamentary process. They proposed the MoU be signed at the 45th AIPA to be held in Laos.

Republic of Korea

The meeting with the delegation from the Republic of Korea opened with a discussion around Russia's aggression in Ukraine and the important role of nations like Australia and Korea in applying pressure through multi-lateral forums like AIPA. Other issues discussed included worldwide energy security, Australia and Korea's respective approach to the ASEAN region, and responses to coercive

behaviours by countries like China. The delegates also discussed general trade, arts and cultural exchange, and investment in the ASEAN region.

Vietnam

During the meeting with Vietnam, delegates discussed the warm relationship between Australia and Vietnam and noted 2023 would mark 50 years of diplomatic relations. Vietnam expressed their interest in Australia's continued support of capacity building in Vietnam, and thanked Australia for its commitment to ASEAN.

Timor Leste

Timorese delegates spoke about their desire to become a member nation of ASEAN and also discussed Australia's ongoing support to skills and capacity development in Timor Leste.

Second Plenary Session

The second plenary session and closing ceremony was held on 23 November. Reports were presented and adopted from the committees of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA, Political Matters, Economic Matters, Social Matters, Organisational Matters, and the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA. Reports from individual dialogues with Observer Parliaments were also presented and adopted.

The Joint Communiqué was also agreed and signed by the heads of delegations. A copy of the communiqué is at Appendix C.

The Assembly agreed to grant Observer Parliament status to the United States Congress, the Parliament of Georgia, the National Assembly of Nepal, and the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan for future AIPA Assemblies.

The office of the Secretary General of AIPA was transferred from the Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van to the Hon Ms Siti Rozaimeriyanty Dato Hj Abdul Rahman. A closing speech was then delivered by the outgoing president of AIPA, Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin.

It was announced that the 44th AIPA will be held in Indonesia in August 2023, and an acceptance speech was delivered by Her Excellency Dr Puan Maharani as the incoming president of AIPA.

Conclusion

The 43rd AIPA was an important milestone in the return to in-person parliamentary events in the ASEAN region. The many informal networking discussions alongside programmed bilateral meetings provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on common challenges and highlighted the importance of maintaining strong inter-parliamentary connections with regional counterparts.

The delegation considers there would be merit in establishing a standing delegation to participate in AIPA for the life of a parliament. This would reflect the practice of several other delegations and provide continuity to representation and discussion on matters of common interest.

Other valuable interactions would be the attendance of observer nations at AIPA committee meetings to develop a deeper understanding of AIPA and the challenges it faces. We recommend future delegates seek to attend committee meetings as well as plenary sessions as an observer.

The delegation was very grateful for the kind hospitality of the host parliament and congratulate the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting a very successful 43rd AIPA.

Senator Deborah O'Neill
Delegation Leader

Appendix A: Statement by Senator O'Neill
First Plenary Session

My fellow parliamentary colleagues, servants of our peoples and leaders for peace and prosperity, it is indeed an honour to address you in person here in beautiful Phnom Penh.

I would like to thank President Heng Samrin of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for his gracious invitation, hospitality, and leadership in convening this 43rd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege to share your company and to attend such a well prepared and welcoming event.

I am Senator Deborah O'Neill from New South Wales, Australia, Chair of the Joint Trade Committee and Chair of the Joint Financial Services and Corporations Committee.

I am joined here by my colleague from the lower house Mr Llew O'Brien, Member for Wide Bay, Queensland, Deputy Chair of the Joint Law Enforcement Committee. Australia, as the first Dialogue Partner to ASEAN, looks on Southeast Asia as a region of profound significance for our future – strategically, economically, and diplomatically.

Australia has benefited from ASEAN's success, one of the most successful regional groupings on the planet and one which has helped support regional security and growing prosperity for the past 50 years.

Australia welcomes the support of Cambodia as Chair of ASEAN in condemning the illegal Russian invasion and annexation of Ukraine. Upholding and respecting the international rules-based system is essential for ensuring political stability, preserving territorial integrity and upholding the sovereignty and rights of all nations. Australia's commitment to these principles is steadfast.

Australia is a strong supporter of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, including the principles of ASEAN centrality, openness, transparency, inclusivity, good governance, a rules-based framework and respect for sovereignty and international law.

Australia and ASEAN work together in a wide range of areas, including counter terrorism, cyber security, digital trade, defence, maritime, regional economic development, health pandemics, water scarcity, natural disasters, human trafficking, urbanisation and infrastructure, connectivity, education, health and women, peace and security.

Australia has supported ASEAN since 1974 through economic and development cooperation programs including the ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards joint initiative, the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative, scholarships to support emerging ASEAN leaders to study in Australia in fields that advance the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, and a Digital Transformation and Future Skills initiative.

Australia's total foreign aid spend in Southeast Asia this financial year is estimated to be \$1.23 billion, covering a number of initiatives to support the region's resilience and economic recovery from Covid-19, enhance the region's emerging security needs, and help implement the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.

We remain committed to an ongoing, and deepening engagement with Southeast Asia, something reinforced by Prime Minister Albanese at his recent attendance of the ASEAN-Australia summit, and by our establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN last year.

Enhancing this deepening engagement is Australia's long history of supporting international cooperation and peace efforts. Today, Australia's foreign policy recognises that we live in a complex, inter-connected world where countries need to coordinate their response to the major challenges we all face today.

Our ongoing efforts to promote peace and security include supporting UN peacekeeping operations and our neighbours' contributions to those operations, promoting global disarmament and non-proliferation, and a strong commitment to strengthening international law to prevent conflict and restore peace and security. Australia is also committed to advancing sustainable development within Southeast Asia, with ambitious and practical action on climate change. Australia has pledged a \$2 billion commitment over five years for developing countries in the Indo-Pacific to tackle climate change through adaptation and resilience, disaster preparedness and renewable energy projects. Australia will also step up its work with the private sector to achieve impact at scale in the region, and to support the goals of the Paris agreement.

And finally, Australia recognises the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on millions of people within the Indo-Pacific region have been severe and are still gathering pace. The needs of our neighbours have been profoundly changed. The pandemic threatened lives, stability and livelihoods across Southeast Asia, and reversed some of the region's hard-won development gains. It also exacerbated many existing challenges, having a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups, including women and girls, and people with disabilities.

