

**ASEAN Commission on the
Promotion and Protection of the
Rights of Women and Children
Work Plan 2012–2016
and
Terms of Reference**



one vision
one identity
one community

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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The ACWC Work Plan (2012-2016)

No	Thematic Areas	Lead Country	Supporting Country	Indicative Timeline	Related ASEAN/ UN Bodies and Remarks
Strengthening institutional capacity of ACWC					
1.	Fund Raising Activity	Singapore	9 AMS		
Promotion of consultation and dialogue with stakeholders at national and regional levels					
2.	Formation of an ACWC Network of Social Service Agencies (NOSSA)	Singapore	9 AMS	2012-2014	
Elimination of violence against women and children					
Study/Research on VAC and VAW:					
3.	a. VAC: Review legislations, national plans/programmes, and other national mechanisms relating to the prevention, protection, prosecution, rehabilitation, recovery, reintegration of VAC b. VAW: Review emerging legislations and legal	Myanmar	9 AMS	Present -Dec 2013 2013-2014	SOMSWD, UNICEF, ILO, Plan International, Save the Children

No	Thematic Areas	Lead Country	Supporting Country	Indicative Timeline	Related ASEAN/ UN Bodies and Remarks
	(SOMRI). Message on anti VAW to be broadcasted in AMS at the same time				
6.	<u>Women's rights (can be expanded to children's rights):</u> Continue the public campaign annually on the ASEAN Day (8 August). Message is thematic each year, e.g. ageing women, women with disabilities, etc.	Thailand	9 AMS	2013 onwards	SOMRI
7.	<u>Children's rights:</u> Development of guidelines for non-violent approach to child rearing and child caring in various settings (e.g. family, community, school, institution, work place) in ASEAN	Thailand	Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Viet Nam	Dec 2013	Save the Children (Sweden), Plan International, UNICEF, Dialogue Partners
The right of children to participate in all affairs that affect them					
8.	Create an enabling environment for children to participate in decision making process (NB: ACWC Reps to attend the ACF and invite children to the ACWC Meeting)	Philippines	Cambodia Indonesia Malaysia Myanmar Singapore Thailand Viet Nam	June 2012-continuum	SOMSWD, UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children

No	Thematic Areas	Lead Country	Supporting Country	Indicative Timeline	Related ASEAN/ UN Bodies and Remarks
Women participation in politics and decision making; governance and democracy¹					
Promotion and protection of the rights of women and children with disabilities					
11.	Children's rights: Setting performance standards on service delivery for children with disabilities	Brunei Darussalam	Indonesia, Lao DPR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand	2013-2014	UN-ESCAP, SOMSWD, SOMHD, UNICEF, DPs, CSOs
Child Protection System: Comprehensive / Integrative Approach for Children in Need for Special Protection (e.g. Victims of Abuse and Neglect, Trafficking, Child Labour, Children affected by statelessness, undocumented migrant children, HIV/AIDS, Natural Disaster, Conflicts, and Children in Juvenile Justice System/Children in conflict with the law (CICL))					
12.	Children's rights: Setting performance standards on integrative child protection system	Indonesia	9 AMS	2012-2013	SOMSWD, UNESCAP, UNICEF, CSO, Save the Children (UK)
The right to early childhood and quality education					
13.	Children's rights: Develop standards for quality ECCDE and child development index	Malaysia	9 AMS	2012-2013	UNESCO, UNICEF, SOMSWD, SOMHD, SEAMEO, SOMED

¹ The women's group considered activities to promote temporary special measures to promote women's participation in decision making level in public and private sectors, which are pending identification of concrete, doable and impactful actions. This thematic area can be revisited by the ACWC in due course.

