



**16th General Assembly and Conference
of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organisations (ACWO)
hosted by the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO), Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur, 24 August 2014,**

2014 ACWO ACCORD ON BUILDING THE ASEAN COMMUNITY

Envisioning an ASEAN Community where strong networks of women's organisations with varying cultural, religious, traditional and historical contexts that distinguish the ASEAN region, cooperating together in friendship, sincerity, harmony, mutual respect and trust, contributing meaningfully to gender equality, the advancement of ASEAN societies and the regional integration process;

Realising the essential role of women's organisations in forging equal opportunities for women in all spheres of political, economic and socio-cultural life as we move towards the shared vision of an ASEAN community living in peace, stability, prosperity and harmony;

Reinforcing the constructive framework of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organisations (ACWO) established in November 1981, in promoting a deeper awareness of ASEAN identity through joint programmes and activities that reflect the characteristics of the region;

Affirming the achievements made by national women's organisations of ASEAN through the sharing of knowledge, expertise and experiences at biennial conferences, special workshops and seminars of ACWO in issues that impact on women's advancement and equality such as women's empowerment in political, socio-cultural and economic spheres; trafficking of women and girls; HIV/AIDS; information and communications technology; climate change; the Millennium Development Goals; women in the global economy; ending violence; and eliminating all forms of discrimination;

Acknowledging ACWO's recognition by the ASEAN Committee on Women and its consultative status in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in bringing together women's organisations to work in concerted efforts towards the full integration of women in development in line with international instruments and conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

WE, the participating women's organisations at the 16th General Assembly and Conference of ACWO held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 August 2014, do solemnly declare to use our diverse experiences, expertise, capacity and resources to:

- 1. Reconfirm** the significance of the ACWO framework in promoting a deeper awareness of the ASEAN identity and integration towards the shared vision of a dynamic ASEAN community living in peace, stability, harmony and prosperity;
- 2. Strengthen** the collaboration, coordination, communication, advocacy and exchange of ideas and experiences among ACWO members and with national governments, other NGOs, relevant ASEAN, regional and international entities in forging equal opportunities and outcomes for women in all spheres of political, economic and socio-cultural life in ASEAN leading to development justice for all;
- 3. Endorse and implement** practical plans using a human rights framework, including legislative measures and a participatory approach to achieve gender equality in the post 2015 sustainable development agenda to ensure the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations of ASEAN women, with special focus on vulnerable groups, in the following nine (9) strategic areas:
 - i. Education**
 - Empowering women through quality education, in particular, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at all levels, life-long learning and capacity building.
 - ii. Health**
 - Ensuring better physical and mental health through better nutrition, universal access to quality and affordable primary health care, including reproductive health, and management of communicable and non-communicable diseases.
 - Halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, dengue, tuberculosis and other major communicable diseases.
 - iii. Economy**
 - Promoting entrepreneurship particularly among young and single women, female heads of households, single parents, indigenous women, people with special needs, active and healthy elderly women, and other vulnerable groups to reduce income poverty and hunger.
 - Promoting work-life balance through support services and the creation of enabling work environments for women to advance in their career.
 - Improving social safety nets for women in the informal sector, including domestic workers

iv. Leadership

- Achieving greater gender equality in leadership and women's empowerment and representation in decision-making at all levels.

v. Science and Technology (S & T)

- Promoting S & T, creativity and innovation as key processes for women's advancement.
- Bridging the digital gender divide across all ages and groups, to promote knowledge, exchange, communication, and capacity-building.

vi. Environment

- Living in harmony with nature, protecting, preserving and conserving the environment, providing safe drinking water, combating climate change and promoting resilience, encouraging green technology and green consumerism, as well as integrating gender perspectives in disaster management.

vii. Socio-Cultural

- Celebrating the cultural diversity and heritage of ASEAN.
- Engaging youth in volunteerism to promote the vision of the ASEAN community.
- Strengthening family values and shared responsibilities in relationships.

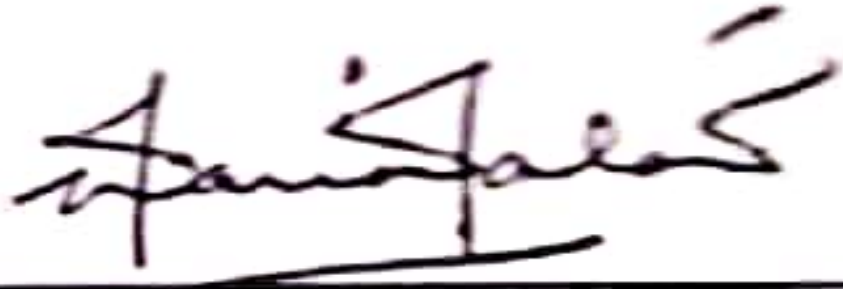
viii. Discrimination and Violence Against Women

- Eliminating the trafficking of women and children, child and early marriage, violence and all forms of discrimination against women.

ix. ACWO Machinery

- Strengthening governance and political will, providing resources such as access to land, credit and technology, and ensuring accountability and evidence-based decision making for gender equality with national and international partners.

