



**4<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN YOUTH STATEMENT 2025  
“YOUTH FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: EMPOWERING INCLUSION AND  
DRIVING CHANGE IN ASEAN”**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN YOUTH DIALOGUE 2025  
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

We, the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Youth Dialogue 2025 delegates assembled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025, call upon the ASEAN Leaders to have a **firm awareness of, and commitment to tackling the challenges raised, and consider accepting the policy recommendations below for equitable, inclusive and sustainable youth participation and leadership in fostering socioeconomic development in ASEAN.**

We, the representatives of ASEAN Youth :

**1. Call** upon ASEAN Member States to renew their commitment to **empowering youth** to take decisive actions to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Pact for the Future, the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025.

**2. Strongly encourage** ASEAN Member States to **enhance the health and well-being** of young people through targeted policies, initiatives, and programs that raise awareness about critical health issues such as sexual and reproductive health, mental health, substance abuse, nutrition, and hygiene. Furthermore, ASEAN Member States should persist in advancing preventive healthcare initiatives and ensure that young people have affordable and dependable access to healthcare including but not limited to mental health support services.

**3. Urge** ASEAN Member States to **intensify collaboration** with relevant stakeholders and organisations to address systemic barriers and expand inclusive social assistance and protection programs. These efforts should emphasise gender mainstreaming, persons with disabilities, marginalised and vulnerable groups, and improve their access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and protection from violence and discrimination.

**4. Encourage** ASEAN Member States to implement accessible **educational and advanced skills training** programs tailored to the diverse needs of youth, focusing on **digital literacy including artificial intelligence, and other elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution.** Developing these competencies will support ethical use of technology, workforce development, foster inclusion, diversity, and equity, and enable adaptation to technology advancements while creating employment opportunities. Additionally, awareness programmes should be intensified to encourage safe and healthy social media use among ASEAN youth

in combating cybercrimes including but not limited to misinformation, disinformation, cyberbullying, and online scams.

**5. Recommend** ASEAN Member States to organise collaborative education and training programmes covering the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Emphasis should be placed on coordinated efforts among governments, private sectors, academia, organisations, and civil societies to **sustain existing and develop appropriate joint initiatives**. These platforms should facilitate knowledge exchange, technical skill enhancement, and sharing of best practices to **strengthen youth capabilities and global competitiveness**.

**6. Recommend** investing in **inclusive infrastructure** taking into account planetary health approaches to address the urban-rural disparity, and recognise the importance of meaningfully involving youth in sustainable development of rural and urban landscapes.

**7. Encourage** ASEAN Member States to develop policy and institutional frameworks including mechanisms that **foster innovation and entrepreneurship** while establishing innovation support centres that will boost a healthy start-up ecosystem. This will catalyse an inclusive ecosystem to foster an innovation-led economy, offering an enabling environment for young entrepreneurs to promote idea exchange, mentorship, networking, access to funding and market, and knowledge sharing.

**8. Urge** ASEAN Member States to continue promoting intercultural exchanges among youth to **embrace cultural diversity**, enhance mutual understanding, and foster actions while preserving ASEAN's unique and rich cultural heritage including traditional knowledge.

**9. Urge** ASEAN Member States to accelerate climate action, address biodiversity loss, disaster management, adaptation and mitigation measures to address the growing impact of environmental challenges. Emphasis should be placed on corporate responsibility, youth empowerment and strengthening community resilience through preparedness, sustainable infrastructure, local wisdom and adaptive practices to reduce disaster impacts while **living in harmony with nature**.

**We appreciate** ASEAN Leaders commitment in empowering youth as one of the key actors of our joint sustainable future. Together, through intergenerational collaboration and innovation, we will create an inclusive ecosystem that nurtures and amplifies youth voices. We hope these nine policy recommendations will unleash the immense potential of ASEAN's youth, empowering them to lead with courage and creativity towards an **inclusive and sustainable future** for ASEAN.

[Thank you very much]