



MINISTRY OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **11TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (11TH AMMSWD) COMMITTED IN ADDRESSING GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND SOCIAL INCLUSIN ISSUES**

**PUTRAJAYA, 25 May** – Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCD) assumed her role as the chair of the **11<sup>th</sup> AMMSWD** and the **7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (7<sup>th</sup> AMMSWD+3)** on 25 May 2023. She highlighted the need for ASEAN strategic partners to accelerate cohesive efforts in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5) focusing on an integrated gender perspective in countries' development plan, strengthening the family institution and improving social welfare. Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri also reiterated the issue of ageing and older persons as Malaysia is expected to become an ageing nation where 15% of Malaysia's population will comprise of those aged 60 and above as espoused under the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN.

The **11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (11th AMMSWD) and Related Meetings** was successfully convened from **22 to 25 May 2023** with the theme "**Accelerating the Implementation of ASEAN's Commitments for Gender Equality through Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion**" in a hybrid mode. The meetings, chaired by Malaysia, were attended by all ASEAN Member States including Timor-Leste with Observer status as well as ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work (ATCSW) for the very first time. The 11th AMMSWD theme envisages ASEAN as an inclusive community promoting a high quality of life with equitable access to opportunities for all, as well as to protect the rights of women and the community. This is in line with the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Blue Print 2025.

The series of meeting kicked off with the **17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development**, chaired by Datuk Dr. Maziah Che Yusoff, Secretary General, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCD) as the Senior Officials Meeting on

Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) Chair and co-chaired by Datin Paduka Khatijah Suleiman, President of National Council on Welfare and Social Development of Malaysia (NCWSDM). The forum moderated by the Unit for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA), Universiti Sains Malaysia was also attended by ASEAN strategic partners such as UNICEF, UNESCAP, UN WOMEN, USAID PROSPECT and ADF to share their ideas and views. Key recommendations from the workshop included developing regional strategies and enhancing institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming in ASEAN policies, programmes and budgets across pillars and sectors while ensuring inclusive participatory and representatives decision-making at all levels with special attentions to the needs of those in disadvantaged situations, including ethnic minority groups, children, youth, women, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and older persons.

The **18<sup>th</sup> SOMSWD** and the **17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (17<sup>th</sup> SOMSWD+3)** chaired by Datuk Dr. Maziah binti Che Yusoff, extensively deliberated on strategies, projects and new initiatives in achieving the Regional Plan of Action 2021-2025. During the 18<sup>th</sup> SOMSWD, Viet Nam was announced as the incoming SOMSWD Chair. In her speech, Datuk Maziah called for concerted efforts by the ASEAN family members to chart the way in achieving the desired impactful outcomes.

On 24 May 2025, the **2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Outstanding Social Welfare and Development Awards (2<sup>nd</sup> AOSWADA)** was held to celebrate and recognize 16 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) / Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Private Sectors from ASEAN Member States for their outstanding achievements and contributions. The recipients from Malaysia consist of Epic Society (CSO/NGO Category) and Prudential BSN Takaful (Private Company Category).

The four-day meeting translated the theme into a reality through an enhanced synergy between government and NGOs as well as ASEAN and its Plus Three partners and affirmative ASEAN's commitment in addressing gender mainstreaming and social inclusion issues.

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**CORPORATE COMMUNICATION UNIT  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
24 MAY 2023**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