In response to the impacts of the pandemic, Australia has pivoted its development programs in Southeast Asia to focus on health security, stability and economic recovery. Our Partnerships for Recovery program has helped people in our region to access timely, safe and effective vaccines, and to maintain ongoing essential health coverage – critical to an effective Covid-19 response and to avoid a resurgence of preventable diseases. Our support helps to keep social services going and supports countries to provide financial assistance directly to the most vulnerable, including women and girls.

Appendix A: Statement by Senator O'Neill
First Plenary Session

Australia is committed to ensuring the pandemic does not roll back the previous gains made on gender equality and women's economic empowerment, leadership, safety and resilience.

Once again I thank the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for your warm hospitality, and extend my thanks to all participants of this 43rd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. I wish you all a productive series of discussions and commend the Assembly on its strenuous efforts in the coming year in bringing to life the policy declarations that will give real shape to advancing together for sustainable, inclusive and resilient ASEAN. Australia will be observing and assisting where we can to bring about this noble end.

Appendix B: Statement by Senator O'Neill
ASEAN-Australia Dialogue

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Australia has a long history of engagement with ASEAN. In 1974 we were proud to become the first dialogue partner to ASEAN. Australia looks to ASEAN as the key player in the peace, prosperity and security of the Indo-Pacific region. This why Australia was honoured to enter into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) with ASEAN last year.

Reinforcing this CSP in the four areas of:

maritime cooperation,

connectivity,

sustainable development goals 2030, and

economic and other possible areas of cooperation,

Australia has recently committed an additional \$470 million over four years, on top of our total aid spend in Southeast Asia of \$1.23 billion in 2022/23.

Highlights of our support under the CSP include:

- a new \$124 million Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative to help address complex regional challenges such as health security, terrorism and transnational crime, energy security, promoting the circular economy and healthy oceans, and support the implementation of priorities under the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).
- one hundred Australia for ASEAN Scholarships to support emerging ASEAN leaders to study in Australia in fields that advance the AOIP under its priority areas of cooperation [maritime, connectivity, economic, and sustainable development cooperation]
- an Australia for ASEAN Digital Transformation and Futures Skills initiative to support our region's futures skills needs, respond to rapid digitalisation, and support long-term economic recovery through a new skills policy dialogue, 350 VET scholarships, and technical assistance partnerships between Australian and ASEAN training institutions.

Australia, under the Albanese government, has committed to deepening its engagement with Southeast Asia. The Prime Minister recently announced the appointment of Mr Nicholas Moore, a preeminent member of the Australian business community, as Australia's special envoy who will drive delivery of a comprehensive Southeast Asia economic strategy to 2040

Appendix B: Statement by Senator O'Neill
ASEAN-Australia Dialogue

Australia stands shoulder to shoulder with our ASEAN partners in striving for sustainable, inclusive and resilient ASEAN

THE 43RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

20-25 NOVEMBER 2022
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN

(Doc 43GA/2022/JC)

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE FORTY THIRD (43RD) GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 43rd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) with the theme “Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN” was held from 20 to 25 November 2022, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
2. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of the 43rd AIPA, presided over the 43rd General Assembly of AIPA.

II. DELEGATIONS

3. Delegates from the AIPA Member Parliaments, Observer Parliaments, the AIPA and ASEAN Secretariats, and Guests of the Host, participated in the 43rd General Assembly.
4. For the AIPA Member delegations, Brunei Darussalam was led by H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council; Cambodia was led by Hon. Kittisethabindit CHEAM YEAP, Ph.D, First Vice-President of the National Assembly; Indonesia was led by H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Lao People’s Democratic Republic was led by H.E. Dr. Xaysomphone Phommvihane, President of the National Assembly; Philippines was led by Hon. Mr. Raymond Democrito Cañete Mendoza, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives; Singapore was led by H.E. Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament; Thailand was led by H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly; and Viet Nam was led by H.E. Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, President of the National Assembly.
5. For the Observer delegations, Australia was led by Hon. Mrs. Deborah O’Neill; Belarus was led by Hon. Mr. Valeri Mitskevich; Canada was led by Hon. Mr. Yuen Pau Woo; European Parliament was led by Hon. Mr. Daniel Caspary; India was led by Dr. Satya Pal Singh; Japan was led by Hon. Mr. Doko Shigeru; Republic of Korea was led by Mr. Yonggi

Jeon; Morocco was led by Hon. Mr. Rachid Talbi El Alami; Norway was led by Hon. Mrs. Åslaug Sem-Jacobsen; Pakistan was led by Hon. Mr. Salahuddin; Russian Federation was led by Hon. Mr. Konstantin Kosachev; Timor-Leste was led by Hon. Mr. Jose Vergilio Rodrigues Ferreira; and Ukraine was led by Hon. Mr. Oleksandr Korniyenko.

6. The delegation from the ASEAN Secretariat was led by Hon. Tran Duc Binh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the Community and Corporate Affairs Department.

7. The delegation from the AIPA Secretariat was led by Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van, Secretary- General of AIPA.

8. For the delegation of Guest of the Hosts, Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan was led by Hon. Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova; National Assembly of Nepal was led by Right. Hon. Mr. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina; the United States Congress was led by Chairman Mr. Gregory Weldon Meeks; Asian Vision Institute (AVI) was led by Dr. Sok Siphana; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) was led by Prof. Mr. Hidetoshi Nishimaru; Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP) was led by Excellency Mr. Amed Aljawan; International Association of the Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) in Asia-Pacific was led by Mr. Eknath Dhakal; International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) was led by Mr. James Thomas Fernau Ward; and Parliamentary Center of Asia (PCAsia) was led by Mr. Dararith Kim Yeat.

III. AIPA EXECUTIVE MEETING

9. The Executive Committee Meeting was convened on 20 November 2022 at 20.00 hrs to prepare the programme, agenda and other relevant matters pertaining to the General Assembly. The meeting was presided by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of AIPA, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Executive Committee endorsed H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand as the vice-chair of the meeting.

10. The Meeting considered and unanimously approved: (a) the Program of Activities of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly; (b) Agenda Items of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly; (c) Topic for Dialogue with Observers; as well as (d) Composition of Delegations for Meetings of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly.

