



Parliament of Australia

**Report of the Parliamentary Delegation
to
the 44th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
hosted by the Republic of Indonesia**

Jakarta, Indonesia, 5-11 August 2023

February 2024

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Members of the Delegation

Ms Zaneta Mascarenhas MP
Leader of the Delegation

Hon Dr David Gillespie MP

Jeff Norris
Delegation Secretary



Ms Zaneta Mascarenhas MP and Hon Dr David Gillespie MP on the floor of AIPA

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. Additionally, ASEAN has two observer nations: Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea. Australia has a long-standing relationship with ASEAN, becoming its first Dialogue Partner in 1974. A strategic partnership between Australia and ASEAN 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 the AIPA each year as an observer. This year, the 44th General Assembly was hosted in person by the Republic of Indonesia in Jakarta.

The theme of the assembly was 'Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN'. The final program for the 44th AIPA will not be replicated in this report and can be accessed [here](#).

The delegation wishes to record its sincere thanks and appreciation for the work of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia holding a successful and productive assembly.



Delegates listening into proceedings of the First Plenary Session of the 44th AIPA



Delegates being interviewed by the Indonesian Parliament TV network



First Plenary Session of the 44th AIPA

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the 44th AIPA was held on the morning of Monday, 7 August 2023.

The assembly was opened by Her Excellency Siti Rozaimeryanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of AIPA, welcoming all delegates to Jakarta. The Secretary General welcomed His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia and Chair of ASEAN to the Assembly.

The Secretary General highlighted the progress made by ASEAN and AIPA in recent years and outlined the challenges and work to come in the future.

The development of the AIPA Strategic Plan 2023-2030 was identified as the platform for ASEAN to achieve its goal as the epicentrum of growth.

The Secretary General concluded her remarks with the identification of AIPA as being ready to meet the challenges in years ahead.

Her Excellency Dr Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and President of the 44th AIPA, commenced her opening address by identifying that the current world situation is still faced with many challenges - fragmentation between countries, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, social and economic inequality, poverty, transnational crime, the trend of slowing global economic growth, the increasingly impactful threat of

climate change, and the incomplete post-pandemic recovery, along with other challenges confronting the societies.

The Speaker highlighted the ongoing need for commitments to create peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia, and that AIPA provides the vehicle for member states to find the middle ground in achieving these commitments. Four strategic agendas for the 44th AIP would help achieve this:

1. strengthening commitment towards the solidarity of ASEAN;
2. ensuring that the ASEAN perspective is heard and addressed in global commitments to solving issues affecting all countries;
3. that all countries need to resolve priority issues of common interest; and
4. dialogue between AIPA members and observers will help to bridge these gaps to build preventive diplomacy.

The Speaker concluded her remarks by emphasising the need for delegates to foster a more democratic world, uphold human rights and the rule of law by finding common ground and reducing differences. This will help to maintain a harmonious Southeast Asia, to the benefit of all.

The keynote address of the 44th General Assembly was then made by His Excellency Mr Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia and Chairman of ASEAN.

The President welcomed all delegates to Jakarta and reflected on a number of themes for AIPA Parliamentarians

to keep focused on during the assembly.

- The maintenance of peace and stability is paramount in the region's efforts, with the requirement for ASEAN member nations to trust one another to achieve common goals.
- Solidarity is crucial, between all parties – governments, industry and other stakeholders.
- Southeast Asia is seen as a global economic driver, which is a focus that ASEAN nations need to strive to continue. Trade barriers must be removed, as the world wants to increase trade with ASEAN as there is shared and increasing trust in member nations.
- ASEAN's charter opens "we the people", so their interest is above all as nations strive for a prosperous Southeast Asia.

First Plenary Session

The first plenary session was held in the afternoon of Monday, 7 August 2023.

Following some administrative actions for the conduct of the assembly, the Speaker introduced all delegations and welcomed them again to the assembly. This was followed by statements from nine of the 10 member country delegations, with the exception of Myanmar, who did not participate in the 44th AIPA. Statements focused mainly on the theme of the 44th AIPA, linking the actions of their respective nations to a stable and prosperous development and future for ASEAN. The role of parliaments in responding to the needs of their citizens, as well as the

wider region was emphasised by most delegates.

The theme of addressing climate change and the transition to cleaner energy was consistently raised, as well as the need for addressing supply chain insecurity due to the war in Ukraine and the continuing post-pandemic recovery efforts. The challenge posed by heightening tension between the USA and China was also raised.

Economic stability and prosperity through trade and collaborative development was emphasised, as was the need for the rule of law and the maintenance of regional peace. Resolution of the situation in Myanmar was reinforced as an ASEAN priority.

Ultimately the collaborative and consensus-driven ethos of ASEAN centrality and the diplomatic goals achieved by AIPA was reflected in the opening statements, reiterating all nations' commitment to the goals of a prosperous and stable ASEAN.

Her Excellency Siti Rozaimeryanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of AIPA, then made a statement as the Secretary General highlighting the theme of the 44th AIPA General Assembly and the practical ways in which member nation parliaments can address the challenges identified in their opening statements. The formulation of the AIPA Strategic Plan 2023-2030, was emphasized as embodying the shared commitment of AIPA in shaping the future of the region including in developing the 2045 ASEAN Agenda.

His Excellency Dr Kao Kim Hourn, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, then made a statement highlighting the

achievements of ASEAN in the past year and encouraging member states and AIPA delegates to continue to embrace the growth and prosperity of ASEAN.

Observer parliaments were then invited to deliver their opening remarks. There were 15 observer parliaments: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, China, the European Parliament, Georgia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Norway, the Russian Federation, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, and United States of America.

Ms Mascarenhas, as the head of delegation, made an opening statement on behalf of the Australian delegation.

After thanking AIPA for hosting the assembly and the hospitality shown to all delegates, Ms Mascarenhas reiterated Australia's commitment to its relationship with ASEAN and its member nations, as well as the valued status that Australia places on its role as an observer at AIPA.

As the centre of our region, ASEAN is crucial to the maintenance of peace, rules-based order and cooperation – embodied in the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. With the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations next year, this has never been more important. Australia's relationships across the region were outlined by Ms Mascarenhas, in terms of aid, trade, defence, economic cooperation and the crucial role of ASEAN in bringing the crisis in Myanmar to an end. The ongoing impacts of the illegal invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation was also condemned by Ms Mascarenhas as worsening many

of the challenges that Australia and ASEAN member nations face.

A copy of the full statement is at [Appendix A](#).



Ms Mascarenhas MP delivering the Australian delegation's opening statement.

Finally, guests of the host were invited to provide a statement. Guests included delegations from the National Assembly of Armenia, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, the United Nations (UN), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Freeland Foundation, International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Dialogue with Australia

As an observer country, Australia was invited to participate in a dialogue with AIPA member countries in attendance at the 44th AIPA on Wednesday, 8 August 2023. The dialogue was chaired by the Hon Mr Ravindra Airlangga, MP, member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia.

Ms Mascarenhas made opening remarks on behalf of the Australian Delegation. Her remarks reiterated the important relationship that Australia has with ASEAN and the importance

that Southeast Asia holds for Australia as economic, trade, defence and cultural partners.

Ms Mascarenhas reiterated the importance of the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in combatting climate change, building health security and advancing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Ms Mascarenhas acknowledged the important role of Indonesia in its ASEAN Chair year and reiterated Australia's support for the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN.

Ms Mascarenhas's full remarks are at [Appendix B](#).

The Brunei Darussalam representatives reaffirmed the role of constructive dialogue at ASEAN's centre, acknowledging that there are many issues of mutual benefit between their country and Australia. Brunei Darussalam desires a Southeast Asia free of conflict and appreciates Australia's role in negotiations regarding ongoing conflicts, as well as the importance of the Australia – Brunei Darussalam Joint Declaration Comprehensive Partnership signed in June 2023.

Cambodian representatives noted Australia's ongoing diplomatic relations with their country since 1952. Security, trade, education and tourism links underpin the bilateral relationship, strengthened by Australia's support in Cambodia's peace building process in the 1990 and support to Cambodia's COVID-19 recovery. Appreciation was expressed for Australia's technical assistance that has been provided to Cambodian Parliament, that only helps to strengthen diplomatic ties.

Lao PDR representatives expressed their support for the ongoing strong friendship and diplomatic ties with Australia. Australia's support with COVID-19 vaccines and support for public health initiatives has resulted in an uplift in healthcare and disaster management in the Lao PDR. Tourism, education, healthcare and service industry links have helped with development, both domestically and in democratic processes.

Delegates from Malaysia recognised the healthy bilateral relations between their country and Australia. Strategic partnerships and the CSP help reinforce cooperation on all areas of mutual interest. Cybersecurity, immigration and higher education agreements bring mutually beneficial processes and gains. Malaysian representatives look forward to the 50th Anniversary Special Summit in Australia in 2024 and the avenues of further collaboration this can support.

Representatives of the Philippines thanked Australia for its roles in Southeast Asia in upholding international law and norms, the rules-based order and support for counter-terrorism and joint defence exercises. Direct aid into the Philippines in recent years has been especially supportive, particularly in the provision of PPE, testing kits and vaccines during the pandemic. This and other initiatives have significantly boosted the health sector.

Delegates from Singapore remarked on the recent success of the Australian Women's Soccer team at the World Cup and used that as an example of the shared bond of interest and friendship between Australia and

ASEAN nations, especially Singapore. The AIPA and International Parliamentary Union (IPU) provide platforms for exchange of ideas and Singapore welcomes Australia's engagement in all forums. The topics of smart cities, cybersecurity, maritime security, and science and innovation cooperation have been a focus for bilateral relations which have built on the already strong defence and economic relationship between the two countries.

