



**FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS  
(ASEAN)  
AND  
THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR  
WOMEN (UNIFEM)**

**I. PREAMBLE**

1. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereafter 'ASEAN') and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (hereafter 'UNIFEM'),
2. **Inspired** by the spirit of cooperation among Member Countries, which forms the basis of the foundation and operations of ASEAN as well as UNIFEM;
3. **Recalling** the commitments made by ASEAN members in the 1988 Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN region and the 2004 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN region;
4. **Consistent** with the spirit and intent of the 1997 ASEAN Vision 2020 and the 2003 Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) to develop an ASEAN community of caring societies that foster cooperation in social development including through the active involvement of women, achieve equitable access to opportunities for full development of human potential and adhere to norms of social and distributive justice;
5. **Recognising** the mandate and role of UNIFEM as the United Nations body designated to provide technical and

financial assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality;

6. **Acknowledging** the commonality of aims, goals and concerns, centred on realisation of gender equality between ASEAN and UNIFEM and that gender equality, gender justice and the empowerment of women are central to the process of socio-economic development, and are both determinants and outcomes of development; and

7. **Considering** the established cooperation between the Member Countries of ASEAN and UNIFEM,

8. **ASEAN and UNIFEM hereby agree** to establish an 'ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation' in the ASEAN region to promote and implement the 1988 Declaration on the Advancement of Women and the 2004 Vientiane Action Programme, in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), the Beijing +10 Outcomes document, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

## **II. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

9. The objective of the ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation is to jointly develop and carry out practical measures to implement the above mentioned ASEAN and UN instruments in order to eliminate violence and end discrimination against women in the ASEAN region.

10. The Framework covers but is not limited to, the following broad areas of cooperation:

### **a) Consultation, exchange and dissemination of information**

- Joint analysis and collaboration on substantive issues to develop agreed actions.



- Development of annual work programmes for cooperative activities.
- Reciprocal attendance at relevant ASEAN Committee of Women meetings and UNIFEM meetings.
- Joint organisation of seminars and workshops on themes that will help to promote the implementation of the 2004 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN region and the related 2004 Vientiane Action Programme.
- Systematic exchange of relevant publications and other materials.
- Maintain regular communication between ASEAN and UNIFEM through designated contact points.

#### **b) Technical Assistance**

- Technical assistance on the workplan to implement the 2004 ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN region and the related 2004 Vientiane Action Programme.
- Technical assistance on specific activities under the workplan to implement the 2004 ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN region and the related 2004 Vientiane Action Programme.
- Building capacity to deepen gender mainstreaming in ASEAN member countries positing links between CEDAW, BPFA and the MDGs.
- Promotion of women's political participation.

#### **c) Research, Advocacy and Awareness-Raising**

Promote, raise awareness and facilitate action to address issues referred to in the 2004 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN region and the related 2004 Vientiane Action Programme through:

- conduct and publication of research;

- production of information, education and communication materials;
- forums to share experiences and good practices;
- documentation of experiences and good practices to facilitate learning; and
- development of an ASEAN Gender Database to track progress and identify areas for action.

### **III. TERMS OF COOPERATION**

11. The ASEAN focal point for coordination of activities under the ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation will be the ASEAN Secretariat, Human Development Unit. The UNIFEM focal point for coordination of activities under the ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation will be the Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM East and South-East Asian Regional Office.

12. The ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation shall be operative for a period of three (3) years, to be renewed automatically for another three (3) years unless one party indicates in writing to the other party its intent to terminate it six (6) months prior to the date of expiration.

13. The ASEAN-UNIFEM Framework for Cooperation will enter into force upon signature by the Secretary-General of ASEAN and Regional Programme Director of East and South East Asia Regional Office of UNIFEM, on this eight day of the month of June in the year Two Thousand and Six.



For ASEAN:



**ONG KENG YONG**  
Secretary-General



For UNIFEM:



**JEAN D' CUNHA**  
Regional Programme Director  
East and Southeast Asia  
Regional Office

**United Nations**  
**Development Fund for Women**