11. It was noted by the Executive Committee that the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia agreed to accept the AIPA Presidency and to host the 44th AIPA General Assembly in August 2023. The exact date and venue will be announced in due course. The meeting welcomed the initial announcement by Indonesia. In this regard, the Draft Resolution on the Date and Venue of the 44th AIPA General Assembly was updated subsequently.

12. The Executive Committee received a proposal of an emergency item from Indonesia in the form of Draft Resolution on “Parliamentary Diplomacy for the Implementation of ASEAN Five-Point Consensus”. In this regard, the Agenda Items of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly were updated subsequently, and it was decided that further discussion on this matter shall take place in the Committee Meeting of Political Matters.

13. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee informed the meeting regarding the application of the Parliament of Azerbaijan as well as their proposal to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Non-Alignment Movement Parliamentary Network (NAM-PN) and AIPA. The Chairperson instructed the AIPA Secretariat to study the said Draft MoU and circulate it to all AIPA Members for their inputs. The Secretary General of AIPA suggested to continue the discussion of both the application of the Parliament of Azerbaijan and the proposed MoU to the Meeting of the Committee on Organizational Matters. The meeting agreed to continue the discussion on this matter in the Meeting of the Committee on Organizational Matters.

IV. MESSAGES OF THE HEADS OF STATES/GOVERNMENTS

14. The 43rd General Assembly of AIPA received messages from the following Heads of States/Governments:

- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam
- His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia
- H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
- H.E. Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines
- H.E. Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore
- H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
- H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

V. OPENING CEREMONY

15. The Opening Ceremony of the 43rd General Assembly of AIPA was held on Monday, 21 November 2022, at 09.30 am GMT +7. His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia, delivered his Royal Address, followed by the Welcome Remarks of Samdech Vibolsena Pheakdei Say Chhum, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The opening ceremony continued with the Keynote Address by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, followed by the Opening Address of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of the 43rd AIPA.

Royal Address of His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia

16. His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia, delivered a Royal Address at the Opening Ceremony of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly. Welcome Remarks by Samdech Vibolsena Pheakdei Say Chhum, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

17. His Excellency opened by welcoming all the delegates to the opening ceremony of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly. In his welcome remarks, His Excellency stated that AIPA has evolved to become a robust regional inter-parliamentary organization in promoting solidarity, understanding, and cooperation, not only among the AIPA Member Parliaments but also with the AIPA Observer Parliaments and institutional partners. He further stated AIPA's important role to uplift the role of parliamentarians in representing the collective voice of the ASEAN people.

18. His Excellency also addressed the multifold challenges such as pandemic, rising of geopolitical tensions, armed conflict, inequalities that are currently faced by the ASEAN. Connecting to the theme of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly 'Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient ASEAN', he pointed out the need to act together in the spirit of ASEAN unity to address all of the common challenges. He concluded his remark by mentioning that parliamentary contribution and cooperation such as AIPA is necessary to find common grounds and interest with other counterparts in the government to foster greater synergies to support a people-oriented, people centered development, and to build resilient societies ready to cope with future crises.

Keynote Address by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

19. In his keynote address, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen stated that over the past three-year, ASEAN Member States have been very satisfied with the concerted efforts of the region in working together as a unity to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prime Minister Hun Sen mentioned that the ASEAN Member States could reopen the countries and restore the economies because of the spirit of mutual understanding and assistance.

20. However, according to him, the world continues to be confronted with many challenges, including geo-political rivalries, war, trade and economic polarization, climate change and natural disasters. In this context, he believed that the theme of the 43rd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) is relevant and appropriate, which will contribute to inspiring a sense of shared responsibility to respond to regional and global development in a timely manner as well as accelerating ASEAN socio-economic recovery toward common prosperity.

21. Concluding his address, the Prime Minister Hun Sen conveyed that in the current context in which the world is facing many complex challenges, he would like to emphasize that Parliaments, especially the National Assemblies, indeed have a crucial and an indispensable role in contributing to resolving regional and global issues. In this spirit, he was of the view that the celebration of the 43rd General

Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) provides a rare opportunity for Excellencies AIPA delegates to join the discussion on a wide range of topics with the common objective of strengthening cooperation into a unity and identifying policy recommendations, especially a joint position for the interests of ASEAN peoples.

Opening Address by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of the 43rd AIPA

22. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin opened his speech by welcoming all delegates and distinguished guests to the Opening Ceremony of the 43rd General Assembly of AIPA. He addressed the challenges faced by the world and ASEAN, including heightened geopolitical rivalries, a weakened multilateral system amid signs of economic fragmentation, conflict of Ukraine, tensions over Taiwan and the Korean peninsula, maritime disputes and the political and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar.

23. He encouraged AIPA to play a vital role in parliamentary diplomacy to promote strengthening the multilateral system to be more open, inclusive, and rules-based as it reinforces its multi-stakeholder, multi-layered partnerships and cross-sectoral collaboration to ensure that the ASEAN Community is sustainable, inclusive and resilient. On another note, he also brought up the cruciality of fostering ASEAN Youth Participation in national and international agendas and also in taking part in the decision policy-making.

24. He then proceeded to emphasize the need to realize a sustainable ASEAN for a recovery that promotes factors such as climate resilience, clean and renewable energy transition, green investment, and green and fair finance. According to him, these can be achieved through an environment, social, and governance focus that further attracts investment to our region. He also mentioned the important role of legislative bodies in promoting new models of development, balanced between environmental protection, economic growth, inclusiveness, and sustainability.

25. He mentioned that the General Assembly is an opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation, mutual understanding and trust, and serve as a platform to explore innovative solutions to common challenges. He stated that the talks need to be more action-oriented and problem-solving. AIPA has adopted many resolutions and declarations in the past and what is needed now is effective implementation. He concluded that AIPA are representatives of the people and need to be accountable to the people and therefore responsible for taking action.

VI. VICE-PRESIDENTS OF 43RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

26. Pursuant to Article 10 of the Statutes of AIPA, the General Assembly elected the Heads of Delegation of the AIPA Member Parliaments as Vice-Presidents of the 43rd General Assembly of AIPA.

VII. STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION OF AIPA MEMBER PARLIAMENTS

The Heads of Delegation of the AIPA Member Parliaments delivered their respective statements at the First Plenary session of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly.

Brunei Darussalam

27. H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, began his statement by stating that the theme of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly this year, “Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN”, is very timely and relevant in Southeast Asia’s current reality as it emphasises the importance of unity and centrality in ensuring that ASEAN is able to overcome and respond adeptly to the challenges ahead.