1. The 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (11th AMMSWD) and Related Meetings was held on a hybrid mode from 22nd to 25th May 2023 with the theme “Accelerating the Implementation of ASEAN’s Commitments for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion”.
2. The meeting kicked off on 22nd May 2023 with the 17th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development. The forum was chaired by YBhg. Datuk Dr. Maziah binti Che Yusoff, Secretary General of Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCD) as the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) Chair and co-chaired by YBhg. Datin Paduka Khatijah binti Suleiman, President of National Council on Welfare and Social Development of Malaysia (MAKPEM).
3. Key recommendations, particularly along gender action planning, labour force participation, gender-responsive budgeting, gender and disability inclusion, healthy, active and productive ageing, and rights of children, were solidified at the forum through a workshop moderated by the Unit for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). The workshop encompassed four different topics, namely:
  - a) Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls: Rights-based Approach;
  - b) Gender Mainstreaming through Gender Action Planning and Gender Responsive Budgeting; and
  - c) Gender, Equity and Inclusiveness: Disability and the Aging Society Rights of Children with A Specific Focus on Issues for the Girl-Child
4. Government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were brought together during this forum to collaborate and share experiences on accelerating ASEAN’s collective actions, particularly in advancing gender equality and social inclusion in social welfare and development.
5. This was followed by the 18th SOMSWD Meeting on 23rd May 2023. The meeting was again chaired by YBhg. Datuk Dr. Maziah binti Che Yusoff, Secretary General of MWFCD and SOMSWD Chair. The 18th SOMSWD Meeting covered thirteen (13) agenda items, which among others discussed and deliberated on the i) recommendations of the 17th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development held on 22nd May 2023, ii) implementation of Declarations, Regional Frameworks and Action Plans such as the a) Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN and the b) ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and iii) progress of the SOMSWD Work Plan 2021-2025.

6. The 17th SOMSWD +3 Meeting which was held on the third day, 24th May 2023 was also chaired by YBhg. Datuk Dr. Maziah binti Che Yusoff. The Plus Three Countries consist of China, Japan and Republic of Korea (ROK). The 17th SOMSWD+3 Meeting covered six (6) agenda items, which among others discussed and deliberated on i) the 11th AMMSWD and Related Meeting's theme and ii) status of projects and programmes under the SOMSWD Work Plan 2021-2025 which involves the Plus Three Countries.
7. The meeting also reaffirmed its commitment in exploring opportunities for more strategic collaboration between the two regions in social welfare and development agenda through the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022); the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2021-2025); the Revised Implementation Plan of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship of Cooperation: Shared Vision, Shared Identity, Shared Future; and the ASEAN-Republic Korea Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership (2021-2025).
8. The 2nd ASEAN Outstanding Social Welfare and Development Awards (AOSWADA) Ceremony was held in noon of the same day. The ceremony was attended in person by the AMMSWD Chair, H.E. Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development whilst her counterpart, the ASEAN Director General, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn attended online from Jakarta, Indonesia. This award ceremony is held to acknowledge the outstanding achievements and contributions of the awardees in improving the quality of life of society through social welfare and development in their respective countries.
9. There were 16 non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations (NGOs/CSOs), and private institutions from ASEAN Member States. Their wide ranging winning projects were entrepreneurship, education, medical and healthcare, livelihood agriculture program, construction for the needy, youth and family care. Malaysian awardees for the 2nd AOSWADA was Epic Society and Prudential BSN Takaful.
10. On the final day, 25th May 2023, the 11th AMMSWD and 7th AMMSWD +3 was convened. The 11th AMMSWD was chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri as Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, and AMMSWD Chair. Meanwhile the 7th AMMSWD+3 was co-chaired with H.E. Dr. Takashi Hanyuda, State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan.

11. The 11th AMMSWD Meeting discussed nine (9) agenda items, which among others deliberated and provided policy guidance to the SOMSWD and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).
12. During the meeting also, H.E. Minister intervened by saying that “Malaysia is recognising the need to revisit the Synchronised Rotation of AMMSWD & SOMSWD Chairmanship until 2025, that has been endorsed by the SOMSWD during the 14th SOMSWD Meeting in 2018 and moving forward, to consider the outcome of the review in view of the need to formulate the Terms-of-Reference of SOMSWD and AMMSWD.”
13. Subsequently, the 7th AMMSWD +3 Meeting covered seven (7) agenda items, which includes deliberation and policy guidance to the Senior Officials on key matters highlighted by the 17th SOMSWD+3 Chair and exchange of views on enhancing the cooperation between ASEAN and China, Japan and ROK through the pragmatic implementation of key ASEAN declarations and regional frameworks such as the i) Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection in ASEAN; ii) Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN; iii) ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; iv) ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework; and v) ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.
14. Participants for the four (4) days’ meetings comprised of SOMSWD Focal Points, representatives from relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, China, Japan and ROK, United Nations agencies and other International Organisations, including the organisations awarded with ASEAN Outstanding Social Welfare and Development Awards, Social Work Associations, ASEAN Secretariat and Malaysian delegates.