Thailand representatives recognised the ongoing support and engagement that Australia has with ASEAN nations and especially in direct relations with Thailand since 1926. The CSP is the cornerstone of Australia's relations with ASEAN nations and Thailand strongly supports this. The cooperation program meeting in March 2023 was noted as a successful dialogue and Thailand looks forward to the 2024 50th anniversary summit. Thailand delegates also noted Australia's support legislative cooperation programs and noted the reciprocal relationship on democratic and parliamentary processes.

Vietnam representatives acknowledged the relationship with Australia is strong, being the closest neighbour with ASEAN nations. Appreciation was expressed for support throughout the pandemic, as well as assistance in trade agreements and promoting parliamentary cooperation. Australia's support in pursuing energy transformation and climate change initiatives was noted as particularly valued.

Indonesian delegates, as hosts, noted the valuable relationship that Australia

has with both Indonesia and ASEAN. The delegates highlighted the importance of food security in response to the pandemic and impacts of the Ukraine war. Particular focus on parliamentary cooperation enables a shared conscience and catalyses an exchange of ideas on issues of common interest – the essence of AIPA.

Ms Mascarenhas provided a consolidated response to all representations highlighting the shared vision that Australia and ASEAN nations have for the region and that cooperation will enable continuing relations to flourish. Dr Gillespie also noted that the trusted long-term partnerships that Australia has at a government and parliamentary level with ASEAN nations helps to achieve the cooperation that all parties desire. Ms Mascarenhas closed by noting that dialogues such as that conducted at AIPA are more important than ever to ensure that rules-based order and shared security and prosperity can be achieved for all.



Dialogue with member nations

Bilateral meetings and briefings

The Australian delegation held four bilateral meetings with representatives of other delegations and three briefings with relevant diplomatic representatives.

Ukraine

The meeting with Ukrainian delegates focused on the concern that Australia shares with the international community of the ongoing impact of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. The aggression of Russia in its ongoing invasion threatens not only the region, but the entire world. Delegates discussed the ongoing conflict, counter-offensive, and material support that Australia has been able to provide Ukraine. The Australian delegation expressed in the strongest terms the support and concern that Australia holds for the Ukrainian people.



Australian and Ukrainian flags

Indonesia

The Australian delegation was pleased to be able to have an extended meeting with delegates from Indonesia, as both the hosts of the AIPA, but also as the current Chair of ASEAN. The hospitality and expertise

of the hosting of the AIPA was noted by the Australian delegation. The Indonesian delegation emphasised the long-standing relationship between the two countries and discussions covered areas of common interest.



Delegates of Australia and Indonesia

Lao PDR

The meeting with the Laotian delegation noted the special relationship between the two countries, with Laos as Australia's coordinating partner for ASEAN, and acknowledging the passing of the ASEAN Chair to Laos in 2024. Discussions then ranged to cooperation in education and other capacity building as well as economic and democratic cooperation and support. The delegations also discussed the mechanisms for ASEAN and AIPA activities in 2024.



Australian and Lao PDR delegates

United States of America

The Australian delegation was very pleased to be able to meet with Senator Tammy Duckworth as the US Head of Delegation to AIPA. The delegations discussed the long-standing central relationship between the US and Australia, reflected in the AUKUS alliance and the security, economic and industry opportunities stemming from that alliance. The delegations also discussed at length the importance of support for ASEAN nations and the fostering of ASEAN centrality and cooperation.



Bilateral meeting with Senator Tammy Duckworth

Briefings

The Australian delegation received valuable briefings from Australian embassy staff on the context of AIPA in the contemporary Southeast ASIA and the current focuses of cooperation and strategic partnership. The delegation also received a welcome briefing from Australian Ambassador to ASEAN.

Second Plenary Session

The second plenary session and closing ceremony was held on the afternoon of 9 August 2023.

Reports were presented and adopted from the committees of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA, Young Parliamentarians of AIPA, Political Matters, Economic Matters, Social Matters and Organisational Matters. Reports were also presented from the AIPA-ASEAN Hearing and the individual dialogues with Observer Parliaments were also presented and adopted.

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

It was agreed that the 45th AIPA will be held in Lao PDR in October 2024. The closing ceremony then consisted of the presentation of the AIPA Distinguished Service Awards to the Hon Dr Teo Ho Pin of Singapore, transfer of the office of the President of AIPA to His Excellency Xaysomphone Phomvihane, who delivered an acceptance speech. Finally, the closing speech was then delivered by the outgoing president of AIPA, Her Excellency Dr Puan Maharani.



Conclusion

The 44th AIPA continued a welcome return to normal in-person interparliamentary relations within ASEAN and with other nations. The Assembly demonstrated that despite the challenges facing our world, cooperation and regional focus can aid a globalised polity and support all nation states in achieving prosperity and peace.

As has been raised by previous Australian delegations, the importance of continued representation at future AIPAs by an Australian delegation is desirable. This is to allow for important dialogue to occur, but also so ASEAN nations can continue to have confidence that the Australian Parliament values the partnerships that the Australian Government has formed with ASEAN member nations.

The delegation notes that the involvement of observer parliament delegations can be limited to the formal elements of the program of AIPA, outside of the dialogue sessions with member nations, so recommends that future delegations seek further engagement in other aspects of the program as observers or contributors, if agreed. This is especially relevant now that AIPA has passed a resolution that observer parliaments should make a monetary contribution to attend each assembly.

The delegation was very grateful for the kind hospitality of the Indonesian House of Representatives as host and congratulate the Republic of Indonesia in as successful ASEAN Chair year, as well as a very successful 44th AIPA.

Ms Zaneta Mascarenhas
Delegation Leader



Australian Delegates with AIPA President and Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, Her Excellency Dr Puan Maharani

**Appendix A: Statement by Ms Mascarenhas
First Plenary Session – 7 August 2023**

Your Excellencies, fellow parliamentarians, ladies and gentlemen, selamat sore.

I am pleased and honoured to address the 44th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

On behalf of the Australian delegation, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Your Excellency Puan Maharani, the President of the 44th AIPA for organising this event and continuing its important work.

My name is Zaneta Mascarenhas. I am joined by my colleague, the Honourable Dr David Gillespie. We are members of the House of Representatives from the Australian Parliament.

Australia greatly values our role as an observer to the assembly and welcome this opportunity to deepen our friendship.

Reflecting on our relationship with ASEAN, we acknowledge our shared history, achievements, and an intertwined future. The AIPA theme reiterates our collective resolve to foster peace, sustain stability, and augment prosperity in our region.

ASEAN and Australia are part of the same neighbourhood.

ASEAN is at the centre of our region. It convenes many important multilateral meetings to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing our region.

ASEAN has helped to create and embed the international rules-based order – rules that are critical to stable and respectful relations between nations. Australia and many other states continue to benefit from this.

We are deepening our cooperation with ASEAN under the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). We have an ambitious program of cooperation to build a region resilient to many complex challenges.

Under our CSP, we have committed A\$204 million to the Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative to support priorities, such as climate change, health security, terrorism and transnational crime, and energy security.

Next year Australia looks forward to hosting ASEAN Leaders for the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations. This summit will look ahead to the next 50 years and look at how ASEAN and Australia can work together to harness opportunities and address shared challenges.

Australia's soon to be released Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040 will identify new opportunities to strengthen our shared economic future.

As evidence of our strong partnership, in 2021 alone, the bilateral trade between Australia and ASEAN countries amounted to a significant A\$127 billion, with 2-way investment valued at A\$248 billion.

Australia maintains robust defence partnerships with Southeast Asian countries. Starting in 2017, our Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE) is a comprehensive initiative that bolsters security and stability, showcasing our commitment to contributing to humanitarian and security efforts. IPE 2023 will take place from June to October 2023.

We will provide an estimated A\$1.24 billion in total official development assistance for Southeast and East Asian countries in 2023–24. We will assist regional partners tackle some of the region's most pressing priorities, in areas such as climate change, gender equality, health, rapid digitalisation, knowledge and skills development and infrastructure.

Australia supports ASEAN's leadership as a key element in responding to the crisis in Myanmar and recognise the efforts of Indonesia in its year as ASEAN Chair. ASEAN is a critical part of efforts to de-escalate the violence, facilitate humanitarian access, and support constructive dialogue. We are dismayed by the regime's failure to make progress toward implementing the Five Point Consensus.

Australia condemns Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine, it is a gross violation of international law. Australia strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Australia's objective, along with our partners, is to empower Ukraine to end this war on its own terms. There has been terrible damage and loss of life in Ukraine. In addition, the war is propelling the global crisis in food and energy security.

In closing, I would again like to express our appreciation of this opportunity to join you to discuss these issues including our 'Shared Commitments for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity'.

**Appendix B: Statement by Ms Mascarenhas
ASEAN-Australia Dialogue – 8 August 2023**

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

It is our pleasure to be here today to participate in this important dialogue session. Australia has a long history of engagement with ASEAN. Australia was proud to become the first dialogue partner to ASEAN, and next year will be our 50th anniversary.

Deepening Australia's engagement with Southeast Asia is a priority, as such we are invested, and committed to the region. Australia has longstanding connections with the region and we are tied together by more than geography—our connections are across family, business, education, tourism and more.

Later this year, Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040 will be released. It will identify new opportunities to strengthen our shared economic future. We seek to listen and understand the region's perspectives on our shared challenges and work together to address them.