28. His Excellency expressed that the global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health, education and the economy have been unprecedented. Today, other pressing issues also demand the region’s attention. Climate change, disaster management as well as food and energy security are just some of the challenges that require parliamentary involvement and collaboration, specifically in planning and enforcing strategic and pre-emptive solutions befitting to the needs of ASEAN peoples.

29. Hence, according to His Excellency, the annual AIPA General Assembly is a pertinent platform for parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, to discuss current issues and challenges and make available creative solutions which are often trans-institutional in nature. As AIPA celebrates its 45th Anniversary this year, He conveyed that it is also noteworthy to acknowledge its achievements and contributions to the ASEAN community-building process over the past 45 years. In the future, he mentioned, it is essential that AIPA maintains its outward-looking approach by engaging and enhancing cooperation, built on the foundation of mutual trust, with AIPA Observers and partners.

30. Speaker H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib concluded his statement by hoping AIPA discussions at this AIPA General Assembly will further strengthen the Southeast Asian inter-parliamentary relations as the region advances together towards a common goal for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient ASEAN Community.

Indonesia

31. Hon. Putu Supadma Rudana the Vice-Chair of the Committee of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia conveyed the Indonesian House’s gratitude and appreciation to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting the 43rd General Assembly of AIPA. He emphasized on the importance of collective efforts as representative of the people, in encouraging a more united, cohesive and resilient ASEAN as well as in addressing global uncertainty.

32. Hon. Putu Supadma Rudana stated in his statement that while playing a proactive role in the formation of regional and international norms, rules, principles and values, the ASEAN should work closely together in answering to various complex regional challenges such as geopolitical rivalries between major powers, impending humanitarian and political crisis, the post COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery, sustainable development, climate emergency, food and energy security, as well as other non-traditional threats in the region in order to effectively deal with issues of mutual interest through AIPA.

33. Further in his statement, Hon. Putu Supadma Rudana encouraged the centrality and unity of ASEAN to be strengthened, especially in carrying out a constructive engagement with external partners, through ASEAN-led mechanisms. He viewed that this would build a mutual trust and establish an open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based region which positioned ASEAN at the center of the architecture.

34. His Honorable also expressed concern over the situation in Myanmar and stressed the need to support every effort to implement the Five Point Consensus and urged that the violence and other human rights violations stop immediately. He also stated that Peace, Democracy and Development are interlinked and fundamental to achieve in order to move forward as a stable and peaceful region.

35. Hon. Putu Supadma Rudana concluded his statement by reaffirming the importance of multilateralism and the significance of ASEAN's partnerships with external partners in facing and addressing global and regional issues of common concern and interest.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

36. H.E. Dr. Xaysomphone Phomvihane, President of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR congratulated the President of AIPA for the excellent arrangements made for the 43rd AIPA General Assembly and expressed full support for the theme chosen for the 43rd AIPA General Assembly: "Advancing Together for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN".

37. Amid the rapid and complex changes in regional situations coupled with economic uncertainty, soaring inflation, lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, food and energy shortages, the Lao PDR underlined the importance of addressing these immediate challenges and obstacles to facing the region in realizing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

38. In this regard, H.E. Xaysomphone Phomvihane further called on ASEAN Member States as well as AIPA Member Parliaments to make joint efforts on socio-economic recovery through facilitating trade, promoting green investment, clean agriculture production and renewable energy, reviving tourism, enhancing transport connectivity, and strengthening MSMEs, amongst others. Furthermore, greater

emphasis must be placed on human resources development in order to narrow the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States.

39. The Lao PDR also plays its part in contributing to ASEAN's efforts towards narrowing the development gap and enhancing regional economic integration through the implementation for the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, particularly the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. To the end, the Lao PDR has been engaged with neighboring countries in areas focusing on socio-economic development including through among others physical infrastructure connectivity to enable the Lao PDR to connect to and integrate with countries in the region as well as deepen connectivity between ASEAN and China through which regional countries can connect with European countries and other countries across the world.

40. In order to realize a sustainable, inclusive and resilient ASEAN region, he stressed the importance in encouraging AIPA to deepen cooperation and promote effective coordination among AIPA Member Parliaments through existing mechanisms as well as to encourage an exchange of knowledge and experiences among AIPA Member Parliaments through workshop and training programmes so as to enable AIPA Member Parliaments to effectively fulfill their respective duties and carry out crucial activities to realize a resilient and sustainable ASEAN Community. He also congratulated Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van, the Secretary General of AIPA for her great contribution to the work of AIPA over the past years, and confident that the new Secretary General of AIPA will be continuing to lead the work of AIPA towards new achievements.

Philippines

41. In his statement, Deputy Speaker Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza indicated that with less favorable regional policy settings, AIPA Member Parliaments must be nimble to navigate this complex environment, strengthen economic recovery, and rebuild policy space. He stressed that regional solidarity and cooperation are vital to help build back a more resilient and sustainable ASEAN community. He further stressed that AIPA represents an effective platform for dialogue on inter-parliamentary concerns and diplomacy based on equal partnership, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

42. Deputy Speaker Mendoza also used the opportunity to share the country's roadmap towards a stronger and more resilient economy. He informed the Assembly that following the lead of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., the Philippine Congress has adopted a medium-term fiscal strategy that aims to support economic recovery while ensuring fiscal sustainability. He also emphasized that a fiscal consolidation program is being undertaken by the Congress to ensure that the government continues its productive spending, support sustainable economic recovery, and provide enough fiscal reserves to respond to future economic shocks.

43. Deputy Speaker Mendoza urged the use of the AIPA General Assembly as a platform for dialogue and exchange of best practices. For example, dealing with the ongoing pandemic as well as future ones requires collaboration on policies on development, production and distribution of vaccines, and on policies to help the economies cope with adverse socio-economic impacts. Deputy Speaker Mendoza also called on his fellow parliamentarians to work together in building collective global rules whereby the industrial nations progressively reduce emissions and provide badly-needed climate adaptation support to vulnerable countries. He affirmed that this requires no less than a collective effort in the sharing of data and technologies as well as financial resources at the regional level. In closing, he extended his appreciation to Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, for the excellent preparation of this year's General Assembly.