No	Thematic Areas	Lead Country	Supporting Country	Indicative Timeline	Related ASEAN/ UN Bodies and Remarks
	meeting with the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED) to share the guidelines				
Women and children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS ²					
Social impact of climate change on women and children					
18.	Conduct a regional conference on the social impact of climate change on women and children in ASEAN with policy makers, programme developers, and service providers	Philippines, Cambodia	Children's group: Lao PDR, Indonesia, Myanmar, Viet Nam, AMS to participate	2012-2013	UN Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance, ASOEN, ACDM ACW (also initiated in ACW Work Plan 2011-2015)
Strengthening economic rights of women with regards to feminization of poverty, women's rights to land and property					
19.	Women's rights. Study and compilation of best practices on: a. Economic empowerment of women through social enterprise and ICT; and	Malaysia	Indonesia, Viet Nam, Lao PDR	2013-2014	

² In considering activities to implement this thematic area, the women's group considered that the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health and Development (SOMHD) has initiated many projects concerning women and children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and therefore, agreed to avoid duplication of efforts. The children's group considered that the rights and needs of children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are captured in Activity no. 12.

No	Thematic Areas	Lead Country	Supporting Country	Indicative Timeline	Related ASEAN/ UN Bodies and Remarks
	Gender Mainstreaming ⁶				
23.	Women's rights: Development of ASEAN guidelines on gender mainstreaming programme and project planning and implementation	Malaysia	9 AMS	2013	

⁶ See footnote no. 3.

of the rights of women and children as an important measure to ensure equitable development for women and children.

2. Purposes

- 2.1 To promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children in ASEAN, taking into consideration the different historical, political, socio-cultural, religious and economic context in the region and the balances between rights and responsibilities.
- 2.2 To uphold, promote, protect, respect and fulfill the rights of women and children in ASEAN to live in peace, equality, justice, dignity and prosperity.
- 2.3 To promote the well-being, development, empowerment and participation of women and children in the ASEAN Community building process which contribute to the realization of the purposes of ASEAN as set out in the ASEAN Charter.
- 2.4 To enhance regional and international cooperation with a view to complementing national and international efforts on the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children.
- 2.5 To uphold human rights as prescribed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, CEDAW, CRC, Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), World Fit for Children, International Humanitarian Law and other international human rights instruments and regional declarations related to women's and children's rights to which ASEAN Member States are parties.

- 3.9 To adopt a collaborative and consultative approach with ASEAN Member States, academia and civil society pertaining to the rights of women and children.

4. Status of the ACWC

The ACWC is an intergovernmental body and an integral part of the ASEAN organisational structure. It is a consultative body.

5. Mandate and Functions

- 5.1 To promote the implementation of international instruments, ASEAN instruments and other instruments related to the rights of women and children.
- 5.2 To develop policies, programs and innovative strategies to promote and protect the rights of women and children to complement the building of the ASEAN Community.
- 5.3 To promote public awareness and education of the rights of women and children in ASEAN.
- 5.4 To advocate on behalf of women and children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, and encourage ASEAN Member States to improve their situation.
- 5.5 To build capacities of relevant stakeholders at all levels, e.g. administrative, legislative, judicial, civil society, community leaders, women and children machineries, through the provision of technical assistance, training and workshops, towards the realisation of the rights of women and children.

- 5.12 To propose and promote appropriate measures, mechanisms and strategies for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violation of the rights of women and children, including the protection of victims.
- 5.13 To encourage ASEAN Member States to consider acceding to, and ratifying, international human rights instruments related to women and children.
- 5.14 To support the participation of ASEAN women and children in dialogue and consultation processes in ASEAN related to the promotion and protection of their rights.
- 5.15 To provide advisory services on matters pertaining to the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children to ASEAN sectoral bodies upon request.
- 5.16 To perform any other tasks related to the rights of women and children as may be delegated by the ASEAN Leaders and Foreign Ministers.

6. Composition

Membership

- 6.1 The ACWC shall consist of the Member States of ASEAN.
- 6.2 Each ASEAN Member State shall appoint two representatives, one representative on women's rights and one representative on children's rights to the ACWC.

its representatives. Whenever appropriate, the Government shall inform the ACWC of the reason of the replacement.

Responsibility of Members

- 6.9 In the discharge of his/her duties, each representative shall act impartially in accordance with the ASEAN Charter and this TOR, and shall display the highest moral character.
- 6.10 Attendance at the ACWC meetings by the representatives is mandatory.

