

## **ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

### **I. Introduction**

- 1.1. The promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthening democracy, enhancing good governance and adherence to the rule of law are among ASEAN's key principles and purposes<sup>1</sup>. Reaffirming these principles, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration<sup>2</sup> (AHRD) in 2012. Along with the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD, these two documents embody the commitment of the Governments of ASEAN to safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms of all peoples of ASEAN, including persons with disabilities. By 2016, all ASEAN Member States have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
  
- 1.2. Throughout the years, ASEAN has consistently prioritised the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. ASEAN's policy framework toward advancing the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities was derived from the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community (2011) which called for realising disability-inclusion through the development of national plans of action, diversification of social services, development of social security schemes, and accessible education and work opportunities, among others. The Declaration also proclaimed and introduced the Mobilisation Framework of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020) to promote disability-inclusive development in ASEAN. The principle of inclusion, as a hallmark policy direction of ASEAN, has permeated all of ASEAN initiatives and programmes that mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the ASEAN Community. ASEAN's commitment towards an inclusive community is enshrined in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025<sup>3</sup>, a ten-year strategic roadmap of ASEAN, which aspires to realise a people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community, "where the peoples enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms, higher quality of life and the benefits of community building." In particular, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025 outlines specific strategic measures that aim to reduce barriers and ensure accessibility of persons with disabilities while at the same time promoting and protecting their human rights.
  
- 1.3. In complementarity, other regional instruments affirm ASEAN's commitment and illustrate the robust policy environment in the region that seeks to empower persons with disabilities. The *Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of the Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010)* aims to ensure gender equality

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<sup>1</sup> [ASEAN Charter, 2007.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, 2012.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [ASEAN Community Vision 2025, 2015.](#)

in education and school enrolment of children with disabilities and with special needs, among others. The *Kuala Lumpur Declaration on a People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN (2015)* calls for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and promote their interests and welfare in ASEAN's future agenda. The *ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY)* states that access to education is a priority to ensure optimal benefits for all children and youth irrespective of disability. The *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (2013)* seeks to protect women and children with disabilities from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. The *ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2013)* articulates that persons with disabilities are entitled to have equitable access to social protection and calls on ASEAN Member States to support national policies, strategies and mechanisms to strengthen the implementation of social protection programmes, as well as effective targeting systems to ensure that social protection services would go to those most in need.

- 1.4. The policy milestones in ASEAN to advance the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities are inspired by and contribute to global developments. Foremost among these is the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, with its policy thrust of leaving no one behind complementing ASEAN's vision of a people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community. The Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific calls for the promotion of participation of persons with disabilities by removing barriers and enhancing accessibility, and ensuring gender-responsiveness, through cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction calls for disability-inclusive response to and recovery from disaster, towards building the resilience of persons with disabilities and recognising their significant role in assessing risks and designing programmes. The New Urban Agenda calls for the "progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living", including persons with disabilities. It also calls for the promotion of "appropriate measures in cities and human settlements that facilitate access for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment of cities, in particular to public spaces, public transport, housing, education and health facilities, public information and community (including information and communication technologies and systems) and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas". Lastly, it encourages "effective participation and collaboration among all relevant stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, in order to identify opportunities for urban economic development and identify and address existing and emerging challenges". These global developments, among others, influence and shape the policy landscape in ASEAN on persons with disabilities.

- 1.5. Building on the gains and momentum from these regional and global developments, there is an opportunity to leverage cooperation at the ASEAN level to push for legislative and policy reforms towards fully implementing the CRPD at the national level, to eliminate discrimination, remove barriers, and ensure accessibility. At the same time, actions at the national level can amplify regional collaboration by highlighting issues that are more effectively addressed at the regional level. Such issues include the impact of ASEAN Community integration, particularly economic integration, on ensuring employment and decent work for persons with disabilities. More importantly, in order to ensure that no one is left behind, the post-2020 agenda must be purposive and programmatic in reaching out to persons with disabilities including: children with disabilities, women with disabilities, youth with disabilities, elderly/older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities affected by disasters, conflicts and crises, and persons with disabilities who are victims of violence and trafficking.