Singapore

44. H.E. Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Singapore, opened his speech by thanking Cambodia for its excellent ASEAN Chairmanship, and successful hosting of the 43rd AIPA GA, as well as ASEAN Summits. Mr Tan opined, as the region looks towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, Cambodia's Chairmanship theme of "ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together" reflects the strength and unity of ASEAN in surmounting the gravest public health emergency in decades. Mr Tan pointed out that in addition to the pandemic, the region and world are faced with an upsurge in geopolitical tensions and major power rivalry. Issues like the escalating tensions in the world have far-reaching profound implications. They could also potentially upset the peace, stability, and prosperity which ASEAN has enjoyed for more than five decades. In order to effectively respond to these challenges, ASEAN must remain open and inclusive, and at the centre of the regional architecture. ASEAN Member States must continue to look forward, maintain its sense of unity, and underscore ASEAN Centrality. ASEAN should continue to be a platform that fosters trust, dialogue and cooperation within ASEAN as well as between and among ASEAN's partners.

45. Mr Tan took the view that parliamentarians, as representatives of the people and respective countries, must double down to take on the challenges that lie ahead. To this end, Mr Tan highlighted three things that could be done. Firstly, it is critical to continue to uphold a rules-based world order, underpinned by international law, and maintain an ASEAN-centric regional architecture to preserve peace and stability. Second, continue to engage, build stronger ties, and deepen cooperation with ASEAN's external partners. Third, continue to invest in ASEAN's future, broaden and deepen cooperation in the areas of digitalisation, smart cities, climate change, sustainable development, and connectivity. Concluding his statement, Mr Tan looked forward to fruitful discussions with friends and fellow Parliamentarians on how to ensure that ASEAN remains relevant and fit-for-purpose for future generations.

Thailand

46. In his opening speech, H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand extended his sincere thanks and congratulated His Excellency Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for hosting the 43rd General Assembly of the AIPA.

47. H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai reiterated the discussion between ASEAN and AIPA Leaders during the Interface Meeting at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summit which emphasized on the issue of ASEAN Green Deal, people-centered, digital law library, and regional cooperation on human rights, democracy, good governance, disaster management, and development of ASEAN Community. Emphasizing the commitment of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency informed the plenary that Thailand has centered its recovery on the Bio-Circular-Green Economic model to ensure “no one is left behind”. He further emphasized that the Thai National Assembly supports the theme of the 43rd General Assembly and has been active in pursuing sustainable growth, for instance: implementing a green parliament, using technology to improve its efficiency and devotion to the principle that the nation will prosper when society is righteous. He hoped that more actionable steps of Parliamentary cooperation would also take place in order to implement the result of the General Assembly

48. In concluding, H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai thanked all AIPA Member Parliaments for the dedication to the mission and responsibility to the good of the nations and peoples. He is confident that AIPA will overcome any challenges confronted together.

Viet Nam

49. At the outset, H.E. Vuong Dinh Hue, President of Viet Nam National Assembly expressed his sincere thanks for the warm welcome and cordial reception extended by the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

50. H.E. Vuong Dinh Hue highlighted a multitude of challenges that the world and the region are facing and emphasized the necessity for the international community and parties concerned to enhance close cooperation, comply with international law, and act with high responsibility.

51. The Head of Viet Nam Delegation highly appreciated the role of Cambodia as the ASEAN and AIPA Chair for 2022, and the tireless efforts of ASEAN countries in response to challenges for unity, peace, and stability in the region. H.E. Vuong Dinh Hue emphasized the importance of ASEAN’s unity, solidarity and mutual support as the key to every success of the Organization. H.E. Vuong Dinh Hue also stressed the important role of ASEAN parliaments in contributing to laying the common legal groundwork for ASEAN and promoting collaboration among agencies representing the will and aspiration of ASEAN citizens.

52. H.E. Vuong Dinh Hue stated that the National Assembly of Viet Nam would uphold its role and responsibility, and make every effort to fulfill the commitments

and Resolutions adopted at the 43rd AIPA General Assembly. Viet Nam supported the goal of advancing together for a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable ASEAN. To this end, he made some proposals, including enhancing ASEAN's unity and centrality, strengthening the oversight function of parliaments over the implementation of ASEAN's Master Plans, further improving the organization and operation of AIPA, and encouraging further participation by AIPA young parliamentarians in the building of a strong, people-centered, and people-oriented ASEAN Community.

53. On this occasion, the President of Viet Nam National Assembly informed that Viet Nam would host the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Viet Nam in 2023 and requested the support and participation of AIPA member parliaments.

Cambodia

54. Hon. Kittisethabindit Cheam Yeap (Ph.D), the Head of Delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, expressed his concern to the current regional and world situation that has become more uncertain and complex. From the issue of geopolitical competition, climate change, inequality, epidemic diseases, to threats to peace, he highlighted the importance of unity and embracing open and inclusive multilateralism to address these challenges.

55. From the lens of parliamentarians, he stated that AIPA has demonstrated an important role in enhancing many facets of ASEAN cooperation and community building efforts and as a platform to uplift the role of parliamentarians in representing the collective voice of the ASEAN people. He also emphasized the crucial role of parliamentary diplomacy in forming multi-stakeholders approach to address the emerging complex regional and global issues, based on the common values of AIPA as enshrined in its statute 'to promote the principles of human rights, democracy, peace, security, and prosperity in ASEAN'. He also mentioned that parliamentarians will be able to foster energy with the respective governments through AIPA to further promote sustainable development and to build resilient societies ready to cope with present and future challenges.

56. He shared that Cambodian Parliament has actively cooperated with the parliaments from partner countries in addressing challenges within regional and international framework, and expanding parliamentary diplomatic relations. He concluded the remarks by emphasizing that AIPA Member Parliaments need to develop innovative and realistic solutions together to also realize the ASEAN vision 2025 and beyond.

VIII. STATEMENTS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF ASEAN AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF AIPA

57. Hon. Tran Duc Binh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN and Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van, Secretary General of AIPA, presented their statements at the First Plenary Session of the 43rd General Assembly.

IX. STATEMENTS OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF OBSERVER PARLIAMENTS

58. The Heads of Delegations of the Observer Parliaments from Australia, Belarus, Canada, European Parliament, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Norway, Russian Federation, Timor-Leste, Pakistan, and Ukraine presented their statements at the First Plenary Session of the General Assembly.

