



**THE 45TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**
17-23 October 2024
Vientiane, Lao PDR

*The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and
Inclusive Growth of ASEAN*

(Res.45GA/2024/Eco/02)

RESOLUTION ON
PARLIAMENTARY ROLES IN SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE ASEAN GUIDELINES ON PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE
INVESTMENT IN FOOD AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SECTORS

Co-Sponsored by Indonesia, the Lao PDR, Malaysia, and Viet Nam

The Forty-fifth General Assembly:

Recalling the adoption of the [ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry \(ASEAN RAI\)](#) by the Fortieth Meeting of ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (40th AMAF) in October 2018, followed by the adoption of the [Action Plan to Promote and Implement the ASEAN RAI](#) by the Forty-First Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (41st AMAF) in October 2019;

Further recalling the [AIPA Resolution Res.44GA/2023/Eco/03](#) on Encouraging the Application of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors, adopted by the Forty-Fourth AIPA General Assembly in August 2023, which supports the capacity development and knowledge enhancement programme of AIPA Member Parliaments for effective parliamentary oversight of laws and regulations related to responsible investments in food, agriculture, and forestry, and recommends to strengthen the collaboration with other development partners, such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to assist and support necessary measurement and assessment for the implementation phase;

Recognising the critical role of the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries to the ASEAN economy, which has contributed to 9.8% of the region's GDP and 12.4% to the total bloc's merchandise trade in 2022 while time remaining as the primary source of employment, providing jobs to 27.6% of the 337.9 million employees in the Southeast Asia region, as highlighted by [the ASEAN Statistical Brief \(April 2024\)](#);

Acknowledging that the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) offers new opportunities for smart agricultural technologies to drive a growth model focused on productivity, innovation, and technological development, while also recognising the vital role of emerging technologies and digital transformation in agriculture and forestry to enhance economic growth and productivity;

Reaffirming the crucial role of AIPA Member Parliaments in promoting sustainable investment in the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors through legislative action, policy oversight, and cooperation with development partners, to ensure alignment with the ASEAN RAI, fostering transparency, accountability, and resilience against global challenges;

Noting with appreciation the launch of [the Practical Handbook for ASEAN Parliamentarians in Promoting the Application of the ASEAN RAI](#) at the 14th AIPA Caucus Meeting in Phu Quoc, Viet Nam, in July 2023, and the subsequent joint project between AIPA, FAO, and IISD, initiated by the AIPA Secretariat, to support the implementation of the adopted Resolution [Res.44GA/2023/Eco/03](#) through the development of the ASEAN RAI Parliamentary Implementation Framework; for which the [first](#) was held with technical support from the National Assembly of Lao PDR in Lao PDR in April 2024, and the [second](#) one was held with technical support from the House of Representatives of Indonesia in Bali, Indonesia in July 2024;

Emphasising the importance of capacity building, as a key element of the [ASEAN RAI Parliamentary Implementation Framework](#) among AIPA Member Parliaments to enhance their ability to shape policies, monitor implementation, and support the effective application of the ASEAN RAI, thereby advancing inclusive and sustainable development in the region.

Hereby resolves to:

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to continue promoting sustainable investment in the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors where possible, through enacting relevant supportive legislation, formulating innovative and inclusive policies; ensuring adequate resources and incentives are directed towards sustainable practices, recognising their vital contributions to the regional GDP and employment, as well as in ensuring food security, safety, and nutrition;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments to promote the usage of smart agricultural technologies and innovations among ASEAN Member States to increase productivity and respond to challenges from epidemics and climate change in the region;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen their roles in legislative initiatives, policy oversight, and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to align national laws and policies with the ASEAN RAI where practical, ensuring transparency, accountability, and resilience in these sectors;

Propose further for AIPA Member Parliaments to support digital transformation in agriculture to address persistent issues of poor adoption of digital technologies, lack of website user experience, and inadequate internet connectivity, particularly in rural areas;

Support the development and application of the [ASEAN RAI Parliamentary Implementation Framework](#) as appropriate, as a guiding tool for AIPA Member Parliaments to promote responsible investment in food, agriculture, and forestry sectors, while recognising the diverse circumstances of the ASEAN Member States, encourage actions by AIPA Member Parliaments to support the effective application of the ASEAN RAI;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage ASEAN Member States to explore partnerships with development partners to support the ASEAN RAI Implementation Framework, including enhancing capacity-building initiatives that promote the effective application of the ASEAN RAI, with coordination by the AIPA Secretariat, including facilitating resource mobilisation to ensure effective implementation at both regional and national levels, thereby advancing inclusive and sustainable development across the region.