## **II. Rationale**

- 2.1. As mandated, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) is in charge of social welfare and development for vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, and the implementation of the CRPD at the national and regional levels. AMMSWD led the process for the development and submission of the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community for the adoption by the Leaders in 2011. Together with other instruments, the Declaration encourages the governments and civil society organisations, including NGOs, to work closely with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), in joint efforts to help protect the rights and accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities, particularly children, women, youth and elderly/older persons.
- 2.2. The AICHR as the overarching human rights body in ASEAN has embarked to enhance disability rights and contribute in addressing the development gaps that affect persons with disabilities in the region since 2015. Working together with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, the AICHR convened and co-chaired with the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) – the supporting body of AMMSWD - the Task Force on the Mainstreaming of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community (Task Force) as a joint and inter-pillar body with the mandate to develop this Enabling Masterplan. The Task Force comprises representatives of the AICHR, the ten SOMSWD Leaders/Focal Points, and two representatives of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the first cross-pillar initiative on disability rights in ASEAN.

2.3. The development of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Enabling Masterplan) corresponds with the vision set forth in the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community, taking stock of the Mobilisation Framework of the ASEAN Decade of Person with Disabilities (2011 – 2020) and is based on the following guiding principles:

- 1) **Relevance.** Disability rights pertain to all community pillars as well as their vision and work plan. The key action points that are enumerated in the Enabling Masterplan affirm such relevance and will be a path toward the realisation of an inclusive community;
- 2) **Complementarity.** The Enabling Masterplan complements existing commitments and aspirations of ASEAN leaders and the Member States, most particularly the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, in creating and sustaining an inclusive environment for persons with disabilities;
- 3) **Interrelatedness.** All human rights, including the rights of persons with disabilities, are interconnected and interdependent. Coordination among sectoral bodies and participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations will be a key success factor in the holistic implementation of this Enabling Masterplan.

The development of the Enabling Masterplan also benefits from contributions of governments, organisations of persons with disabilities, and other key stakeholders through regional consultations of the Task Force and consultations with the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF), Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability (APCD) and experts on disability rights.

2.4. The Enabling Masterplan benefited from extensive consultations with the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, and demonstrates their commitment to contribute to its implementation. Furthermore, the development of the Enabling Masterplan was consulted with the Deputies Secretary-General for ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), and the ASEAN Secretariat affirms its commitment to support its implementation.

2.5. The overall goal of the Enabling Masterplan is to contribute to the enhancement of the implementation of the CRPD at regional level, building an inclusive community where independence, freedom of choice, and full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all areas of life are realised and sustained. The Enabling Masterplan aims to achieve equality and high quality of life for persons with disabilities, their family members, personal assistants and caregivers, where applicable.

- 2.6. The Enabling Masterplan also seeks to complement and concretise the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community, and fosters Member States' commitment towards an inclusive community. It is guided by the underlying principles that for all actions concerning persons with disabilities whether undertaken by individuals, public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies or entities, their interests and needs must be taken into consideration, acknowledging that inclusion and mainstreaming should be promoted and specialised approaches considered as a last resort. Additionally, as ASEAN is aiming at embedding sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda, the Enabling Masterplan serves as a key instrument in steering its policies and programmes to be inclusive for persons with disabilities.
- 2.7. The Enabling Masterplan does not only aim to fulfil the promises of ASEAN Member States to its citizens with disabilities through the Bali Declaration and the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025, it also intends to assist ASEAN Member States in harmonising local laws and policies.
- 2.8. The Enabling Masterplan adheres to the general principles of the CRPD, a common human rights instrument to all ASEAN Member States, namely:
- a. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
  - b. Non-discrimination;
  - c. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
  - d. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
  - e. Equality of opportunity;
  - f. Accessibility;
  - g. Equality between men and women;
  - h. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve identities.

### **III. Priority Areas/Key Action Points**

- 3.1. The Enabling Masterplan initially identifies priority areas/key action points to continue the implementation of the Bali Declaration and Mobilisation Framework towards the enhanced implementation of the CRPD. These priority areas/key action points are specified in recognition of the importance of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the political, legal, economic, social and cultural environment and the full realisation of their rights.

