



## Vientiane Declaration

### ASEAN Mayors Forum 2024

**WE**, the Governors, Mayors, and representatives of local and regional governments of the Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), convened the ASEAN Mayors Forum 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 18th and 19th September 2024, with the theme “Enhancing Connectivity & Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities”. Our meeting aligns with “ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience” as Lao PDR ASEAN Chairmanship Theme 2024.

**REAFFIRMING** our commitments from previous AMF declarations, namely the Surabaya Communiqué (2011), Makassar Declaration (2015), Taguig Action Agenda (2017), AMF Declaration (2019), Joint Declaration of ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Mayors (2019), Phnom Penh Declaration (2022), and Jakarta Declaration (2023);

**EMPHASISING** the crucial contributions of ASEAN cities and local governments in advancing ASEAN’s integration frameworks, including the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, while aligning with global agendas;

**SUPPORTING** the development of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 (ACV) and the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP) as continuations of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. This includes leveraging the critical role of local governments in fostering a people-centred ASEAN that achieves sustainability in all its dimensions;

**PROMOTING** the meaningful participation and contribution of all stakeholders, including local communities, in the development of the ASEAN Community, and encouraging coordination and collaboration between the ASEAN Mayors Forum and ASEAN Smart Cities Network to align our initiatives and maximise our collective efforts to realise a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN by 2045;

**RECOGNISING** the urgent need for connectivity and resilience of cities and local governments across ASEAN Member States, we hereby declare our commitments to:

1. Strengthen connectivity across ASEAN cities and local governments in support of the ASEAN Community by embracing technology, implementing smart solutions, reducing the digital divide, and promoting green tourism such as the Urban Mekong Corridor.

2. Embrace climate and disaster resilience by implementing integrated urban and territorial planning, promoting climate-sensitive urban development, incorporating gender-sensitive approaches, advancing renewable energy solutions, utilising nature-based strategies, expanding green spaces and greening initiatives, developing multi-hazard early warning system, and engaging international organisations.
3. Address cross-border challenges by actively participating in ASEAN meetings and processes, sharing knowledge and best practices, fostering participatory governance, and ensuring vertical integration between national and local governments to achieve cohesive strategies and coordinated efforts for more effective solutions.
4. Foster local economic growth by advocating for sustainable business practices, creating green jobs, enhancing urban-rural integration, addressing urban-rural migration and human resource development including skills development for migrants, promoting agricultural development, harmonising quality standards for ASEAN products across Member States to attract investment, improving connectivity, building resilient and inclusive communities, creating conducive business environment, and ensuring sustainable development across the region.
5. Harmonise local policies with regional aspirations by enhancing cooperation among ASEAN cities and local governments.
6. Support the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 by advancing the existing and future ASEAN's initiatives on smart and sustainable urban development, thereby fostering an integrated, interconnected, and resilient ASEAN Community.

**ENCOURAGING** ASEAN Member States to foster and enhance an enabling environment for the implementation of these commitments. This includes strengthening multi-level governance to expedite the achievement of sustainable development, and climate and disaster resilience, ensuring local governments have access to financing mechanisms, and considering the prospect of the ASEAN Member States will reach consensus in the future and then with the approval from the ASEAN Member States, a local government unit/division within the ASEAN Secretariat be established to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation.

**LOOKING FORWARD** to the ASEAN Mayors Forum to be held in Malaysia under the ASEAN Chairmanship of Malaysia 2025.

**ADOPTED** this Nineteenth Day of September, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.