X. STATEMENTS OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF GUEST OF THE HOST

59. The representative of Guests of the Host from Mili Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, National Assembly of Nepal, U.S. Congress, Asian Vision Institute (AVI), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP), International Association of the Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) in Asia-Pacific, International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), and Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia) delivered their statements at the First Plenary Session of the General Assembly.

XI. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

60. The Committees proceeded with their meetings to consider the agenda assigned by the General Assembly.

Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA)

61. The Meeting of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA) was chaired by Hon. Mrs. Lork Kheng. The Committee considered and approved 3 resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly: Resolution on the Adoption of the Report of the Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA)

62. The report highlights the key findings of multi-stakeholder dialogues on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts on women and girls, the development of holistic and innovative pathways towards a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery through the empowerment of women and girls, and recommendations on some key measures to increase women's equal participation in politics, including the possibility to increase the minimum number of women parliamentarians participating in AIPA General Assembly. The WAIPA Committee agreed to adopt the resolution on adoption of the report of the meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA). Resolution on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient COVID-19 Recovery

63. The Meeting expressed their concern over the significant implications of gender equality and inclusion brought by the global pandemic outbreak. The Meeting encouraged the AIPA Member Parliaments to increase visibility and mainstream

gender lens in the policy formulation process of COVID-19 economic recovery, including the implementation stage. Thus, the Meeting supported the adoption of the Resolution. Resolution on Promoting the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Advancing Women, Peace and Security Agenda

64. The WAIPA Committee Meeting discussed how the AIPA Member Parliaments, especially the women parliamentarians, strengthen the role of women in the peace and security process, conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction, and rehabilitation. Some important points highlighted by the WAIPA Committee Meeting were: development of an inclusive national and regional plan of action, appropriate measurement to prevent challenges encountered by women in conflict areas, and budget consideration to support the implementation of the WPS Agenda. After intensive deliberations, the Meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the resolution. Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA)

65. The Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA) was chaired by Hon. Mr. HUN Many. The Meeting considered one (1) resolution and tabled the draft at the Committee on Social Matters for approval, and subsequent adoption by the General Assembly: Resolution on Fostering Engagement with Young People through Sustainable, Resilient, and Prosperous ASEAN Community

66. In order to build a future-ready ASEAN youth cross-cutting political, economic, and socio-cultural domains, and to further strengthen the ASEAN Centrality, the AIPA Member Parliaments agreed to transform the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA into a standing committee, which would serve as a platform for exchanging views and in-depth discussion on youth-related issues facing ASEAN countries each year. Furthermore, the AIPA Secretariat was mandated to process the transformation in accordance with AIPA regulations. In accordance with the current Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA, the Meeting agreed to refer the said Draft Resolution to the Committee on Social Matters for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly. Committee on Political Matters

67. The Committee on Political Matters was chaired by Hon. Hun Many. The Committee considered and approved five (5) resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly: Resolution on the Adoption of the Report of the 13th AIPA Caucus

68. As the 13th AIPA Caucus was hosted by Thailand in virtual, the Delegation of Thailand provided a short introduction of the report. Following the introduction, the Meeting agreed to adopt the Report. Resolution on the Adoption of the Report of the ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface during the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summit

69. The Meeting considered the Report of the ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface and thus agreed to adopt the Resolution.

Resolution on Promoting Peace, Solidarity and Multilateralism through ASEAN Centrality

70. The Resolution was co-sponsored by Cambodia and Viet Nam. The Committee recognized that against the backdrop of unprecedented multiple and complex challenges unfolding in the Southeast Asian region, there is a need to strengthen ASEAN's relevance and proactive role to safeguard regional peace, security and stability by strengthening ASEAN centrality.

71. The Committee welcomed the outcome documents of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits held in Phnom Penh, including the ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together, the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the 55th Anniversary of ASEAN, and ASEAN Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Connectivity Post-2025 Agenda, which emphasized the need to working together to address common challenges in a timely, effective, and coherent manner, while enhancing people-to-people connection, fostering connectivity opportunities and advancing the ASEAN Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and ASEAN Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda, amongst others.

72. The Committee reiterated the support for ASEAN-led mechanisms and sub-regional cooperation mechanisms that benefit the Southeast Asian region by building synergies among them, while at the same time, promoting constructive engagement with dialogue partners and external partners based on the principles of mutual respect, mutual understanding, mutual trust and mutual interests for peace and prosperity for ASEAN and beyond. The Committee also reaffirmed the commitment to preserve Southeast Asia as region free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and committed to promoting the accession of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and rule-based multilateralism to build regional resilience, maintain regional peace and security as well as promote regional prosperity. To solidify commitment, the Committee unanimously adopted the Resolution on Promoting Peace, Solidarity and Multilateralism through ASEAN Centrality.

Resolution on Enhancing Parliamentary Diplomacy on Maritime Security to Foster Regional Stability in Southeast Asia

73. The Committee acknowledged the proposal from Indonesia and emphasized the importance of maritime security in Southeast Asia that is not only vital in maintaining regional peace, stability, and security, but also in cultivating the vast potentials for economic growth of ASEAN and livelihoods of its people. It is, thus, of AIPA's interest to advance parliamentary diplomacy on maritime security in all areas of common interests and shared concerns.

74. The Committee called upon AIPA Member Parliaments to continue working together in furthering engagement in constructive dialogue and cooperation on maritime security issues of common concerns, both traditional and non-tradition issues, in accordance with international law and relevant regional and international instruments such as the Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) to contribute to maintaining regional peace and stability. The participating delegations of AIPA Member Parliaments expressed their support for the draft

resolution. The Committee, thus, adopted the Resolution on Enhancing Parliamentary Diplomacy on Maritime Security to Foster Regional Stability in Southeast Asia.

Resolution on Parliamentary Diplomacy for the Implementation of ASEAN Five-Point Consensus

75. The Committee also discussed the fifth draft resolution on Parliamentary Diplomacy for the Implementation of ASEAN Five-Point Consensus proposed by Indonesia as an emergency item after it was approved by the Executive Committee. The Committee took note of the concerning situation in Myanmar, which does not only affect Myanmar and its people but also ASEAN as a community. The Committee also expressed its support for the outcomes of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits related to Myanmar, including ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus. The Committee also took note of the statement issued on November 17, 2022, by the Special Envoy of the Chair of ASEAN on the release of 5,774 prisoners/detainees by the Myanmar Armed Forces, which included opposition and activists, a former British ambassador, a Japanese filmmaker, and an Australian economist.