- 3.2. While recognising the equal importance of all key target areas set forth in the Bali Declaration, the Enabling Masterplan also acknowledges the challenges in allocating resources towards achieving all goals within a limited timeframe. Thus, the Enabling Masterplan aims to focus ASEAN's efforts and resources on key priority areas which are aligned with the three ASEAN Community Blueprints and would create concrete impact to the peoples of ASEAN. Acknowledging that the Enabling Masterplan is a limited framework, not encompassing the full range of obligations in the CRPD and other frameworks to which individual ASEAN Member States belong, Member States are strongly encouraged to simultaneously pursue action beyond the Enabling Masterplan priority areas. Valuable information on approach as well as the results of these efforts should be shared with other Members and ASEAN officials in future regional dialogues.

#### **IV. Implementation**

- 4.1. The Enabling Masterplan recognises the obligations of Member States to respect, promote, protect, and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities set forth in the CRPD and other human rights instruments relevant to all rights holders, particularly persons with disabilities. To translate these obligations into actions, Member States are expected to create an enabling environment, including building capacity of both government mechanisms/implementers and duty bearers, to enhance understanding of human rights principles and their effective application. In this spirit, the Enabling Masterplan will be operationalised by the relevant Sectoral Bodies according to their respective priority areas by translating the key action points of mainstreaming human rights of persons with disabilities into specific action lines or programmes, projects, and activities as part of their respective work plans, and shall report their progress to their respective conferences.
- 4.2. The AMMSWD as the focal point for inter-pillar cooperation shall oversee the implementation of the Enabling Masterplan, and will receive an annual report from the ASEAN Secretariat on the progress of implementation of the Enabling Masterplan in the three Communities for consolidation and forward the report to the three ASEAN Community Councils.
- 4.3. The ASEAN Secretariat shall report the progress of the implementation of the Enabling Masterplan for the three Communities to the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM).
- 4.4. The Coordinating Conference of the APSC (ASCCO), the Committee of the Whole (COW) for AEC and the Coordinating Conference on the ASCC (SOC-COM) shall have a standing agenda item on the progress of implementation of the Enabling Masterplan during their respective conferences.

- 4.5. The implementation of the Enabling Masterplan shall employ strategies and approaches that will maximise the role of ASEAN Organs and Bodies, encourage participation of civil society organisations, in particular organisations of persons with disabilities, to enhance opportunities for stakeholder engagement and partnership, including but not limited to, regular public-private-people partnerships (PPPP) conference, social entrepreneurship, and corporate social responsibility for inclusive and sustainable development.

## **V. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- 5.1. The review and assessment of the Enabling Masterplan shall utilise an existing or agreed upon Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Strategy and Results framework, which includes targets, indicators, and evaluation criteria. Other appropriate approaches and methodologies, including but not limited to systematic collection of data and qualitative and quantitative evaluations, are encouraged to assess the impact of policies/programmes/projects arising from the Enabling Masterplan at the regional, national, and sectoral levels.
- 5.2. A Mid-Term Evaluation, covering the period of 2018-2021, and an End-of-Term Evaluation, covering the period of 2021-2025, will be conducted to monitor progress and evaluate outcomes/impacts towards achievement of the Enabling Masterplan under the leadership of SOMSWD. The Mid-Term Evaluation will consider enhancing the implementation of the Enabling Masterplan for persons with different types of disabilities, including migrant workers with disabilities, among others.
- 5.3. The participation of civil society organisations, and in particular organisations of persons with disabilities, in the monitoring and evaluation of the Enabling Masterplan is crucial for ensuring its effective implementation.

## **VI. Capacity-building and Partnership for Change**

- 6.1. Persons with disabilities, organisations of persons with disabilities, relevant government officials, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders shall be engaged in capacity-building activities for them to have the opportunity to gain appropriate knowledge, experience, and skills to translate international commitments into outcomes at the community level and to further the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Capacity-building activities will be focused towards enabling equal and equitable opportunity for social and economic inclusion, including the areas of health, education, employment, civil service, technological innovation, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, reasonable accommodation on various services, and creating an inclusive environment for judicial and political processes, social events and leisure activities.

- 6.2. Disability-inclusive development will also be advanced by sharing information. The utility of research and information, including statistical data, research publications, and information on best practices is maximised by their broad dissemination. Effective distribution includes making such materials and information, as well as international instruments, as widely available in different languages and accessible formats as possible.
  
- 6.3. Regular policy dialogue events will be held to ensure integration of the three ASEAN Community pillars on cross-cutting issues with regard to persons with disabilities with participation of all relevant stakeholders including government officials, organisations of persons with disabilities and CSOs.



**ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025:  
Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

<b>ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
<b>A. Rules-based, People-Oriented, People-Centered Community</b>	<p>APSC 1 Encourage taking all appropriate legislative and administrative measures to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities to fully and meaningfully participate in public and political life to vote, to be elected and to access to justice on an equal basis with those without disabilities;</p> <p>APSC 2 Encourage access to information from public and private sector websites on reasonable accommodation for court services, elections, accessible election and universal design polling stations, and other political processes by developing a disability-inclusive system with the use of new technologies and alternative formats such as braille, audio, closed-captioned and/or audio-described videos, and universally designed electronic formats, making available subtitles in the videos and television, assistance of professional sign language interpreters, and cartoon materials for persons with learning disabilities;</p> <p>APSC 3 Establish accessible networks of legal aid professionals and organisations specialised in disability and human rights to provide legal assistance to persons with disabilities who are unable to afford legal representation;</p> <p>APSC 4 Conduct training and capacity-building activities on disability perspectives and human rights principles and their application in the daily work of legal professionals such as lawyers, judges, prosecutors, correctional officers, social welfare officers, police and others as a means of respecting, protecting and fulfilling these rights;</p>

<b>ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>APSC 5 Raise awareness within the judiciary, political bodies, and election commissions on the rights of persons with disabilities and disability inclusion through the celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) and other relevant events, such as arts and sports events as well as various communication and informative media;</p> <p>APSC 6 Encourage ASEAN Member States to enhance engagement with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international mechanisms particularly through the submission of country reports on implementation of the UNCRPD, UNCEDAW, and UNCRC;</p> <p>APSC 7 Strengthen the network of organisations of persons with disabilities and government agencies that handle persons with disabilities concerns in ASEAN and encourage their coordination with ASEAN counterparts in the effective implementation of international and regional human rights commitments through the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">APSC 7.1 Develop a pool of experts on disability rights, including expert persons with disabilities to promote understanding, knowledge and appreciation for the diversity of challenges and state policy innovations in ASEAN Member States, including through the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and ASEAN Studies Centres;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">APSC 7.2 Organising capacity-building activities for government officials, think-tanks, youth and civil society organisations (CSOs) to share experiences on democracy and principles of democratic inclusion for persons with disabilities;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">APSC 7.3 Promote inclusive dialogue and partnership among governments and stakeholders to develop and implement initiatives that can enhance participatory and effective governance for persons with disabilities;</p>

<b>ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>APSC 7.4 Support the ASEAN Foundation to strengthen its collaboration with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to instil corporate social responsibility in making private sector information, services and spaces inclusive of persons with disabilities;</p> <p>APSC 7.5 Enhance cooperation between ALAWMM and ALA and other Track II organisations including organisations of persons with disabilities, through seminars, workshops and research on international law, and application of international conventions such as CRPD to national legal frameworks;</p> <p>APSC 7.6 Encourage interaction and consultation, where appropriate, among AICHR, relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and other stakeholders, including organisations of persons with disabilities, and CSOs concerned with the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities including through sustaining an annual AICHR regional dialogue on the rights of persons with disabilities;</p> <p>APSC 7.7 Encourage engagement of organisations of persons with disabilities with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and ASEAN governments at national level in promoting a rules-based ASEAN Community, including the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan at the national level;</p> <p>APSC 7.8 Promote outreach and joint activities between ASEAN Bodies and ASEAN stakeholders, including organisations of persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities and the organisations that represent them at the national and regional levels.</p>
<b>B. Peaceful, Secure, and Stable Region</b>	<p>APSC 8 Strengthen national and local policies to provide reasonable accommodation to children, youth, women, and elderly/older persons who often experience some form of disability due to ageing;</p>