For Brunei Darussalam



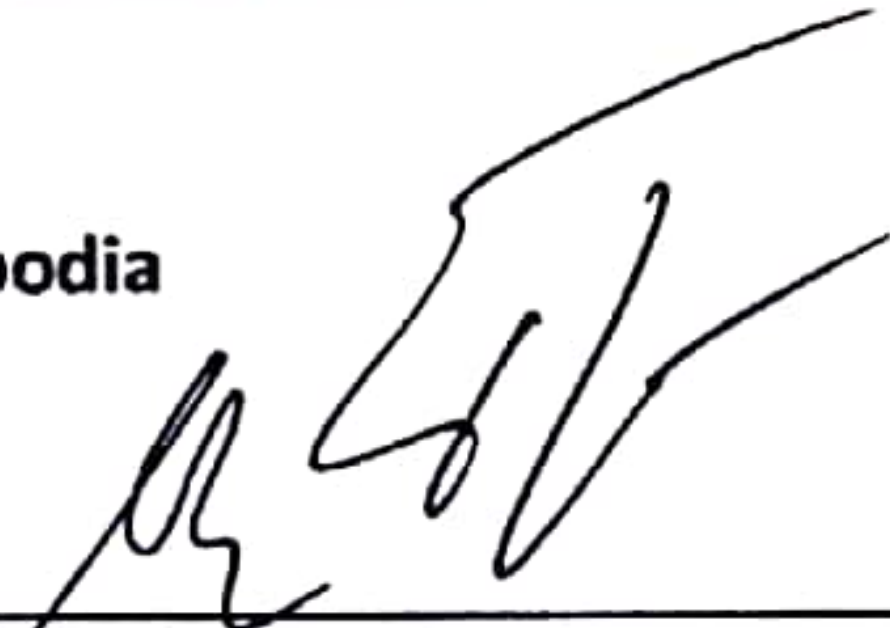
PENGIRAN DATIN PADUKA HJH MARIAM
BINTI PENGIRAN HJ MATARSAT

For Myanmar



MS CHAW SU MYA

For Cambodia



MS KHLOTH TONG PHKA

For Philippines



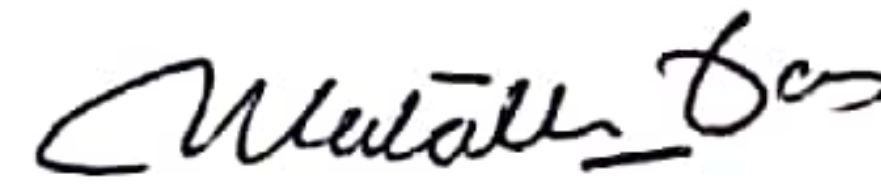
DR ENCARNACION N. RARALIO

For Indonesia



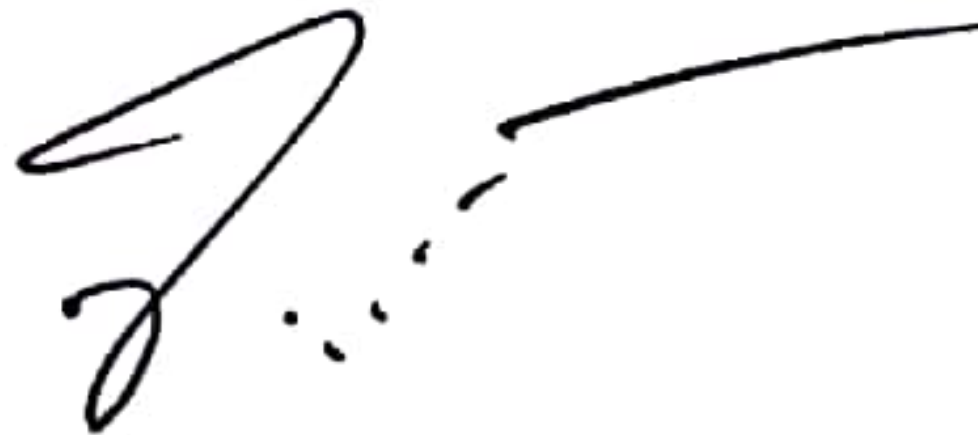
DR DEWI MOTIK PRAMONO

For Singapore



MS MALATHI DAS

For Lao PDR



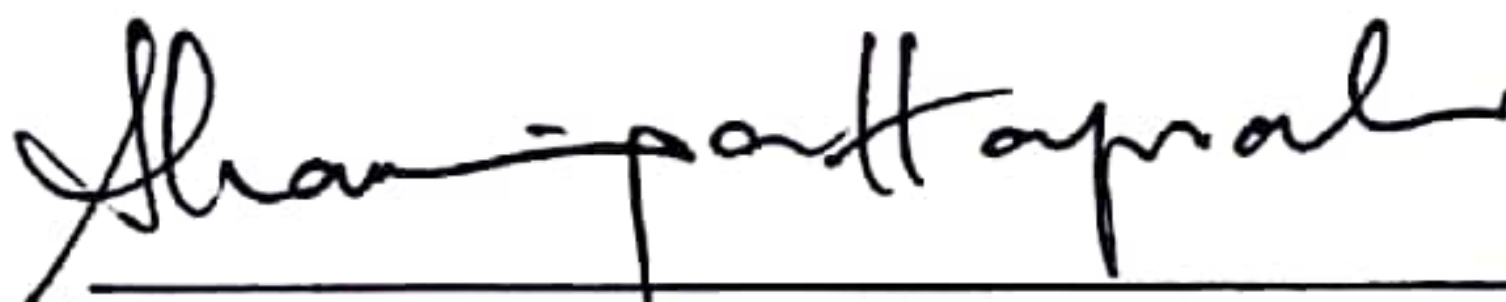
MS BOUACHANH SYHANATH

For Thailand



M.R. BENCHAPA KRAIRIKSH

For Malaysia



TAN SRI DATO' SERI DR. SHARIFAH HAPSAH
SYED HASAN SHAHBUDIN

For Vietnam



HE TRAN THI HUONG

24 AUGUST 2014