In line with the theme for this year's AIPA, we support a region that is open, stable, and prosperous, where ASEAN and ASEAN-led institutions hold the centre and are guided by the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

We are deepening our cooperation with ASEAN under our ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in areas of shared interest, including combatting climate change, building health security and advancing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. The CSP builds on our near fifty-year history of ASEAN-Australia cooperation, and will position our partnership for the future.

Australia is proud to be hosting a Special Summit to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations in 2024. That summit will project an ambitious and forward-looking vision for the future of our relations.

Australia strongly supports Indonesia's delivery of its ASEAN Chair priorities, under the theme 'ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth', including promoting business and investment ties and supporting the practical implementation of the ASEAN Outlook of the Indo-Pacific. Australia is working closely with Timor-Leste and ASEAN to support Timor-Leste to build its capacity in line with the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Australia's commitment to ASEAN centrality and the goals of AIPA as a forum to support the parliamentary goals of the region.

**THE 44TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
5-11 AUGUST 2023
Jakarta, Indonesia**

Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN

(Doc 44GA/2023/JC)

**JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF
THE FORTY FOURTH (44TH) GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 44th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) with the theme “*Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN*” was held from 5 to 11 August 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia.
2. H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and President of the 44th AIPA, presided over the 44th 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 44th General Assembly.
4. For the AIPA Member delegations, **Brunei Darussalam** was led by H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib; **Cambodia** was led by H.E. Kittisangkahabindit Tep Ngorn; **Lao People’s Democratic Republic** was led by H.E. Xaysomphone Phomvihane; **Malaysia** was led by H.E. Tan Sri Dato’ Johari Bin Abdul; **Philippines** was led by H.E. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez; **Singapore** was led by H.E. Mohd Fahmi Bin Aliman; **Thailand** was led by H.E. Mr. Wanmuhammadnoor Matha; **Vietnam** was led by H.E. Vương Đình Huệ; and **Indonesia** was led by H.E. Lodewijk Freidrich Paulus.
5. For the Observer delegations, **Australia** was led by Hon. Zaneta Mascarenhas; **Azerbaijan** was led by H.E. Kamran Bayramov; **Belarus** was led by H.E. Valery Mitskevich; **Canada** was led by Hon. Yuen Pau Woo; **China** was led by Hon. Zhu Yongguan; **European Parliaments** was led by Hon. Daniel Caspary; **Georgia** was led by Hon. Nikoloz Samkharadze; **Japan** was led by Hon. Hiroshi Moriya; **Republic of Korea** was led by Hon. Lee Soo Jin; **Morocco** was led by H.E. Rachid Talbi El

Alami; **Norway** was led by Hon. Åslaug Sem-Jacobsen; **Russian Federation** was led by Hon. Andrei Denisov; **Timor-Leste** was led by H.E. Maria Fernanda Lay; **Ukraine** was led by Hon. Oleksandr Merezhko; and **the United States of America** was led by Hon. Tammy Duckworth.

6. The delegation from the **ASEAN Secretariat** was led by H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary General of ASEAN
7. The delegation from the **AIPA Secretariat** was led by H.E. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, Secretary-General of AIPA.
8. For the delegation of Guests of the Hosts, **the National Assembly of Armenia** was led by Hon. Ms. Hasmik Hakobyan; **Grand National Assembly of Türkiye** was led by Hon. Ms. Rümeyza Kadak; **United Nations (UN)** was led by Mr. Mark Harris; **Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)** was led by Mr. Tetsuya Watanabe; **Freeland Foundation** was led by Mr. Sombat Tuengwiwat; **International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)** was led by Mr. James Ward; **Parliamentary Center of Asia (PCAsia)** was led by Mr. Mario Pandu Dewono; and **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** was led by Mr. Rajendra Aryal.

III. AIPA EXECUTIVE MEETING

9. The Executive Committee Meeting was convened on 6 August 2023 at 16.00 hrs to prepare the program, agenda, and other relevant matters pertaining to the General Assembly. The meeting was presided by H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and President of the 44th AIPA. H.E. Dr. Xaysomphone Phomvihane, the President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR, was nominated as the vice-chair of the meeting, which was welcomed and unanimously agreed by the Executive Committee.
10. The Meeting considered and unanimously approved: (a) the Program of Activities of the 44th AIPA General Assembly; (b) Agenda Items of the 44th AIPA General Assembly; (c) Topic of the Dialogue with Observers; (d) Topic of the AIPA-ASEAN Hearing; (e) Composition of Committee Meetings of the 44th AIPA General Assembly; (f) Host of the 15th AIPA Caucus; (g) Host of the 7th AIPACODD; as well as (h) Date and venue of the 45th General Assembly of AIPA.
11. It was noted by the Executive Committee that the National Assembly of Lao PDR agreed to accept the AIPA Presidency and to host the 45th AIPA General Assembly in October 2024. The exact date and venue will be announced in due course. The meeting welcomed the initial announcement by Lao PDR. In this regard, the Draft

Resolution on the Date and Venue of the 45th AIPA General Assembly was updated subsequently.

12. During the discussion of Any Other Business (AOB), the AIPA President briefly explained the additional agenda under AOB: Young Parliamentarians of AIPA, and the proposal to create a Task Force/Working Group, proposed by the AIPA Secretariat. In this regard, the AIPA President invited the AIPA Secretary General to explain further the proposed additional agenda.
13. The AIPA Secretary General took the floor and first explained the proposal to authorize the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA to discuss, approve, and endorse Draft Resolutions on youth-related issues for adoption at the second plenary session of the 44th AIPA General Assembly. On the proposal, the Executive Committee agreed to grant the proposed authorization to the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA.
14. Following the approval on the first proposed additional agenda, the AIPA Secretary General further explained the proposal of the creation of Task Force/Working Group to discuss the following matters: 1) Establishment of AIPA Digital Library; 2) Guidelines of AIPA's Engagement with Externals; and 3) Establishment of ASEAN Parliament. On the proposal, the Delegates of the Executive Committee expressed their thoughts and opinions, of which it was agreed that three matters are important, but priorities shall be made due to limited resources of the AIPA Secretariat. Furthermore, considering the ongoing issue of Myanmar and the accession process of Timor Leste to become the 11th Member of ASEAN, the Executive Committee agreed to defer the discussion of Establishment of ASEAN Parliament until there is a clear direction. Upon the discussion, the Executive Committee Meeting approved the creation of a Task Force/Working Group to discuss only on two matters; Establishment of AIPA Digital Law Library and Guidelines of AIPA's Engagement with Externals.
15. The Delegation of Indonesia recommended AIPA to create a new AIPA anthem to replace the existing one. The goal of the initiative is for AIPA to be more represented as a modern organization and to be more accepted by the general public, particularly by the region's younger population. Such an initiative will help AIPA's communication strategy to reach more people through popular culture. On the proposal, the Executive Committee agreed to forward the discussion to the Organizational Committee Meeting.

IV. MESSAGES OF THE HEADS OF STATES/GOVERNMENTS

16. The 44th 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. Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia
- 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. Vo Van Thuong, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

V. OPENING CEREMONY

17. The Opening Ceremony of the 44th General Assembly of AIPA was held on Monday, 7 August 2023, at 10.00 hrs GMT +7. Her Excellency Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of AIPA, delivered her Welcome Remarks, followed by the Opening Address of Her Excellency Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and President of the 44th AIPA. The opening ceremony continued with the Keynote Address by His Excellency Mr. Joko Widodo, the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

Welcome Remarks by H.E. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of AIPA

18. Her Excellency Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of AIPA, delivered a Welcome Remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the 44th AIPA General Assembly.
19. H.E. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of AIPA opened her remarks by welcoming everyone to Jakarta. She expressed the honor and privilege to stand for the first time as the 6th Secretary General at the 44th General Assembly. She emphasized that we have gathered for ASEAN, a home of diversities, hopes and dreams, and most importantly, a family bound by ties of friendship and solidarity.
20. She continued her remarks to welcome H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia and Chair of ASEAN to the 44th General Assembly. She further expressed her gratitude to the President of Indonesia and also H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, President of AIPA, for her steadfast leadership in successfully leading the AIPA Presidency.

21. The AIPA Secretary General highlighted that AIPA has gone a long way of 46 years of well-deserved recognition and will continue to evolve and transform into a broader and integrated institution. AIPA will continue to serve the needs and aspirations of the people in ASEAN. She further emphasized AIPA is needed in developing the 2045 ASEAN Agenda as highlighted by H.E. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia in his opening remarks during the AIPA-ASEAN Leaders' Interface this year. AIPA must strengthen its collaboration with the government to ensure ASEAN to be the epicentrum of growth.
22. H.E. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty underlined that this year, Indonesia adopts the theme of ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of growth resonates strongly with ASEAN signifying the shared commitment and cruciality of cooperation which aligns with the theme of 44th AIPA General Assembly on Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN. The theme of AIPA is very timely as a pivotal action to reinforce collaboration between the executive of ASEAN and AIPA in responding to the complex challenges to become more adaptive, responsive, and prosperous.
23. She further underscored that AIPA remains relevant as it accomplished a momentous milestone in formulating the AIPA Strategic Plan 2023-2030 for the first time. The AIPA strategic plan generated four strategic themes that are in accordance with the three pillars of ASEAN Community that signifies the mutual commitment of AIPA in synergizing its ongoing efforts to realize ASEAN as the epicentrum of growth that leaves no one behind.
24. H.E. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty concluded her remarks by expressing her confidence that AIPA will continue to have a crucial role to play and its importance in shaping the regional outlook will only increase in the coming years. She looks forward to the excellency's continued support and wishes for a successful and fruitful deliberation. Lastly, she assured that the AIPA secretariat stands ready to give its fullest support throughout the meeting.