<b>ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>APSC 9 Encourage cooperation between sectoral bodies and organisations of persons with disabilities to contribute to the effective implementation of the Work Programme of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crimes including terrorism, violent extremism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons including women and children with disabilities, arms smuggling, sea piracy, money laundering, international economic crimes and cybercrimes;</p> <p>APSC 10 Intensify efforts towards a Drug-Free ASEAN by producing accessible information and educational campaign materials for persons with disabilities and encouraging rehabilitation institutions to make their facilities and services in full conformity with universal design principles;</p> <p>APSC 11 Extend protection, in collaboration with organisations of persons with disabilities, for refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities in accordance with international and national legal obligations of ASEAN Member States, including under the UNCRPD;</p> <p>APSC 12 Harmonise the efforts of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX), and the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiRex) and the provisions of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP), and the Declaration on One ASEAN One Response with international and regional disability and human rights frameworks to protect the rights of person with disabilities before, during, and after the disasters;</p> <p>APSC 13 Develop disability-inclusive disaster resilience plans in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities including budget allocation, assistive device, medical treatment, accessibility to healthcare and accommodation services, emergency situation preparation, disaster response strategies, disaster relief plans and services, and monitoring and</p>

<b>ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>evaluation mechanisms to mitigate the impacts of disasters on persons with disabilities, particularly women, children, elderly/older persons;</p> <p>APSC 14 Establish a network of disability and human rights professionals among emergency response managers and responders and consult network of organisations of persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs on disaster and emergency preparedness;</p> <p>APSC 15 Promote the sharing of innovations, good practices and lessons learned on disability inclusive disaster management plans, programmes, and procedures, including but not limited to regional dialogues with organisations of persons with disabilities, ASEAN bodies and organs as well as relevant stakeholders;</p> <p>APSC 16 Support an effective coordination mechanism among ASEAN sectoral bodies, national statistical ministries/institutions, and local communities that will focus on gathering and disseminating reliable, coherent, and comprehensive statistics on persons who are often greatly affected in disaster situations such as children, women, elderly/older persons, and persons with disabilities to ensure that this information informs decisions on effective allocation of disaster preparation resources.</p>
<b>C. ASEAN Centrality in a Dynamic, and outward-looking Region</b>	<p>APSC 17 Encourage regular meetings between relevant Senior Officials with organisations of persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities on the region’s strategic direction for upholding the rights of persons with disabilities, in keeping with vision 2025 of “Forging Ahead Together”;</p> <p>APSC 18 Facilitate continuous capacity-building efforts and partnership among ASEAN Member States, Organs, and Bodies with organisations of persons with disabilities towards the full and</p>

<b>ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>effective promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and disability inclusion in the ASEAN Community;</p> <p>APSC 19 Encourage information sharing, of relevant meetings of ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN-led mechanisms on cross-cutting issues such as the promotion and protection of disability rights and disability inclusion in the region;</p> <p>APSC 20 Encourage new partnerships with countries and organisations based on mutual interest and benefit as well as their support to ASEAN as a disability-friendly, inclusive society, and an enabling community for persons with disabilities.</p>
<b>D. Strengthened ASEAN Institutional Capacity and Presence</b>	<p>APSC 21 Promote the role of ASEAN as a key institution that protects the rights of persons with disabilities and disability inclusion, particularly by enhancing the capacity of the relevant units of the ASEAN Secretariat;</p> <p>APSC 22 Further amplify ASEAN presence and value as an enabling community and inclusive society for all persons with disabilities and strengthen coordination capacity in promoting and protecting disability rights by enhancing engagement between ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, organisations of persons with disabilities and relevant stakeholders;</p> <p>APSC 23 Ensure ASEAN awareness-raising activities and programmes are gender-sensitive and accessible to all segments of society, including persons with disabilities;</p> <p>APSC 24 Encourage ASEAN member states to include in the CRPD reports their coordination and disability inclusion activities at the ASEAN level with regard to promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.</p>

<b>ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
<b>A. A Highly integrated and cohesive Economy</b>	<p>AEC 1 Develop policies that encourage inclusivity of persons with disabilities and the protection of rights of persons with disabilities in harmonising to CRPD concept and to remove obstacles of employment and business opportunities and encourage a disability-inclusive environment for entrepreneurship, enterprises, including social enterprises, cooperatives and regular businesses and e-commerce run by persons with or without disabilities;</p> <p>AEC 2 Enhance equal-opportunity marketplaces for persons with disabilities as consumers, clients, suppliers and entrepreneurs in all ASEAN member states by facilitating more inclusive, accessible, and liberalised trade in services, financial services, and the facilitation of movement of skilled labour and business visitors;</p> <p>AEC 3 Enhance financial inclusion by encouraging the development of accessible financial institutions, equipment, and modes of conducting economic transactions such as universally designed banks, ATMs, banknotes and coins, debit/credit card, banking apps and websites, as well as enhancing financial literacy and consumer protection;</p> <p>AEC 4 Promote one-stop entrepreneur centres for persons with disabilities to provide information for start-up of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), networking and funding information for entrepreneurs with disabilities and their family members.</p>
<b>B. A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN</b>	<p>AEC 5 Work towards enhancing common ASEAN consumer protection framework by ensuring that it covers all consumers, including those with disabilities, by developing, enforcing and monitoring inclusive consumer protection legislation, and; making available redress mechanisms, including accessible alternative dispute resolution mechanisms;</p> <p>AEC 6 Enhance the protection of intellectual property rights of persons with disabilities;</p>