76. Building on this momentum, the Committee agreed on the need to call on all parties concerned to adhere to and fully implement the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus. The Committee, thus, agreed to adopt the Resolution on Parliamentary Diplomacy for the Implementation of ASEAN Five-Point Consensus.

Committee on Economic Matters

77. The Committee on Economic Matters was chaired by Hon. Mr. Chheang Vun. The Committee considered and approved three (3) resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

Resolution on Promoting Parliamentary Cooperation for Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth through Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Approach

78. The committee meeting deliberated issues on the role of government and parliaments of ASEAN in addressing the challenges on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG). One of the points underlined during the discussion was the development of a standard framework such as performance indicators to support the ESG implementation in the region. A comprehensive discussion by the committee meeting resulted in the agreement to approve and adopt the Resolution. **Resolution on Promoting Capacity Development for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Digital Transformation**

79. The importance of promoting the capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through digital adaptations and transformation was the highlight of the discussion of this Resolution. It was acknowledged that despite all the opportunities that digitalization brings, it poses potential cyber threats to the region. The Meeting of the Committee on Economic Matters agreed in consensus to

adopt the Resolution to support the capacity development for MSMEs in regional integration and connectivity.

Resolution on Optimizing the Participation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Tourism Sector for Economic Recovery

80. The meeting recognized the fundamental role of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of ASEAN in developing the economics in the region. However, the current global pandemic situation has been significantly impacting MSMEs, especially in the tourism sector. In this regard, the Meeting reaffirmed their commitment to ensure that the pandemic recovery process shall benefit MSMEs in the tourism sector, and facilitate them in overcoming the existing challenges. Hence, the meeting fully agreed to adopt the Resolution.

Committee on Social Matters

81. The Committee on Social Matters was presided over by Hon. Mr. Yang Sem. The Committee considered and approved four (4) resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

Resolution on the Adoption of the Report of the 5th Meeting of the AIPA Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) and Addressing Challenges Together for a Drug-Free ASEAN

82. The Committee considered and adopted the Report of the meeting of the 5th AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) and the Resolution on Addressing Challenges Together for a Drug-Free ASEAN. The 5th AIPACODD Meeting was held via video conference on 24th June 2022, hosted by the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Resolution on Enhancing Digital Transformation for Inclusive Social Protection

83. The Committee of Social Matters expressed its concern over the digital revolution that may widen the social gap, especially those living in areas with limited physical infrastructures for health, education, water, electricity, and other services. Responding to the concerns, the Resolution encourages AIPA Member Parliaments to provide legislative support to enable a conducive environment for the development of digital services supporting social protection and strengthening capacity building on digital development. The Committee on Social Matters agreed to adopt the Resolution.

Resolution on Strengthening Social Health Protection to Address Challenges in ASEAN

84. As the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery progresses, the Committee expressed concern for the health and well-being of all at all ages; children, the elderly, women, girls, people with disabilities, ethnic groups, as well as other vulnerable and marginalized groups. In addition, the Committee reaffirmed the importance of

applying social protection principles in accordance with national laws and policies to improve the quality, coverage, and sustainability of social protection throughout ASEAN. As a result of extensive deliberations, the Committee adopted the resolution to strengthen social health protection in the ASEAN region.

Resolution on Fostering Engagement with Young People for Sustainable, Resilient, and Prosperous ASEAN Community

85. The Resolution was previously deliberated by the Meeting of the Young Parliamentarians of AIPA which took place on 21 November 2022, to be then submitted to the Meeting of Committee on Social Matters for approval and subsequent adoption by the 43rd AIPA General Assembly. The Committee appreciated the work of the Young Parliamentarians of AIPA and thus agreed to adopt the Resolution.

Committee on Organizational Matters

86. The Committee on Organizational Matters was presided over by Hon. Mr. Chhit Kimyeat. The Committee discussed and approved twenty-one (21) resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

Resolution on Financial Report 2021-2022

87. AIPA Member Parliaments unanimously agreed on the financial report of the AIPA Secretariat for the year 2021-2022. In addition, the committee suggested AIPA Secretariat to provide a list of assets to be presented in the future AIPA General Assemblies.

Resolution on Budget Estimation 2022-2023

88. AIPA Member Parliaments unanimously agreed on the budget estimation of the AIPA Secretariat for the year 2022-2023. The committee pointed out that in every transition of the office of the AIPA Secretary General, the office expenditures are normally increased, and this difference is covered from the savings account.
Resolution on Secretariat's Annual Report 2021-2022

89. Following the brief explanation on the Secretariat's Annual Report by the Secretary-General of AIPA, the Committee agreed and approved the resolution.

Resolution on Accrediting the United States Congress as an Observer of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

Resolution on Accrediting the Parliament of Georgia as an Observer of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

Resolution on Accrediting the National Assembly of Nepal as an Observer of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

Resolution on Accrediting the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan as an Observer of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

90. AIPA Member Parliaments welcomed the applications from the United States Congress, the Parliament of Georgia, the National Assembly of Nepal, and the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Meeting approved the four parliaments to be granted Observer status of AIPA.

91. During the deliberation, the Committee on Organizational Matters underlined the growing interest of Observer Parliaments to elevate the status of their relationship with AIPA. Thus, to ensure that AIPA and its Observers enjoy mutually beneficial cooperation, the Committee recommended AIPA Member Parliaments and AIPA Secretary General to discuss with the Observer Parliaments regarding possible annual fees or contribution.

92. The Committee recommended to study a new format of the Dialogue with Observer Parliaments based on geographical/geopolitical position or specific agenda topics.

Resolution on Renewal and Amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding between AIPA and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to “Develop AIPA’s Capacity on Matters Concerning ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Economic Integration in Various Areas”

93. The Committee expressed appreciation to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) for the great cooperation and contribution in facilitating the exchange of knowledge, best practices, ideas, and experiences to support the ASEAN Economic Integration Process. Following a brief explanation from the AIPA Secretary General regarding the renewal of the MoU, the Committee agreed to renew and also amend the Memorandum of Understanding between AIPA and ERIA to “Develop AIPA’s Capacity on Matters Concerning ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Economic Integration in Various Areas”.