Opening Address H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and President of the 44th AIPA

25. H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani opened her opening address by identifying that the current world situation is still faced with fragmentation between countries, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, social and economic inequality, poverty, transnational crime, the trend of slowing global economic growth, the increasingly impactful threat of climate change, and the incomplete post-pandemic recovery, along with other challenges confronting the societies.
26. Under the theme "*Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN*", Her Excellency emphasized that the 44th AIPA General Assembly is an opportunity for Parliaments in Southeast Asia to be able to strengthen commitment in responding

to various global and regional challenges and problems towards peaceful, stable, and prosperous region.

27. Further in her remarks, H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani highlighted four strategic agendas of the 44th AIPA General Assembly. **First**, the need for AIPA to strengthen its commitment to maintaining ASEAN solidarity. In the midst of various problems in each country, there is still a need to maintain the commitment that ASEAN togetherness will help and strengthen each other. Together, ASEAN will become stronger.
28. **Second**, AIPA needs to ensure that ASEAN's interests continue to be heard and paid attention to, in solving various problems that require global commitment, amidst the issue of great power rivalry. Issues of poverty, inequality, industrialization, globalization, gender, health, education, and the environment are some of the problems whose resolution requires global commitment.
29. **Third**, AIPA needs to continue to encourage that in the midst of great power competition, the world needs to resolve priority issues of common interest, among others, a just world economic order and climate change mitigation. The global economic order must be able to increasingly provide the ability for each country to prosper; while climate change mitigation, according to the United Nations, we have entered the era of global boiling, no longer global warming.
30. **Fourth**, dialogue between the Parliaments of AIPA countries and observer countries is expected to be able to bridge and build potential relationships in developing preventive diplomacy.
31. Concluding her remarks, Her Excellency expressed her concern on the evolving patterns of future geopolitical changes that will become increasingly complex, leading to the emergence of diverse new normal circumstances. In response to this, H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani encouraged AIPA Parliamentarians to foster greater unity, seek shared perspectives, and minimize disparities, to maintain a conducive Southeast Asia in realizing a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Southeast Asia.

Keynote Address by H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia

32. President Joko Widodo commenced his keynote address by warmly welcoming the Delegates to Jakarta, the Headquarters of ASEAN. He emphasized the importance of parliaments in reflecting and fighting for the aspirations and interests of the people. He mentioned that ASEAN has contributed to regional peace and stability for 56 years but warned against complacency, highlighting the need for continued efforts to maintain peace.
33. Furthermore, President Joko Widodo emphasized that ASEAN solidarity is crucial to fulfill its central role and to remain relevant. He also emphasized the right of the

people to a decent life and the importance of equitable welfare in ASEAN. He stated that Southeast Asia is a driver of global growth and expressed Indonesia's commitment to ensuring ASEAN remains the center of global economic growth. He then highlighted the results of the EU-ASEAN Business Sentiment Survey which shows positive sentiments towards ASEAN, thus called for the support of ASEAN Parliaments in building a prosperous Southeast Asia. President Joko Widodo concluded his opening remarks by emphasizing the paramount importance of prioritizing the interests of the people of ASEAN.

VI. NOMINATION VICE-PRESIDENTS OF 44TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

34. 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 44th General Assembly of AIPA.

INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATIONS BY HEAD OF DELEGATIONS

35. H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and President of the 44th AIPA introduced the AIPA Delegations, AIPA Observer Delegations, and Delegations of Guests of the Host.

DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF ITEMS IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

36. The General Assembly then proceeded to consider and adopt the following items in the Order of Business;
- a) Program of Activities for the 44th General Assembly of AIPA;
 - b) Agenda Items of the General Assembly;
 - c) Topic of Dialogues with Observers;
 - d) Topic of the AIPA-ASEAN Hearing;
 - e) Composition of Committee Meetings of the 44th AIPA General Assembly;
 - f) Host of the 15th AIPA Caucus;
 - g) Host of the 7th AIPACODD; and
 - h) Date and venue of the 45th 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 44th AIPA General Assembly.

Brunei Darussalam

37. 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 44th AIPA General Assembly this year, “Responsive Parliament for A Stable and Prosperous ASEAN” is very timely and relevant as it underscores the roles of parliaments in being responsive to the needs of the people and the importance of working collaboratively for the stability and prosperity of our region.
38. His Excellency emphasized the duty of parliamentarians to understand the needs and desires of society and ensure that leaders’ decisions and actions are accessible and transparent for the population at large. He added that this will ultimately reduce the gap between governance and the aspirations of the people.
39. According to His Excellency, Brunei Darussalam is progressing towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aligning with its National Vision, Wawasan Brunei 2035. He called for the urgent implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as it is of utmost importance and cannot be ignored. Furthermore, he stressed the prioritization in combating climate change due to the pronounced shift and unpredictability of the global climate, impacting social and economic progress. He also highlighted governments’ leadership role in driving SDGs, parliaments’ active engagement and collaboration.
40. His Excellency conveyed that it is crucial for ASEAN to maintain its relevance and adapt to emerging challenges. He reiterated that AIPA must continue to serve as a platform for friendly relations, mutually beneficial dialogues, and strategic partnerships, not only among AIPA member parliaments but also with observers and strategic partners.
41. Speaker H.E. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib concluded that by fostering mutual collaboration and unwavering cooperation, ASEAN can collectively overcome challenges, drive inclusive development, and build a stable and prosperous ASEAN community that aligns with the needs and aspirations of both present and future generations.

Cambodia

42. His Excellency Kitti Sangkaha Bandit Tep Ngorn, Second Vice President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, began his statement by highlighting the challenges that the ASEAN Member States continue to face.
43. His Excellency stressed the significance of AIPA in bringing together the national Parliaments of ASEAN Member States. Furthermore, he mentioned that through parliamentary diplomacy, significant progress has been made in enhancing peace,

stability, and economic development in ASEAN while strengthening people-to-people ties through culture, tourism, education, youth, and sports. In addition, the commitment lies in enhancing the capacity of parliamentary institutions, preparing for challenges, and fulfilling duties to contribute to building the ASEAN future into a resilient, inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous community and achieving ASEAN's Vision for 2025.

44. As a way forward, His Excellency stated that it is crucial for ASEAN to enhance economic resilience and promote economic growth with social and environmental inclusion. This can be achieved through embracing further multilateral trade integration, liberalization, transparency, and inclusiveness based on legal frameworks and international law.
45. To achieve this, His Excellency proposed three suggestions for AIPA and AIPA Members: First, AIPA to encourage the ASEAN governments to better implement the RCEP and other Free Trade Agreements, and at the same time further discuss the establishment of the ASEAN Green Deal Initiative for the modernization, development, and more effective responses to current and future economic trends. Second, AIPA shall encourage the ASEAN governments to engage in regional initiatives and adhere to the UN Charter and the ASEAN Charter, namely the “Non-Proliferation Treaty” and the preservation of Southeast Asia Nuclear-free and other non-lethal weapons enshrined in the Treaty of the “Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone”. Lastly, AIPA and AIPA Members must adhere to the ASEAN Centrality and welcome all mutually beneficial, open and rules-based multilateral cooperation and oppose internationalization of domestic affairs of the ASEAN Member States for political purposes.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

46. H.E. Dr. Xaysomphone Phomvihane, President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR, Head of the Lao delegation, opened his speech by congratulating the House of Representatives and people of the Republic of Indonesia for its hospitality and excellent arrangements to host the 44th AIPA General Assembly. H.E. Dr. Xaysomphone Phomvihane, acknowledged that the current regional and international landscapes are indeed confronting multifaceted and complex challenges, with a high level of uncertainty, such as shifting geopolitical and geostrategic dynamics, armed conflicts, transnational crimes, economic issues, including rising inflation, living costs, and energy prices. These challenges are directly affecting the livelihoods of people in both developed and least developed countries as well as they pose significant obstacles to socio-economic development, the maintenance of peace, stability, and security, as well as the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

47. Against this backdrop, He encourages AIPA members to promote greater responsiveness and support regional efforts in fostering a resilient ASEAN Community; maintaining and promoting regional peace, stability, and security; ensuring water, energy, and food security; facilitating digital transformation; encouraging scientific and technological development; promoting the application of innovation in green economic development; advancing technical and vocational training (to address unemployment); promoting greater youth participation; advocating for gender-equality; narrowing the development gap within ASEAN Member States, and enhancing greater economic connectivity and integration. He also calls on the AIPA Parliamentarians to promote good governance based on the rule of law by improving the laws and policies to ensure greater harmony within ASEAN, and encourage the ratification of treaties and conventions across various areas. He emphasized that the AIPA Members Parliaments should deepen and strengthen ASEAN's external relations to complement regional efforts in advancing the ASEAN Community as well as ensuring regional peace and maintaining ASEAN as an Epicentrum of Growth.
48. He states that the Lao PDR has been actively implementing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the three ASEAN Community Blueprints, including the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 by promoting infrastructure development, such as the construction of a high-speed railway, express and national highways, and an electricity grid which aiming to facilitate trade and investment, promote tourism, and foster national socio-economic development. These efforts also enable the Lao PDR to integrate and connect with neighboring countries, as well as with ASEAN and beyond.
49. Lastly, the President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR informs that in 2024, the Lao National Assembly will assume the presidency of the 45th AIPA General Assembly and will continue to promote greater connectivity and integration, while ensuring comprehensive resilience, inclusivity, and sustainable development.