<b>ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>AEC 7 Promote access and the use of materials protected by copyright for persons with disabilities by encouraging ASEAN Member States to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled;</p> <p>AEC 8 Further enhance the support system and enabling environment for highly mobile, intelligent and creative human resources that thrive on knowledge creation and application by encouraging the use of accessible technologies in research and development (R&amp;D) activities and by continuously engaging individuals who use these accessible technologies such as persons with disabilities;</p> <p>AEC 9 Foster a more inclusive economy in the region by encouraging reasonable tax exemption on the sale of assistive and/or adaptive devices and technologies which are used by persons with disabilities and elderly/older persons to increase their productivity in a built-environment that is yet to be made accessible and enabling;</p> <p>AEC 10 Encourage the deployment and utilisation of technology that is efficient, has low environmental impact, and increases mobility of persons with disabilities.</p>
<b>C. Enhanced connectivity and Sectoral cooperation</b>	<p>AEC 11 Encourage accessible transport in ASEAN towards greater connectivity, efficiency, integration, safety and sustainability to strengthen ASEAN's competitiveness and foster regional inclusive growth and development in the areas of land and rail transport, air transport, maritime transport and transport facilitation, and to embrace sustainable transport as a new key sectoral focus as it has a vital role to play in the sustainable development of the ASEAN region;</p> <p>AEC 12 Promote smart city projects that have inclusive infrastructure and technologies that are accessible to urban dwellers with disabilities;</p>



<b>ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>AEC 13 Encourage inclusive ICT by improving its accessibility and usability for persons with disabilities and by upgrading digital skill sets of developers and users to have a more digitally empowered and connected ASEAN people and stakeholders;</p> <p>AEC 14 Further encourage inclusive economic regional integration through an intensified e-Commerce cooperation by harmonising consumer rights and protection laws including rights and protection laws relevant to consumers and entrepreneurs with disabilities, harmonising legal frameworks for accessible online dispute resolution and alternative dispute resolution by enhancing the use of technology, and, encouraging the use of inter-operable, mutually recognised, secure, reliable, accessible, and user-friendly e-identification and authorisation (electronic signature) schemes;</p> <p>AEC 15 Foster food security and accessibility of the food landscape in the region by empowering producers and consumers with disabilities through strategic efforts such as, training farmers with disabilities in the use of new technologies including assistive technologies for farming, developing a comprehensive public transportation, and providing affordable and accessible food delivery systems;</p> <p>AEC 16 Promote responsible, sustainable and accessible tourism development through accessible transportation, communication, and infrastructure in the ASEAN region, and strengthen coordination and capacity of local communities in providing reasonable accommodation to access facilities and services;</p> <p>AEC 17 Promote the development of a strong universal healthcare industry that will contribute to accessible and affordable, good quality healthcare, products and services; registration processes and nutrition labelling are accessible including to persons with low vision or who are blind, and</p>

ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025	Key Action Points
	<p>persons with learning disabilities and; facilitating the mobility of healthcare professionals including personal care assistants for persons with disabilities and elderly/older persons in the region;</p> <p>AEC 18 Promote incentive systems and support mechanisms that will increase the engagement of women and youth with disabilities in science technology, and innovation.</p>
<p><b>D. A resilient, inclusive, people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN</b></p>	<p>AEC 19 Encourage corporations to practice corporate social responsibility and promote sustainable development, including developing and implementing disability-inclusive initiatives that complement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;</p> <p>AEC 20 Promote MSME productivity and inclusion for persons with disabilities by maximising the potential of technology and innovation through an understanding of key trends, and promoting entrepreneurial education and capacity-building programs;</p> <p>AEC 21 Provide support to persons with disabilities to enable them to start business by providing access to diversified financial sources that are responsive to the economic status of persons with disabilities and streamlining processes in obtaining permits and licenses;</p> <p>AEC 22 Encourage entrepreneurship and human capital development of persons with disabilities in ASEAN by creating a more conducive environment for entrepreneurship through the ASEAN SME On-line Academy that is accessible to persons with disabilities; and enhancing human capital development for MSMEs, particularly youth and women with disabilities;</p> <p>AEC 23 Foster and support private sector groups in initiating cluster groups to engage in specific issues including those that impact entrepreneurs with disabilities;</p> <p>AEC 24 Encourage and support the creation of inclusive business opportunities for growth and employment, and access to financial services of persons with disabilities.</p>

ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025	Key Action Points
<b>E. A Global ASEAN</b>	AEC 25 Encourage an inclusive global economy and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities in the region through the promotion of equitable opportunity to employment and entrepreneurship and economic integration for all.

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025	Key Action Points
<b>A. Engages and Benefits the People</b>	<p>ASCC 1 Promote the rights of all persons with disabilities to full, equal, and effective participation in all aspects of life in all ASEAN Member States;</p> <p>ASCC 2 Enhance access to social protection and economic opportunities to attain independent living for persons with disabilities, ensuring their rights to live with dignity within an engaged and empowered community, including opportunities to enjoy and take part in socio-cultural and religious activities, sports and leisure;</p> <p>ASCC 3 Strengthen capacity building activities relevant to persons with disabilities and their family members, personal assistants and caregivers, focusing on diversity, inclusion, social norm change, anti-stigma, unconscious bias and discrimination against persons with disabilities, and their application in the daily roles and functions of service providers, including civil servants, legal professionals, social welfare officers, law enforcement officials, and healthcare providers, among others;</p> <p>ASCC 4 Provide spaces and opportunities for persons with disabilities to actively participate and be involved in decision-making processes in the work of relevant bodies, mechanisms and</p>

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025	Key Action Points
	<p>platforms under the auspices of ASCC, including CSO, organisations of persons with disabilities, private sector and other stakeholders.</p> <p>ASCC 5 Enhance availability and accessibility of websites; including of public and private sectors, in particular online banking; as well as use of new technologies, information and communication technologies, assistive technologies, and adaptive technologies for persons with disabilities.</p>
<b>B. Inclusive</b>	<p>ASCC 6 Introduce upstream health and welfare policies<sup>4</sup> and laws, and mainstream<sup>5</sup> human rights-based approach for persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, to ensure equitable, accessible, and comprehensive quality health care, including reproductive and sexual health services that address challenges and needs of persons with different types of disabilities and affordable rehabilitation programmes in all ASEAN Member States;</p> <p>ASCC 7 Recognise and mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities to fully participate in all aspects of their community life by respecting their autonomy, independence and decision-making and to ensure that the community services, and facilities are responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities;</p> <p>ASCC 8 Encourage the harmonisation of regional and national labour policies and laws concerning the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with obligations under relevant ILO Conventions and human rights instruments, applicable to ASEAN Member States;</p>

<sup>4</sup> Upstream health policies include social determinant considerations, spanning social and economic inequalities and the environmental risk factors that play an essential causal role in poor health outcomes.

<sup>5</sup> Mainstreaming human rights is a process of integrating human rights principles such as inclusion, participation, non-discrimination, equality, and accessibility. Please find further details on mainstreaming human rights, as applied in this document.

<b>ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>ASCC 9 Promote equal-opportunity, accessible and inclusive regular marketplaces for consumers, clients, suppliers and entrepreneurs in all ASEAN Member States, and link with regional initiatives;</p> <p>ASCC 10 Promote products made by persons with disabilities to wider markets to increase demands for these products, including through national procurement policies and regulations;</p> <p>ASCC 11 Promote the rights of persons with disabilities as a core ASEAN Community value by including this concept of inclusive disability in the ASEAN studies curriculum to be promoted for adoption by educational institutions of ASEAN Member States;</p> <p>ASCC 12 Advance inclusive educational systems and capacity building activities at all levels by promoting universal access to quality education for students, along with their teachers, school administrators and staff, and parents with or without disabilities; through, among others, providing sign language interpretations, and note takers;</p> <p>ASCC 13 Recognise the rights of persons with disabilities to live by their choice, and to ensure a wide range of selection with regard to living with dignity<sup>6</sup>, making their own decision and to guarantee autonomy for persons with disabilities over living arrangements and accessibility, and to protect both within and outside the home, from all forms of disability based-discrimination, the deprivation of liberty, exploitation, abuse and violence, including sexual and gender-based discrimination and violence;</p>