Adopted on the twenty-first day of October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

RESOLUTION ON PARLIAMENTARY ROLES IN SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEAN GUIDELINES ON PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN FOOD AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SECTORS

Southeast Asia's Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (AFF) sector remains a cornerstone of the region's economic growth and development. As noted in [the ASEAN Statistical Brief \(April 2024\)](#), the AFF sector accounted for 9.8% of ASEAN's GDP in 2022, contributing US\$354.3 billion and providing employment for 27.6% of the region's 337.9 million workers. As urbanisation and incomes continue to rise, there is a parallel increase in the demand for food, fisheries, and forestry products. This trend underlines the importance of sustainable investments in these sectors to ensure food security, safety, and nutrition for future generations, especially in light of the rapid industrialisation and population growth that the region is experiencing.

In this context, the advancements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) offer the ASEAN Member States a unique opportunity to harness new technologies to foster smart agriculture. By integrating innovative solutions such as precision farming, data analytics, and automated resource management, Member States can enhance productivity, optimise resource use, and build resilience against climate challenges. These technological advancements support a shift toward a growth model that emphasises productivity, innovation, and sustainable development, thereby reinforcing ASEAN's commitment to responsible investments in the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors.

Acknowledging both the challenges and opportunities presented by these dynamics, ASEAN Member States adopted [the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors \(ASEAN RAI\)](#) in 2018, followed by [the Action Plan to Promote and Implement the ASEAN RAI](#) in 2019. These guidelines reflect a regional commitment to promoting sustainable and responsible investments from both public and private sectors, advancing agricultural value chains, and fostering equitable, sustainable, and scalable industries.

To strengthen these efforts, the 44th AIPA General Assembly in 2023 adopted [AIPA Resolution Res.44GA/2023/Eco/03](#) on Encouraging the Application of the ASEAN RAI, underscoring the critical role of AIPA Member Parliaments in supporting the effective application of these guidelines at both national and regional levels. The Resolution acknowledges the launch of [the Practical Handbook for ASEAN Parliamentarians in Promoting the Application of the ASEAN RAI](#) at the 14th AIPA Caucus Meeting in Phu

Quoc, Viet Nam, in July 2023, and also supports the capacity development and knowledge enhancement of AIPA Member Parliaments for effective oversight of laws and regulations on responsible investments in food, agriculture, and forestry, and recommends strengthening collaboration with development partners, such as FAO and IISD, to facilitate measurement and assessment during the implementation phase.

Building on the adoption of the Resolution, the AIPA Secretariat has strengthened its collaboration with the FAO and IISD through a project initiative titled “Utilization of the Practical Handbook for ASEAN Parliamentarians in Responsible Investment in Agriculture, Food, and Forestry for Application at the National Level.” This project is designed to support AIPA Member Parliaments in the effective implementation of the Resolution by developing the [ASEAN RAI Parliamentary Implementation Framework](#). In pursuit of this goal, two parliamentary workshops and a multi-stakeholder conference were successfully held in [Vientiane](#) and [Bali](#) in April and July 2024, respectively, with invaluable technical support provided by the National Assembly of Lao PDR and the House of Representatives of Indonesia.

To ensure an inclusive and consultative approach, the development of the Implementation Framework has actively involved parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from AIPA Member Parliaments through a comprehensive series of consultations. Such an approach guarantees that the Framework reflects the diverse perspectives within AIPA while being specifically tailored to the unique legislative contexts of each Member of Parliament. The ASEAN RAI Implementation Framework stands as an essential guiding tool, encouraging AIPA Member Parliaments to take concrete actions to promote responsible investment in the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors at both regional and national levels.

The Framework has been thoughtfully crafted to accommodate the different parliamentary systems and mandates across AIPA Member Parliaments, thus facilitating its adoption and implementation in varied national contexts. Moreover, the Resolution invites AIPA Member Parliaments to explore partnerships with Development Partners to enhance the Framework's implementation in close coordination with the AIPA Secretariat. In its coordinating role, the AIPA Secretariat shall take the responsibility of mobilising resources to ensure that the necessary funding is secured to support the Framework's successful application.