Malaysia

50. H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Johari Abdul, Speaker of Dewan Rakyat of Malaysia opened his statement by expressing his gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by the host country. He continued the statement by emphasizing the crucial role of parliament in representing the voices of the people and upholding democratic values. He also recognized the importance of a well-functioning parliamentary system in shaping the future of ASEAN countries. During his statement, he discussed three key topics.
51. One of the key topics delivered was the strengthening of Intra-ASEAN trade on Food Security amidst the prevailing geopolitical tensions. The COVID-19 pandemic, recent geopolitical tensions, and global trade disruptions highlighted the vulnerability of food systems. H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Johari Abdul emphasized the need for ASEAN

Member States to ensure food security by taking advantage of their agricultural resources, focusing on self-sufficient food production, and strengthening trade. He also emphasized the need for ASEAN Member States to collaborate and promote intra-ASEAN trade to ensure food security and enhance the region's resilience.

52. Another critical issue addressed during the conference was the transition to Green and Renewable Energy. H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Johari Abdul pointed out the urgency of tackling climate change and called for increased commitments to the Paris Agreement, by dis-investing in coal and tackling widespread deforestation. He stated the significance of transition to green and renewable energy sources to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and achieve net-zero emissions.
53. Lastly, H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Johari Abdul affirmed ASEAN's commitment to protecting and promoting democracy and human rights, highlighting the situation in Myanmar. He assured the people of Myanmar that their safety and rights remain ASEAN's top priority.
54. In his closing remarks, H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Johari Abdul urged all participants to reaffirm their commitment in building responsive parliaments and working towards a stable and prosperous ASEAN, highlighting the principles of inclusivity, respect for human rights, and the pursuit of common grounds as the guiding principles.

Philippines

55. H.E. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines began his statement by expressing his sincere appreciation to the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm welcome and hospitality. The House of Representatives of the Philippines firmly supports the 44th AIPA General Assembly theme of "Responsive Parliament for Stable and Prosperous ASEAN". He acknowledged that with less favorable regional policy settings, ASEAN needs to be agile to navigate the complex environment, strengthen economic recovery and rebuild fiscal policy space.
56. He continued his remarks by sharing data on the post-pandemic economic forecasts indicating that growth in ASEAN will moderate from 5.6 percent in 2022 to 4.9 percent in 2023. High inflation and global economic slowdown weigh on growth prospects and raise the urgency of ASEAN Member States to take action to build resilient, sustainable, and inclusive long-term growth.
57. H.E. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez highlighted that through the cooperation of ASEAN, the House of Representatives of the Philippines looks forward to facilitating more people-to-people contact in the region to foster deeper social cohesion and resilient global and regional economies. In this spirit, he shared the House of

Representatives of the Philippines roadmap in the 19th Congress towards a stronger and more resilient economy.

58. He further highlighted that together with the Executive, the House of Representatives of the Philippines have focused on creating more green job opportunities including improving their employability through retooling and re-skilling. Additionally, the House of Representatives of the Philippines also pursued a more robust public-private partnership and enhanced the country's digital infrastructure.
59. Under the leadership of H.E. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, the House of Representatives of the Philippines have passed 33 out of 42 priority measures adopted as the Common Legislative Agenda of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) by the end of the first regular session. These legislative outputs serve as evidence that the 19th Congress strived and was determined to build upon the achievements of the previous administration.
60. The House of Representatives of the Philippines underlined their support for the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025 to be a resilient, inclusive, sustainable and economically competitive sub-region of ASEAN to narrow development gaps. In view of achieving this, the House of Representatives of the Philippines is pushing for the holding of the first BIMP-EAGA Parliamentary Forum or BEPF in 2024 in Davao city. BIMP-EAGA cooperation will only be maximized and made sustainable if regional and sub-regional platforms such as the AIPA and BEPF are able to fast track legislation in support of BIMP-EAGA initiatives.
61. Concluding his remarks, H.E. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez emphasized that AIPA must recognize that the path to greater prosperity in the region is by greater regional cooperation and interdependence. He urged the parliamentarians to use the General Assembly as a platform for dialogue and exchange of best practices. It requires a collective effort in the sharing of data and technologies as well as financial resources at the regional and sub-regional level. Finally, he conveyed his appreciation and gratitude to H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani for the wonderful preparation of the General Assembly and the warm gesture extended to all its delegates. He wishes for a successful, productive meeting and most importantly, a peaceful, safe and prosperous ASEAN.

Singapore

62. H.E. Mohd Fahmi bin Aliman, Head of the Singapore delegation, opened his speech by thanking Indonesia for its excellent ASEAN Chairmanship, and successful hosting of the 44th AIPA General Assembly. H.E. Mohd Fahmi acknowledged the contributions of AIPA in building mutual understanding, trust, and confidence across ASEAN as the region emerged from the global COVID-19 pandemic amid an

increasingly fraught geopolitical landscape. Of particular concern were Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and growing tensions between the US and China. H.E. Mohd Fahmi expressed hope for a swift and peaceful resolution to the conflict in Ukraine, and that ASEAN Member States would not have to take sides in US-China relations, which could lead to disunity.

63. In order to effectively respond to these challenges, ASEAN would have to uphold its centrality and reinforce an open and inclusive regional architecture. Mr Mohd Fahmi suggested three ways this could be achieved. First, ASEAN must continue to be a platform that fosters trust, dialogue, and cooperation within ASEAN, and between ASEAN and its external partners, through mechanisms like the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Plus Three and the Plus-One Summits. Second, ASEAN Members must continue to actively engage external partners and give them a stake in the prosperity and development of our region, through Free Trade Agreement (FTAs) and other regional agreements. Third, ASEAN should continue to invest in its future, in areas such as energy security and climate change. Concluding his statement, Mr Mohd Fahmi looked forward to fruitful discussions with friends and fellow Parliamentarians on how to keep ASEAN relevant and future-read

Thailand

64. H.E. Mr. Wanmuhamadnoor Matha, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand commenced his statement by extending his warmest congratulations to H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani as the 44th AIPA President and Indonesia as the host of the 44th AIPA General Assembly. Highlighting the global challenges occurring, he emphasized the support needed from legislative bodies through ASEAN Member Parliaments. He emphasized AIPA's role as a bridge, reflecting the voices of the people to the governments and providing legal support to achieve the goal of ASEAN. As one of AIPA Member Parliaments, he reaffirmed Thailand's eagerness in witnessing the enhancement of legal harmonization among ASEAN Member States, ensuring the effective implementation of ASEAN agreements across various areas. He called upon AIPA, as the sole regional legislative body, to reinforce its effort in reviewing and promoting legal harmonization as well as collaboration through parliamentary diplomacy.
65. Further, H.E. Mr. Wanmuhamadnoor Matha pointed out that over 40% of Thailand's House of Representatives are under 45, signaling the rise of newer generational voices in the legislative process. He expressed his confidence that by integrating voices of the new generation, AIPA will be better positioned to foster political, economic, and social stability in the region. Additionally, he stressed on gender equality, underscoring its significance for a modern ASEAN society and acknowledged the increased representation of women in the Thai parliament.

66. Concluding his statement, H.E. Mr. Wanmuhamadnoor Matha, expressed optimism for the continued collaboration between AIPA and ASEAN and hoped for fruitful discussions at the assembly.

Viet Nam

67. The President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam (VNA), H.E. Vuong Dinh Hue emphasized that in the global context of rapid, complicated, and unpredictable shifts, ASEAN Parliaments should play its important role in strengthening ASEAN's unity and Centrality and maintaining regional peace, security, and stability. This is the prerequisite for ASEAN countries to sustain an enabling environment for rapid socio-economic recovery and development, true to ASEAN's theme for this year: "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth."
68. In this regard, the President reiterated that as a responsible member, Viet Nam will do its utmost to work with fellow ASEAN countries and AIPA Member Parliaments to build a strong and responsive ASEAN and AIPA, so as to "turning challenges into opportunities" and striving towards a stable, prosperous, and sustainable ASEAN Community.
69. To achieve this, the President proposed AIPA Parliaments to: **(i)** enhance ASEAN's unity, Centrality, and strategic values, and make the most of the support from partners and the international community in maintaining a peaceful, secure, and stable environment in the region; uphold the principles of independence, self-reliance and sovereignty, and continue to ensure consensus, ASEAN's common positions and "the ASEAN Way"; continue to consider peace as an objective, dialogue as an instrument, and cooperation as a guideline in addressing disputes on the basis of the rule of law, in line with common principles and norms of conduct and international law; **(ii)** contribute to strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, people-to-people exchange, technology transfer, financial and monetary ties, safe and sustainable digital transformation, just energy transition, narrowing the development gap and effectively responding to non-traditional security challenges, further enhancing sub-regional development to ensure inclusive growth and equitable and sustainable development, and building capacity to better respond to challenges; **(iii)** further improve legislative function to create an enabling legal environment to contribute to implementing the 2025 ASEAN Blueprints and aiming towards a vision after 2025; **(iv)** continue to pursue innovations and reforms to become an effective channel for parliamentary cooperation, enhancing relations with AIPA Observer Parliaments.
70. The President invited all AIPA member and observer parliaments to send their young parliamentarians to the upcoming 9th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians hosted by Viet Nam this September in Ha Noi.