Chair and Vice-Chair of the ACWC

- 6.11 The first Chair and Vice-Chair of the ACWC shall be elected by the appointed representatives. The subsequent Chair and Vice-Chair shall be rotated among ASEAN Member States on an alphabetical basis. The rotation of Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship shall follow an opposite cycle. Should a Member State next in line be not ready to assume the Chairmanship or Vice-Chairmanship, it may forgo its turn. The Chair and the Vice-Chair shall not be representatives from the same Member State and with the same area of competence (women's or children's rights).
- 6.12 The Chair and the Vice-Chair shall serve a term of 3 years.
- 6.13 The Chair of the ACWC shall exercise his/ her role in accordance with the TOR, which shall include:
 - a) Preparing the agenda for and chairing the ACWC meetings;

Meetings

- 7.2 The ACWC shall convene two regular meetings per year and each meeting shall normally be not longer than 5 days.
- 7.3 Regular meetings of the ACWC shall be held alternately at the ASEAN Secretariat and/or ASEAN Member States.
- 7.4 As and when appropriate, the ACWC may hold special meetings at a venue to be agreed upon by the representatives.

Line of Reporting

- 7.5 The ACWC shall submit an annual report including accomplishments, challenges and recommendations on the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children and other appropriate reports, e.g. progress report, to the ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) with copy to the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies.

Public Information

- 7.6 The ACWC shall keep the public regularly informed of its work and activities through appropriate public information materials produced by the ACWC.

Coordination and Alignment

- 7.7 The ACWC shall coordinate with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies dealing with issues pertaining to women and children

8.5 The ACWC may establish its own Fund with the terms and conditions to be determined by the ACWC and approved by the AMMSWD, upon the recommendation of CPR.

8.6 All funds used by the ACWC shall be managed and disbursed in conformity with the general financial rules of ASEAN.

8.7 Secretarial support for the ACWC shall be funded by the ASEAN Secretariat's operational budget.

9. Role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat

9.1 The Secretary-General of ASEAN may bring relevant issues to the attention of the ACWC.

9.2 The ASEAN Secretariat shall provide the necessary secretarial support to the ACWC.

10. General and Final Provisions

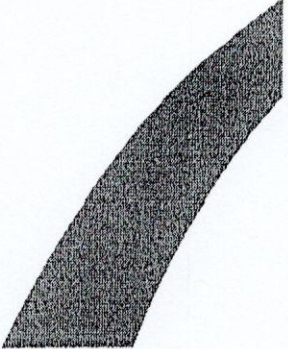
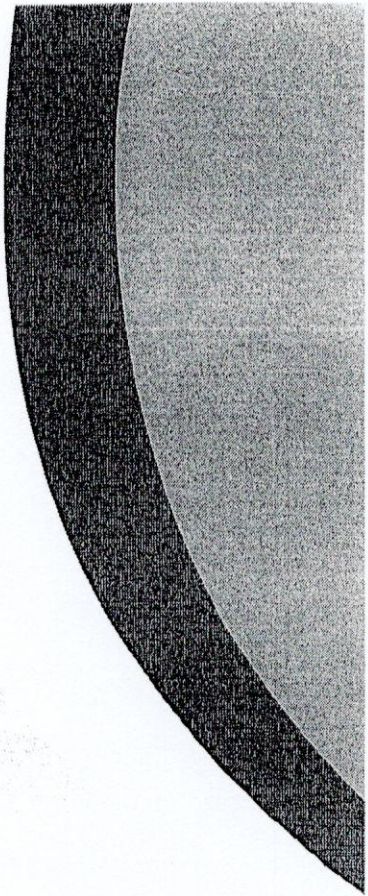
10.1 This TOR shall come into force upon the approval of the AMMSWD.

Amendments

10.2 Any Member State may submit, through the Chair of the ACWC, a formal request for an amendment of this TOR for consideration of the ACWC.

10.3 The ACWC shall submit the request for the approval of the AMMSWD.

10.4 Such amendments shall take effect upon approval of the AMMSWD.



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