



## ASEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON GENDER EQUALITY LEGISLATION

13 – 15 FEBRUARY 2008, BANGKOK, THAILAND

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### JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT GENDER EQUALITY LEGISLATION IN THE ASEAN REGION

We, the participants of the ASEAN Regional Workshop on Gender Equality Legislation which was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13-15 February 2008, from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam;

1. **Reaffirm** our commitment to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the 1988 Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region; the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DeVAW); the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the 2004 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN Region; the 2005 Work Plan to Operationalize the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in ASEAN, the 2006 Joint Statement and Commitment to Implement Gender Mainstreaming within the Context of CEDAW, BPFA and MDGs and the 2008 Joint Statement of the ASEAN High level Meeting on Good Practices in CEDAW Reporting and Follow Up.
2. **Recognize** the importance of cooperation among ASEAN Member States in the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women as a means to ensure the enhancement of roles and contribution of ASEAN women for the attainment of ASEAN Vision 2020.
3. **Acknowledge** that while some ASEAN women enjoy significantly improved status and advancement in many notable areas, challenges still remain for a large number of women who still suffer multiple forms of gender-based discrimination in the realms of economic, socio cultural and political life.
4. **Recognize** the importance of having effective gender equality laws, whether multi-area or targeted, towards the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment both at the national and regional levels.
5. **Recognise** the importance of having equal partnership between men and women in the attainment of gender equality in the ASEAN region.
6. **Recommend** the following actions which are imperative to achieve gender equality through effective gender equality laws in ASEAN Member States:
  - a. Review and harmonize all domestic legislation, where applicable, with the norms and standards set out in the CEDAW taking into consideration the

domestic context, including integrating the fundamental concept of non-discrimination of women in national law;

- b. Develop gender equality laws, where necessary, that are in line with the norms and standards set out in the CEDAW and that address all critical areas of women's lives where discrimination against women persists;
  - c. Strengthen the implementation and monitoring mechanism of gender equality laws.
7. **Agree** to enhance collaboration, through exchange of information and sharing of best practices, among ASEAN Member States on the process of the ongoing law reform and harmonization of domestic laws with CEDAW norms and standards.
8. **Agree** to promote cooperation among ASEAN Member States in the collection of sex-disaggregated data and research and analysis on the causes, effects and prevention of any gender-based discrimination with respect to the implementation and monitoring of the gender equality laws.

We express our appreciation to UNIFEM, particularly to the UNIFEM East and South East Asia Regional Office, for having facilitated this regional workshop under the ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework of Cooperation. We call upon UNIFEM to continue their support to ASEAN Member States for the effective implementation of CEDAW towards achieving gender equality in the ASEAN region. We also express our appreciation to the Government and people of Thailand for the warm welcome, hospitality and excellent arrangement made for the regional workshop.

ADOPTED in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 February 2008.

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