Indonesia

71. H.E. Mr. Lodewijk F. Paulus, Vice Speaker for Politics and Security, welcomed all delegates and expressed hope for positive and productive outcomes. He emphasized that the assembly's deliverables should be beneficial for the people in terms of economic, political, social, and cultural development.
72. H.E. Paulus reiterated the paramount importance of upholding and promoting the principles of human rights, democracy, peace, security, and prosperity in ASEAN, as enshrined in AIPA's statute. He highlighted the positive correlation of these principles with the improvement in people's quality of life. He stressed that preserving human rights and democracy fosters inclusive participation and unlocks the potential for prosperity and welfare.
73. Addressing global challenges faced by the region, such as poverty, inequality, and climate disasters, H.E. Paulus also highlighted specific challenges within ASEAN, including the situation in Myanmar and disputes in the South China Sea. He urged AIPA Member Parliaments to take swift and sustainable measures to ensure the safety and progress of their people.
74. To achieve this, H.E. Paulus proposed four suggestions for AIPA Member Parliaments: First, fully supporting respective governments in strengthening democracy, good governance, and the rule of law, and promoting human rights and freedoms. Second, to take responsibility for maintaining and protecting their peoples' desire for peace, prosperity, freedom, and fundamental human rights. Third, to lead in forging broader collaboration among all stakeholders to realize ASEAN Vision 2045, focusing on adaptability and future orientation. Fourth, to be responsive and adaptive by aligning national laws and regulations with regional and global challenges.

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

75. H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN and H.E. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, Secretary-General of AIPA, presented their statements at the First Plenary Session of the 44th General Assembly.

Secretary General of ASEAN

76. H. E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, congratulated the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the 44th AIPA General Assembly which also happens to be on the eve of the 56th anniversary of ASEAN. He expressed his confidence that the AIPA General Assembly would further

strengthen regional engagement among AIPA Member Parliaments and AIPA Observer Parliaments to realize the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and beyond. He also commended the National Assembly of Viet Nam for hosting the 14th AIPA Caucus, foreseeing its positive contribution to the current AIPA General Assembly.

77. The theme “*Responsive Parliament for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN*” highlighted the intrinsic relationship between an effective parliament and the achievement of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. He further elaborated that despite such unfavorable external environments, ASEAN has emerged stronger, safer, and more resilient as a Community, with the region forecasted to register solid economic growth rate of 4.6 percent this year and 4.9 percent in 2024. Thus, ASEAN has continued to focus on confidence building measures, strategic trust enhancement and the strengthening of conflict prevention, especially through all the ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus).
78. At present, ASEAN also continues to focus on the work of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), which recently was acceded by Saudi Arabia. ASEAN have also been pushing forward on the need to have all the five Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) to accede to the Protocol to the Treaty on The Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). This is to ensure that the ASEAN region will become nuclear weapon free and also free of weapons of mass destruction. ASEAN will also continue to focus on economic development and sustainability, especially focusing on the digital economy, upgrading bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), as well as the important implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement.
79. H. E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn continued his remarks by highlighting that Indonesia as the Chair of ASEAN this year is shepherding and leading the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) to serve as a guiding principle for ASEAN’s engagement in the Indo-Pacific. The AOIP focuses on inclusivity, peace, cooperation, mutual-respect and trust, as well as dialogue and consultation among all the different stakeholders.
80. Furthermore, he strongly encourages the ASEAN Member States, especially all the Parliaments, to endeavor in promoting socially responsible and sustainable policy and lawmaking at both the national and regional levels. AIPA, as the lead regional parliamentary organization, is well positioned to enhance ASEAN’s integration process and makes significant contributions to the ASEAN Community-building.
81. Before concluding his remarks, H. E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn emphasized that AIPA plays a critical role in transposing regional commitments to national laws and is paramount in expediting ratifications of ASEAN Agreements and treaties, aligning domestic laws with regional priorities while at the same time monitoring the implementation of these laws. Finally, he expressed his appreciation that the ASEAN-AIPA Hearing has been retained as a permanent agenda in the AIPA General Assembly. He assured that the ASEAN Secretariat stands ready to facilitate closer engagement and cooperation with AIPA and wished the 44th AIPA General Assembly a resounding success.

Secretary General of AIPA

82. H.E. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryaty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, stood before the Delegations of 44th AIPA General Assembly to deliver a statement, for the first time as the 6th Secretary General of AIPA. In her statement, the AIPA Secretary General highlighted the theme of this year's General Assembly; *"A Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN"*. She emphasized the need for responsive parliaments to address challenges such as climate change, transnational crime, gender inequality, and economic uncertainty.
83. She stated that the AIPA Secretariat aims to facilitate the enhancement of parliamentary diplomacy, remain relevant in preserving political stability and the spirit of ASEAN solidarity. In this context, she called on the AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen partnerships and collaboration through capacity building programs and exchanges of knowledge and experiences.
84. She emphasized that stability and security in the region are crucial, as ASEAN strives to become an economic community. She shared that the activities of AIPA this year have been aligned with the momentum of "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth", and the remarkable milestone made by the AIPA Member Parliaments through the formulation of the AIPA Strategic Plan 2023-2030. This, she stated, signifies the shared commitment of AIPA in shaping the future of the region including in developing the 2045 ASEAN Agenda. On this occasion, AIPA Secretary General commended the ASEAN Secretary General for his steadfast leadership.
85. Furthermore, she expressed the commitment of AIPA Secretariat to maintaining close cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and building mutual understanding and trust between AIPA Member Parliaments and the international community. Concluding her statement, the AIPA Secretary General urged all delegates to make AIPA stay relevant and responsive as a key player in the regional and global community.

IX. STATEMENTS OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF OBSERVER PARLIAMENTS

86. The Heads of Delegations of the Observer Parliaments from Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, China, European Parliament, Georgia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Norway, Russian Federation, Timor-Leste, 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

87. The representative of Guests of the Host from National Assembly of Armenia, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, United Nations (UN), Economic Research Institute for

ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Freeland Foundation, International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) delivered their statements at the First Plenary Session of the General Assembly.

XI. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Meeting of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA)

89. The Meeting of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA) was chaired by Hon. Ms. Irine Yusiana Roba Putri. The Committee considered and approved three (3) resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

Resolution on Adoption of the Report of the Virtual Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA)

90. The report of the *2nd Coordinating Committee Meeting of Women Parliamentarians of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA)* addresses the structural barriers to women's political participation and underscores the need for enhanced women's representation in parliaments, gender-responsive legislation, and collaborative efforts between parliaments and organizations in promoting gender equality and women's leadership in the ASEAN region.

Resolution on Enhancing ASEAN Resilience through Women Leadership and Gender-Responsive Parliaments

91. The Resolution is crafted based on the inputs gathered from the WAIPA Coordinating Committee Meeting hosted by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia in June 2023 via video conference. The WAIPA Committee Meeting discussed the Resolution and expressed their firm support that women participation in politics and women leadership will enhance ASEAN resilience. In this regard, the WAIPA Committee Meeting acknowledged the need to address the barriers for women to participate in politics, one of which is through affirmative action. However, it was emphasized that each ASEAN Member State has their independence in deciding the best approaches.
92. Furthermore, in the discussion of the Resolution, the WAIPA Committee Meeting also addressed the issue of digitalization, not only that is related to cybersecurity against women, but also in achieving economic emancipation. In this regard, it was agreed that a customized program and support from the international community are required to address the problems and needs from the grassroots.

93. The Meeting of WAIPA Committee also demonstrated their strong commitment to the promotion of women's political participation in the region, by expressing their support to the development of the Plan of Action on Promoting Women's Political Participation in ASEAN, in close collaboration with the ASEAN Bodies and Organs.

Resolution on Digital Transformation Led by Women and for Women

94. The meeting discussed and reaffirmed the importance of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment within the ASEAN region by acknowledging the increasing role of digital transformation and its implication on women in the context of the 4th Industrial Revolution and COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion of the Resolution centered around harnessing the opportunities posed by digital transformation while simultaneously addressing the associated risks.
95. In regard to this, the meeting encouraged female parliamentarians from ASEAN countries to take a proactive role in drafting legal frameworks to accelerate the digital transformation process in ASEAN Member States, especially women-led and for-women digital transformation.

Committee on Political Matters

96. The Committee on Political Matters was chaired by Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon, Chair of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. The Committee considered and approved six (6) resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

Resolution on the Adoption of Report of the ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface during the 42nd ASEAN Summit

97. The report of the ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface during the 42nd ASEAN Summit discusses the event which was held on the 10th of May 2023 to strengthen the collaboration between Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN Member States with Speakers/Deputy Speakers/Representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

Resolution on the Adoption of Report of the 14th AIPA Caucus Hosted by the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

98. The resolution reported the 14th AIPA Caucus hosted by the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Phu Quoc-Kien Giang Province, Viet Nam on 9-12 July 2023 under the theme "*Promoting innovation, transfer, application and development of science and technology for sustainable growth and development*".

Resolution on Maintaining Regional Peace, Security and Stability through Dialogue and Collaboration

99. The Committee reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening regional peace, security, and stability especially in the current complex and unprecedented regional and global challenges. The Committee emphasized the need for proactive responses to not only traditional security challenges, but also non-traditional and transnational security challenges including among others, natural disaster, climate change, energy and food crisis, migration, disruption by and abuse of technologies, and cybercrime, which hinder regional development and progress. The Committee underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security, and stability in the region, including in the South China Sea, and called for peaceful resolution of disputes, as well as the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, in accordance with international law, including the UNCLOS 1982.
100. Thus, the Committee encouraged AIPA Member Parliaments to support and engage in constructive, substantive, and tangible dialogue and cooperation with relevant parties. The Committee on Political Matters also agreed to uphold the spirit of ASEAN unity and collaboration, as well as contribute to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Five Point Consensus (5PC) and the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the 5PC.

Resolution on the Threat of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization

101. Acknowledging the increasing complexity, challenges and threats of terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalization among ASEAN countries as a risk to regional peace, stability and prosperity, the Committee on Political Matters discussed and recognized the pivotal role of a proactive and responsive parliament in combating terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalization in the region. In regard to this, the meeting called for strengthened cooperation among AIPA Member Parliaments, especially on harmonization of respective laws such as Extradition, Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing, in addressing all matters related to this issue at the regional and national levels.
102. The Committee also urged the AIPA Member Parliaments to ratify the international instruments pertaining to countering terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalization, and ensure enforcement agencies among ASEAN Member States to be more proactive in addressing the issues.