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<sup>6</sup> Living with dignity refers to the right to choose where and with whom to live, with no obligation to be bound to particular living arrangement; and access to a range of living options, including supported living, and inclusion in the community on an equal basis. The concept of living with dignity is an extended version of “independent living” (CRPD 19) and emphasises the cultural elements of family and home, as observed in the ASEAN member states.

<b>ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>ASCC 14 Support the development of various cultural resources that recognise the inclusion, dignity, and equal rights of persons with disabilities, and celebrate inclusion and full participation in all aspects of social and cultural life as a fundamental right and expression of shared values;</p> <p>ASCC 15 Ensure universal access to build environment, especially educational, health and legal institutions and services, law enforcement agencies, national human rights institutions, and offices of service providers, including public transportation, applying universal design standards, and accessible information and communication technology focusing on issues of gender and various age-groups in all ASEAN member states;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ASCC 15.1 Ensure the recognition of national sign language as the language for the deaf in all ASEAN Member States;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ASCC 15.2 Continuously develop and develop the usage of the national sign language in the area of education in all ASEAN Member States.</p>
<b>C. Sustainable</b>	<p>ASCC 16 Ensure considerations of persons with disabilities are integrated in the process of creating an equitable access to sustainable environment that fosters positive social change and economic development and links positively with urban, peri-urban and rural areas;</p> <p>ASCC 17 Integrate principles of universal design for persons with disabilities in all urban planning and management approaches through strengthening policies, strategic partnership, and coordination with relevant sectors for sustainable and accessible infrastructure systems for livable cities and a green ASEAN;</p> <p>ASCC 18 Promote the participation with communities and interest groups, in particular persons with disabilities in the development of comprehensive and coherent responses to climate change, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory, and vulnerability assessments;</p>

<b>ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>ASCC 19 Encourage ASEAN Member States, sectoral institutions, private sector actors, and community members to mainstream human rights and protect interests of persons with disabilities in implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation, including climate change risk management and GHG emission reduction, sound waste management, and energy efficiency.</p>
<p><b>D. Resilient</b></p>	<p>ASCC 20 Ensure alignment of national and local disaster management laws, policies, plans, and programs with international and regional disaster risk reduction and resilience frameworks to foster a more disability inclusive and disaster resilient environment that anticipate, respond, cope, and adapt to disasters, and build back better from the beginning, smarter, and faster in all ASEAN Member States;</p> <p>ASCC 21 Develop disability inclusive disaster resilience plans including risk assessments, emergency response plans, and recovery and rehabilitation plans, and allocate resources, and ensure active involvement of persons with disabilities, particularly children, women, youth and elderly/older persons;</p> <p>ASCC 22 Promote the sharing of good practices and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction to build on those and other innovative measures in creating disability inclusive disaster management plans, programmes, and procedures; conduct trainings and capacity building activities for local, national, and community emergency response managers, and first responders;</p> <p>ASCC 23 Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to disability inclusive national, local, and community level public offices, facilities, equipment, and relevant resources used in emergency situations;</p>

<b>ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025</b>	<b>Key Action Points</b>
	<p>ASCC 24 Design mechanisms for, and act on feedback from, persons with disabilities, respecting their dignity and ensuring their safety.</p>
<p>E. Dynamic</p>	<p>ASCC 25 Promote inclusive skills-training on entrepreneurship, including raising awareness on legal policies, market understanding, procurement and distribution, and information and technology, in a competitive, innovative and dynamic economic landscape;</p> <p>ASCC 26 Raise awareness of financial institutions and human resources staff on the rights of persons with disabilities focusing on diversity, equality training, inclusion, anti-stigma and unconscious bias and discrimination against persons with disabilities;</p> <p>ASCC 27 Promote one-stop entrepreneur centres for persons with disabilities to make available in one place important funding information including start-up MSMEs; entrepreneur networking; accessible financial equipment; and modes of conducting economic transactions.</p>