Resolution on Renewal and Amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation between AIPA Secretariat and Freeland Foundation

94. The Committee fully supported the renewal and amendment of Memorandum of Understanding between AIPA and Freeland Foundation to continue the cooperation on Green Legislative Agenda, including the areas of wildlife, biodiversity conservation, and trafficking in person.

Resolution on Renewal and Amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding between AIPA and Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia) on “Capacity Development Program for Staff of the AIPA Member Parliaments”

95. The Committee expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia) for its continued support to AIPA through the capacity development program for the secretariat staff of the AIPA Member Parliaments, which has been implemented for the last six years. The Committee thus approved the renewal and amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding with no observation.

Resolution on Creation of Annual Consultative Working Group Co-Facilitated by AIPA and PCAsia to Promote Transparent Data and Knowledge Sharing in Health Emergency Preparedness and Responses

96. Following the outcome of the first consultative meeting on "The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Responses to Health Emergencies: Case Studies on Effectiveness and Impediments in National COVID-19 Responses", the committee took into consideration the recommendation of the AIPA Secretariat to form a consolidated health responses network between parliamentarians and CSOs. Hence, the Committee approved the creation of an annual consultative working group to promote transparent data and knowledge sharing regarding health emergency preparedness and responses.

Resolution on the Development of the AIPA 2023-2025 Strategic Plan Funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) ASEAN

97. The Committee appreciated the work done by the AIPA Secretariat for successfully receiving the funding from the Government of Canada through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). The Committee also extended commendation to the Government of Canada for considering the funding application of AIPA Secretariat to develop the AIPA 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

98. AIPA Member Parliaments recommended AIPA Secretariat to work closely with the donor, to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the project. The Committee then approved the formation of a Strategic Planning and Assessment Group that will soon provide inputs relative to the development of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan of AIPA during the planning process and at a later time.

Resolution on Establishment of AIPA Digital Law Library

99. The Committee agreed in principle the resolution following the deliberation and careful consideration. The Committee invited the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia to present the concept note of the initiative on the establishment of AIPA Digital Law Library. The Committee welcomed and considered the initiative and the study done by the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the establishment of AIPA Digital Law Library.

100. The Committee assigned the AIPA Secretariat to work closely with the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia to look for the donors for the project. The

Committee also tasked the AIPA Secretariat to draft the Terms of Reference to be submitted to the upcoming AIPA General Assembly.

Resolution on AIPA Distinguished Service Award to H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam

Resolution on AIPA Distinguished Service Award to Hon. Kittisanghakbindit Khuon Sudary, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairperson of WAIPA

Resolution on AIPA Distinguished Service Award to Hon. Rose Marie J. Arenas, Former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines

101. The Committee discussed the three nominations for the 2022 AIPA Distinguished Service Award submitted by the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam, the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the House of Representatives of the Philippines. Following the criteria and guidelines of the AIPA Distinguished Service Award, the Committee took note that only two awards may be given at each General Assembly. However, the Committee unanimously decided to confer the AIPA Distinguished Service Award to all 3 nominees at this General Assembly in recognition of their meritorious services to AIPA.

Resolution on Appreciating the Service of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin as President of AIPA

102. The Committee unanimously approved the resolution. On this opportunity, the AIPA Member Parliaments also expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin for his leadership and valuable contribution.

Resolution on Extension of the Incumbent AIPA Secretary General Working Agreement for Three Months from October to December 2022

103. Without any observations, the Committee approved the extension of the incumbent AIPA Secretary General Working Agreement for three months from October to December 2022.

Resolution on Appreciation on the Completion of the Service of the Fifth AIPA Secretary General Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van

104. The Committee approved the resolution with high appreciation to the fifth Secretary General of AIPA, Hon. Nguyen Tuong Van for her service in three years of her term.

Resolution on Appointment of the Sixth Secretary General of AIPA

105. The Committee supported the appointment of Hon. Siti Rozaimeriyanthy DSLJ Haji Abdul Rahman from the Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam as the sixth Secretary General of AIPA.

Resolution on Date and Venue of the 44th AIPA GA

106. The Head of Delegation of Indonesia informed the meeting that the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia will host the 44th AIPA General Assembly in August 2023. The exact date and venue will be announced in due course. The meeting welcomed the initial announcement by Indonesia.

107. Referring to the result of the Executive Committee Meeting, the Organizational Committee discussed the Draft MoU between Non-Alignment Movement Parliamentary Network (NAM-PN) and AIPA, proposed by the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Following the explanation by the AIPA Secretary General, the Committee Meeting on Organizational Matters agreed to mandate the AIPA Secretariat to proceed the MoU following the procedure and practice of AIPA, including but not limited to: study the document, seek inputs from AIPA Members, and table the Draft Resolution on the signing of the said MoU to the 44th AIPA General Assembly.

AIPA-ASEAN Hearing

108. Following the adoption of the Guidelines and Procedures, the first AIPA-ASEAN Hearing was conducted on Tuesday, 22 November 2022. The meeting was presided by Hon. Suos Yara, Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Meeting was attended by AIPA Secretary General Nguyen Tuong Van, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs, H.E. Tran Duc Binh, and Delegations from 8 AIPA Member Parliaments.

109. Following the presentation from the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN on “The Status of Implementation of the ASEAN Blueprint 2025”, discussion between the AIPA Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN, and the Delegates of AIPA Member Parliaments was conducted in the spirit of solidarity.

Committee on Panel Dialogue with Observer Parliaments

110. Panel Dialogue with Observer Parliaments took place at the 43rd AIPA General Assembly on Wednesday, 23 November 2022. Following the adoption of the four Resolutions on granting observer status to the U.S. Congress, Parliament of Georgia, National Assembly of Nepal, and Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, there were in total 16 Panels of Dialogue with Observer Parliaments. The Committee discussed the topic on Investing in Peace, Sustainable Development and Post Covid-19 Recovery

XII. 44TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AIPA

111. The General Assembly accepted the kind offer of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia to host the 44th General Assembly of AIPA in August 2023.

XIII. APPRECIATION TO HOST COUNTRY

112. The Delegations attending the General Assembly expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for their excellent arrangements made for the 43rd General Assembly of AIPA.

113. The 43rd General Assembly of AIPA was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of friendship, brotherhood and cooperation, for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient ASEAN.