Resolution on the Role of Parliamentarians in Addressing Water, Energy and Food (WEF) Security Nexus in ASEAN

103. The Committee underscored the importance of access to clean water, energy, and food as an essential component of human security. The Committee is also concerned by the increasing pressures on water, energy, and food resources due to population growth, urbanization, climate change, loss of biodiversity and other factors that pose risks to peace, security, and stability in the region.
104. Following the deliberation, the Committee urged AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen regional cooperation in scientific research evidence, technology development and transfer, and capacity building through traditional and parliamentary diplomacy. To ensure sustainable and equitable access to water, energy, and food services, the Committee called upon AIPA Member Parliaments to use their legislative, budgetary, oversight powers, and financial support, and while also enacting policies that promote conservation, renewable energy, and secure infrastructure.
105. The Committee approved the Resolution and requested the AIPA and ASEAN Secretariats to facilitate the sharing of best practices, lessons learned, experiences, views, and visions in the framework of a water, energy and food security nexus approach, and capacity-building initiatives of parliamentarians in addressing these security nexuses.

Resolution on Parliamentary Cooperation in Contributing to Long-lasting Peace in Myanmar

106. The Committee on Political Matters expressed its deep concern with the armed conflict and the impact of the crisis in Myanmar, which has caused widespread violence against civilians across Myanmar, and forcibly displaced thousands of people within the country. The Committee condemned the attack on the convoy of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the ASEAN Monitoring Team in Southern Shan State, on 7 May 2023.
107. In light of this, The Committee emphasized the importance of collective action and cooperation between the executive and legislative branches to support efforts towards peace, stability, harmony, and reconciliation in Myanmar, as conveyed in the message of the President of the 44th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly during the ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface at the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo. The Committee also emphasized that the AIPA Parliamentarians are committed to provide its support and take on greater roles in facilitating inclusive dialogue for a peaceful solution in Myanmar.

108. Following an extensive discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to explore the possibility of establishing a suitable mechanism, which would help to monitor the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, as well as engage with AIPA Observer Parliaments in gathering multilateral humanitarian assistance for the people of Myanmar.

Committee on Economic Matters

109. The Committee on Economic Matters was chaired by Hon. Mr. Charles Honoris, Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee of the Republic of Indonesia. The Committee considered and approved five (5) resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

Resolution on Accelerating Green Transition for Sustainable and Resilient Economic Growth

110. The committee meeting deliberated on the impact of climate change noting that it is an environmental as well as economic issue that adversely affects livelihoods and productivity particularly in the agriculture and tourism sector. Emphasizing on the importance to accelerate green transition particularly on renewable energy, green infrastructure and transportation and low-carbon initiatives that may create economic opportunities and foster economic growth.
111. Thus, the meeting called upon ASEAN Member States as well as AIPA Member Parliaments, in accordance with their function, to adopt, and furthermore, implement necessary and relevant climate programs, laws and other green transition measures to ensure sustainable and resilient economic growth and tackle the challenges of climate change.
112. Furthermore, the meeting also urged AIPA Member Parliaments to effectively exercise their legislative, monitoring and oversight as well as parliamentary diplomacy function, intensify close and meaningful cooperation through bilateral meetings, capacity building, exchange of best practices and experiences, and mutual support in parliamentary forums, including adopting and implementing resolutions on green transition in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and to achieve net-zero emission targets by 2050.

Resolution on Parliamentary Roles in Advancing Regional Economic Connectivity and Eradicating Corruption

113. Reaffirming commitment of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 which envisions a deeply integrated and highly cohesive ASEAN economy, the

committee on Economic Matters discussed and recognized the importance of ASEAN Parliamentarians contributions in regulating robust policies on financial resilience and to enhance regional financial and trade connectivity in the region by improving intra-ASEAN trade and investment as well as promoting financial inclusion including through digital financial services and regional payment connectivity.

114. Furthermore, also acknowledging of new international economic criminal elements such as cybercrime, money laundering, corruption, illicit drug-trafficking, human trafficking and intellectual property crime, the committee highlighted the need to develop national and regional capacities to prevent and effectively address corruption through reinforcing good-governance practices, anti-corruption efforts by whole-of-government and society approach and also facilitate exchange of best practices on parliamentary roles in corruption eradication across ASEAN Member States.
115. Hence, the committee encouraged cooperation among ASEAN Member States and AIPA Member Parliaments to promote and advance financial practices and trade connectivity by improving infrastructure, accelerating digital payment adoption, strengthening cybersecurity and to build a stronger collaboration to promote good governance at regional level in eradicating corruption.

Resolution on Encouraging the Application of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Sectors

116. Acknowledging the action plan to promote and implement the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ASEAN RAI), the committee deliberated on the crucial role of the AIPA Parliamentarians in the integration of ASEAN RAI into legal, policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks of the member states at the national level. The discussion also underlined the vital role that the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors can play in propelling economic growth.
117. The committee considered the handbook on “Promoting the Adoption of ASEAN Guidelines on Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry: A Practical Handbook for ASEAN Parliamentarians” that was launched during the 14th AIPA Caucus this year as guidance for AIPA Parliamentarians. The meeting called upon AIPA Member Parliaments to assess the consistency of policies, laws and institutions with the ASEAN RAI and consider the suggestions provided in the Handbook as well as provide sufficient budgetary allocations for the implementation of responsible investment in food, agriculture and forestry.

118. Furthermore, the Meeting on Economic Matters also recommends AIPA Member Parliaments to engage civil society organizations and collaborate with other development partners in monitoring the implementation of the guidelines related to ASEAN RAI.

Resolution on Promoting Innovation, Transfer, Application, and Development of Science and Technology for Sustainable Growth and Development

119. The highlight of the discussion of this resolution emphasized on the significance of the development of innovation, science, and technology have emerged as the primary catalyst for sustainable growth. The Committee acknowledged that involvement, participation, and cooperation from the AIPA Member Parliaments could: (i) heighten productivity, enhance the quality of products and services, and greater economic competitiveness; (ii) promote research connecting and accelerate innovation and; (iii) the enhancement of the legal framework pertaining to activities involving innovation, technology transfer, and applications.
120. The discussion during the meeting also underlines that this holistic approach to foster innovation technological advancement not only holds the potential to stimulate economic progress but also to enhance social and environmental well-being throughout the region. By fostering an environment of collective cooperation and knowledge sharing, AIPA Parliamentarians can collectively contribute to the advancement of sustainable development goals.

Resolution on Driving Energy Transition and Developing Green Economy in ASEAN

121. The resolution is crafted in support of the commitment of ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II: 2021-2025 and acknowledging the two important energy reports namely the 7th ASEAN Energy Outlook, and the 2nd Edition of Renewable Energy Outlook for ASEAN: Towards Regional Energy Transition, the committee encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments to implement economic policies and enact relevant laws to create investment attractiveness as a catalyst for renewable energy investments.
122. The meeting acknowledged the significance of promoting energy transition and developing a green economy in the region. The AIPA Member Parliaments agreed to support each other in latest technology adoption as well as knowledge sharing and experience to boost the Renewable Energy industry growth in the region. Thus, the meeting of the Economic Committee recommends AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with external counterparts that have advanced their energy transition in form of technology transfer, investment and capacity building.

123. Furthermore, the committee also recommends AIPA Member Parliaments to establish a Roadmap on Renewable Energy to support the importance of regional cooperation, investment attractiveness, policy support, research and development, innovation and interconnection towards achieving common renewable energy goals in ASEAN.

Committee on Social Matters

124. The Committee on Social Matters was presided over by Hon. Mr. Sukamta, Ph. D, Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. The Committee considered and approved three (3) resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

Resolution on the Adoption of Report of the 6th Meeting of AIPACODD and Supporting Inclusive Economic Growth for Drug-Free ASEAN (6th AIPACODD Resolution)

125. The Committee of Social Matters considered and adopted the Report of the meeting of the 6th AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) and the Resolution on “Supporting Inclusive Economic Growth for Drug-Free ASEAN”.

126. The 6th AIPACODD Meeting was hosted by the House of Representatives of Indonesia from 29 May to 1 June 2023 in Bogor, Indonesia

Resolution on Mobilizing Parliamentary Actions on Promoting Green Jobs and Skills to Support Green Economic Transition

127. The Committee of Social Matters addressed that in the Asia Pacific region, including Southeast Asia, is currently experiencing an increasing growth of green jobs opportunities as a result of continuous gradual development toward a low-carbon economy. The Committee highlighted that 68% of ASEAN population falls within the working-age group, presenting a potential workforce to fulfill the demand for green economy.

128. Well aware of the increasing and significant potential, the Committee of Social Matters deliberated on the crucial necessity of facilitating an appropriate transition to green economy through enactment of legislation and national green economic policy by integrating considerations of gender balance and equal employment opportunity policies. Within the context of promoting green skills jobs, the Committee of Social Matters encouraged greater parliamentary and AIPA roles in supporting the business and private sector.

129. The Committee of Social Matters further emphasized the importance of protecting One Health (Human, Animal, and Environmental Health) by minimizing natural resource consumption and carbon emission. Additionally, it was stressed on the need to strengthen and leverage the existing platforms for enabling discussion among policymakers and setting measurement indicators, from national to regional, to support green growth in ASEAN.

