



**42ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Brunei Darussalam, 23-25 August 2021**

*Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion
Towards ASEAN Community 2025*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
LOCALISING THE SDG FOR EFFECTIVE NATIONAL
IMPLEMENTATION**

On 25 September 2015, 193 United Nations Member States (UN) adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda). The Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. Seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 targets will stimulate action to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The progress on the SDG implementation of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) is reported to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in the form of a Voluntary National Review.

A report by UNESCAP noted that the AMS has achieved significant progress on the implementation of the SDG. It, however, stagnated for four goals (Goal 7, 11, 12 and 15)¹ and regressed for three goals (Goal 13, 14 and 16)². Implementation of these seven goals is primarily connected to sub-national and local government. Thus, a need to transit local action in the policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities.

Localising is the process of taking into account sub-national contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress. In the words of the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon of 28 May 2013 – “*all development is ultimately local.*”

Although the national governments carry the primary responsibility for implementing the SDGs, between 65 - 70 per cent of the targets³ requires sub-national and local government participation, of which more than one third are directly related to the role and functions of local government. It simply means that without the involvement of the local government, it is likely

¹ Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, Goal 15: Life on Land.

² Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 14: Life Below Water, Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

up to 70 per cent of the targets may not be achieved. Education, health, transportation, waste management, urban and territorial planning, local economic development, social inclusion and basic services are the primary areas of sub-national and local government spending that link closely with the SDG. Moreover, the sub-national and local governments are government bodies directly involved to contain the spread of COVID-19, getting relief to those in need, and keeping essential services functioning.

Localising the SDG can help address the challenges of extreme poverty, hunger, access to health and education, inequality and quality of local services through a multi-dimensional development approach. **As the people's elected representatives, parliamentarians have a crucial role in driving forward people-centred development that is reflective of and responsive to the needs of their constituents.** For this reason, the enabling environment for policy coherence, cohesion, coordination and collaboration between parliamentarians and all levels of government is necessary for meaningful development.

The AMS population growth will continue to be driven by urban centres, with half of AMS people currently living in urban areas. By 2025, an additional 70 million people are projected to live in urban areas.⁴ Rapid urbanisation has implications on many socio-economic issues. Digital solution is imperative to resolve these issues, as demonstrated during the response and recovery efforts of the impact of COVID-19 crisis, trending the digitalisation of retail and service delivery, and shift to remote work.

While the digital inequality in AMS is wide, the gap in the number of people using the Internet is closing. AMS recognises digitalisation can be utilised to resolve some pertinent socio-economic issues and thus established an ASEAN Smart Cities Network to synergise development efforts across twenty-six (26) cities in AMS. Its goal is primarily to improve the quality of lives using technology as the enabler.

In support of building capacity, the AIPA Member Parliaments can drive transformational change by ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership in politics⁵ and decision-making (Goal 5.5). Gender balance in political participation is an internationally agreed target set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Localising the SDG will accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to be relevant and beneficial to the people of ASEAN.

⁴ <https://asean.org/storage/2018/11/ASEAN-Sustainable-Urbanisation-Strategy-ASUS.pdf>

⁵ https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/130&Lang=E