Resolution on Addressing the Employment Challenges Faced by Displaced and Underemployed Youth for Secure and Prosperous ASEAN

130. The Committee of Social Matters concurred that youth play a vital role in addressing employment challenges and driving economic transformation. However, in ASEAN, various challenges have hindered youth employment, including conflicts, natural disasters, population growth, and economic downturns, leading to a rise in underemployment and an uncertain future for the young workforce. which further impacts migrant workforce, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

131. Acknowledging the challenges, the Committee of Social Matters emphasized the need to promote investment in sectors that generate employment opportunities for displaced and underemployed young individuals. Additionally, cooperation between ASEAN Member States and the AIPA Member Parliaments is encouraged in order to support access to financing needed for people to start businesses, including MSMEs, and affirm regional cooperation to conduct best practices in tackling challenges faced by displaced and underemployed youth.

132. Moreover, the protection of the young workforce garnered significant attention during the discussions, underscoring the pivotal role of parliamentarians in strengthening legislation and policies pertaining to workforce rights. A suggestion to establish a Special Task Force within AIPA was mentioned to formulate a comprehensive strategy aimed at addressing youth employment issues.

Committee on Organizational Matters

133. The Committee on Organizational Matters was presided over by Hon. Mr. Putu Supadma Rudana, Vice Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. The Committee discussed and approved eleven (11) resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

Resolution on Audited Financial Report 2022-2023

134. The financial year of AIPA starts every 1st of August and ends every 31st of July. As the 44th AIPA General Assembly took place earlier than usual, the submitted

audit report is an interim with actual expenditure of August 2022-June 2023 and projected expenditure of July 2023. The final audited financial report will be ready for circulation to AIPA Member Parliaments by the 1st week of September.

Resolution on Budget Proposal for the AIPA Secretariat for Period of 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 and the Increment in the Annual Contribution of AIPA Member Parliaments

135. The Organizational Committee Meeting extensively discussed the budget proposal of the AIPA Secretariat for period of 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024, and the proposal to increase the annual contribution of the AIPA Member Parliaments. The Committee acknowledged the fact that the annual contribution had never been increased since it was first applied in 1993, except when the contribution to the Special Fund was implemented in 2017. Furthermore, the Committee also recognized the need to retain the experienced staff, as the Secretary General changed every three years and the locally recruited staff became the backbone of the Secretariat.
136. Upon extensive deliberation, the Meeting of Organizational Committee approved the budget proposal of the AIPA Secretariat for the period of 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024, and the increment of USD 10,000 in the annual contribution of AIPA Member Parliaments. Considering the current situation of Myanmar, the Committee tasked the AIPA Secretariat to communicate the decision on the incremental annual contribution with Myanmar.

Resolution on the Implementation of Mandatory Annual Contribution of AIPA Observer Parliaments

137. The Organizational Committee acknowledged that the growing numbers of Observer Parliaments demonstrates the increased recognition of the international community to AIPA. To ensure that both AIPA Member Parliaments and Observer Parliaments effectively reap the benefits from the relationship, and the service provided to both is satisfactory, the Organizational Committee unanimously agreed to apply annual contributions to Observer Parliaments in the amount of USD 7,500 per observer member. The detailed mechanism including the privileges extended to the Observer Parliaments from the contributions paid will be discussed further by a Task Force/Working Group.

Resolution on the Adoption of the AIPA Strategic Plan 2023-2030

138. The Committee acknowledged the importance of having a strategic plan as a guidance and tool which provides the management for AIPA Member Parliaments and AIPA Secretariat to align AIPA's functional activities to achieve its vision,

mission, and organizational objectives. Thus, the Committee agreed to adopt the final version of the AIPA Strategic Plan 2023-2030.

Resolution on Accrediting the National Assembly of the People's Power of the Republic of Cuba as an Observer of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

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

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

139. The Committee welcomed the applications from the National Assembly of the People's Power of the Republic of Cuba, the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Türkiye, and the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. The Committee approved the three Parliaments to be granted the Observer status of AIPA.

Resolution on the Amendments to the Rules of Procedures of the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA

140. In its support to the transformation of the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA into a Standing Committee, the Organizational Committee unanimously approved the Amendments to the Rules of Procedures of the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA.

Resolution on Amendment to the Guidelines of AIPA Engagement with Guests and Observers

141. The Committee agreed to forward the discussion of the proposed amendment to the Guidelines of the AIPA Engagement with Guests and Observers to the Task Force/Working Group created by the Executive Committee.

Resolution on Implementation of Cooperation Between ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network (NAM PN) by Signing Memorandum of Understanding

142. The Committee agreed to further discuss the MoU between AIPA and NAM-PN in the Task Force/Working Group created by the Executive Committee.

Resolution on AIPA Distinguished Service Award to Hon. Dr. Teo Ho Pin of Singapore

143. The Committee unanimously agreed to confer the AIPA Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Teo Ho Pin of Singapore in recognition of his meritorious services to AIPA.

Resolution on Appreciating the Service of H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani as President of AIPA

144. The Committee unanimously approved the Resolution. In this opportunity, the Committee expressed its deepest appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of H.E. Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani for the organization and her continued participation and contribution in the development and growth of AIPA.

Resolution on Date and Venue of the 45th AIPA General Assembly

145. The Head of Delegation of Lao PDR informed the meeting that the National Assembly of Lao PDR will host the 45th AIPA General Assembly from 18 to 24 October 2024. The meeting welcomed the announcement by Lao PDR.

146. The Organizational Committee commended the AIPA Secretariat for the impressive video presentation of AIPA Secretariat's Annual Report 2022-2023. Printed version of the Annual Report was also presented to the Committee Meeting. The AIPA Secretariat's Annual Report covers activities of the AIPA Secretariat between 1st of August 2022 and 31st of July 2023.

147. Referring to the outcome of the Executive Committee Meeting, the Committee expressed its support for the creation of a Task Force/Working Group to further discuss the establishment of the AIPA Digital Law Library, and the enhancement of Guidelines of AIPA's Engagement with Externals. Furthermore, the Committee endorsed the creation of an Ad-Hoc to compose a new AIPA anthem.

Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA)

148. The Meeting of the Young Parliamentarians of AIPA (YPA) was chaired by Hon. Ms. Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri, Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. The Meeting discussed and approved 2 resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

Resolution on Advancing Youth Engagement for Inclusive Development, Economic Transformation, and Democratic Participation

149. The Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA Recalled the commitment during the 2022 ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Year of ASEAN Youth to Strengthen the Role of Youth in ASEAN Community-Building adopted at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits, to strengthen the capacity and role of ASEAN youth for addressing

contemporary and contingent challenges. The Meeting acknowledged the urgent need to improve the representation of young parliamentarians in the region.

150. Following the discussion, the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians encouraged AIPA Member Parliaments, in collaboration with political parties, to empower young leaders and aspiring youth candidates through mentorship and capacity-building programs, leadership development, and targeted support during election processes. The Young Parliamentarians of AIPA also urged the AIPA Member Parliaments to support the development and implementation of educational programs on democratic values and human rights under the respective national constitutions and international conventions, through integration of democratic citizenship education into formal curricula.

151. As agents of positive transformation, and acknowledging the imperative need for the youth empowerment within the people-oriented ASEAN Community, and the growing importance of youth entrepreneurship in the digital economy, the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians urged AIPA Member Parliaments to allocate sufficient resources to support the implementation of youth empowerment programs and initiatives in the digital economy, collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including financial institutions, establish dedicated funds and financing mechanisms.

152. The Meeting agreed to endorse the Resolution and recommend the establishment of cross-border forums and collaborations among ASEAN Member States to facilitate knowledge exchange, market access, and trade opportunities for young digital entrepreneurs.

Resolution on Advancing the Role of Young Parliamentarians in Governance

153. The Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA acknowledged the crucial position and role of young parliamentarians in addressing contemporary challenges, strengthening democratic governance, and managing to thrive in a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world. The Meeting noted that the age group of under 45 is more than half of the ASEAN population, but is represented by only a small fraction of regional parliamentarians.

154. In this regard, the Meeting recommended AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage an increased representation of young parliamentarians in all Parliamentary Committees within the next 10 years, to ensure that youth perspectives are integrated into key policy discussions and decisions. The Meeting also Encouraged the AIPA Member Parliaments to consider providing opportunities for young parliamentarians to hold key roles, to allow for a more significant presence of youth as decision-makers.

155. The Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA further encouraged the establishment of Youth Caucuses or Committees within each AIPA Member Parliament, comprising young parliamentarians from diverse political backgrounds, to amplify youth voices and foster active participation in legislative and decision-making processes at both regional and national levels to intensify youth leadership development that echoes the spirit of youth as future leaders, change-makers and influencers of the region.

AIPA-ASEAN Hearing

156. The 2nd AIPA-ASEAN Hearing took place at the 44th AIPA General Assembly on Monday, 7 August 2023 under the topic “*Affirming ASEAN – AIPA Collaboration for Secure and Peaceful Southeast Asia*”.

Committee on Panel Dialogue with AIPA Observer Parliaments

157. Panel Dialogue with Observer Parliaments took place at the 44th AIPA General Assembly on 8 and 9 August 2023. The Committee discussed the topic on “*Parliamentary Cooperation: Shared Commitments for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity*”.

XII. 45TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AIPA

158. The General Assembly accepted the kind offer of the National Assembly of Lao PDR to host the 45th General Assembly of AIPA in October 2024.

XIII. APPRECIATION TO HOST COUNTRY

159. The Delegations attending the General Assembly expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia for their excellent arrangements made for the 44th General Assembly of AIPA.

160. The 44th General Assembly of AIPA was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of friendship, brotherhood and cooperation, for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient ASEAN.