

**Final Report**

**Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in the ASEAN  
Community Post-2015 Vision  
Project Number (G-Jak-001)**

**Prepared by:**

**Human Rights Working Group (HRWG)**



**Submitted to:**

**ASEAN-U.S. partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable  
Development and Security (PROGRESS)**

## I. Introduction:

This report is prepared by the Indonesia's NGO Coalition for International Human rights Advocacy (or Human Rights Working Group - HRWG) as part of the requirement stipulated in the Agreement with the ASEAN-U.S. Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (ASEAN-U.S. PROGRESS) with project number G-Jak-001.

This progress report is divided into five sections, which Introduction is the first. Second part deals with the summary of the achievements of the project. It follows by the third section on the description of the national consultations in eight countries, and section four is about the regional consultation. Section five describes the challenges faced during the implementation of the activities. Section six is about lesson learned and best practices, and the last section is the way forward.

### 1.1 Background of the project

With the launching of ASEAN Community in 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, ASEAN will introduce the ASEAN Post-2015 Vision as the roadmap for next phase of Community building (2016-2025). During the 25<sup>th</sup> Summit (November 2014), ASEAN Head of States/Governments adopted the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration along with the "Consolidated Central Elements of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015", to guide the formulation of the next roadmap, which comprise of:

- Promote Southeast Asia as a region of peace, stability and prosperity, as well as an inter-connected, and a caring and sharing community with unity and diversity;
- Continue to consolidate the ASEAN Community and deepen ASEAN integration as the foundation for its post-2015 vision, with enhanced and expanded cooperation and coherence among the three ASEAN Community pillars;
- Promote ASEAN as a rules-based community bound by shared principles, values, and norms;
- Promote ASEAN as a people-oriented, people-centered community through, among others, active engagement with all relevant stakeholders;
- Build a resilient community with enhanced capacity and capability to collectively respond to emerging trends and challenges;
- Promote inclusive, sustained and equitable economic growth, as well as sustainable development, consistent with the UN's post-2015 development agenda;
- Promote development of clear and measurable " ASEAN Development Goals" to serve as ASEAN benchmark for key socio-economic issues;
- Maintain an outward-looking ASEAN; and
- Build ASEAN's common platform to discuss global issues of common concern so as to raise ASEAN's profile and enhance its relevance in the global community by continuing to be an active and credible global partner that contributes and responds to key global issues of common concern.

Taking the past experiences in engaging in the process of developing the ASEAN Blueprints in 2007-2008, a strategic document such as the ASEAN Post-2015 Vision – with its three pillars: political-security, economy, and social-cultural – will provide an opening for mainstreaming concerns shared throughout civil society in implementing regionalism project in ASEAN. Civil society has the roles to contribute to the process, especially to voice the voiceless.

## 1.2 Objective of the project

HRWG and WEAVE, a network of women organizations in Southeast Asia, are working together to produce participatory and informed civil society inputs to surface the voices from the grassroots groups in ten ASEAN countries into the ASEAN Visions 2025, with the following purposes:

1. To establish a participatory and inclusive process to garner civil society's recommendations on ASEAN's post-2015 Vision documents with an emphasis on human rights and gender equality.
2. To strengthen ASEAN civil society's voice for addressing human rights and gender equality.

To achieve the above objectives, the project sets out three stages as below:

### **Phase 1: Preparing the zero draft (March 2015)**

- Conduct the desk review and text analysis on civil society's inputs in the last 10 years related to ASEAN Community building.
- Formulate a zero draft, which will be informed by historical inputs from civil society groups from ten ASEAN member states from the desk review and text analysis.

### **Phase 2: In-Country Consultations + Regional Consultation (April - May 2015)**

- Conduct in-country consultations in ten ASEAN member states to get more inputs on the zero draft on the civil society inputs to the ASEAN Post-2015 Visions.
- Formulate the first draft by compiling all inputs from in-country consultations.
- Organize a regional consultation to verify and finalize the civil society's inputs to the ASEAN Post-2015.

### **Phase 3: Presenting the Civil Society Inputs (May-July 2015)**

- Presenting the civil society inputs through a dialogue with High Level Task Force (HLTF), the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (CPR), ASEAN National Secretariat, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Conduct press briefings about the civil society inputs to the ASEAN Post-2015.
- Conduct diplomatic briefing about the civil society inputs to the ASEAN Post-2015.

## II. Summary of the achievements of the project

The project has achieved the planned outputs and milestones in each phase. However, there is a slightly change in direction in term of engagement to present the civil society inputs to the ASEAN Vision 2025. The initial idea of bringing the civil society inputs to the attention of the ASEAN Ministers Meeting (AMM) through the Indonesian Foreign Minister need not take place prior the AMM itself due to slow response from the Office, the hectic preparation to the ASEAN Summit and there was a long holiday of Idul Fitri. The meeting with the Ministers was supposed to be a courtesy engagement as during the regional consultation in Jakarta, civil society met with high rank officials responsible to draft the ASEAN Vision 2025 already.

Nevertheless, the meeting with the Indonesian Deputy Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs took place on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 with the objective was to obtain the updated information regarding the content and process post AMM in August 2015. Addition to this, HRWG mobilized civil society from Indonesia, Cambodia, and Malaysia to attend the Regional Consultation on the Vision of a People-

Centered ASEAN Community on 24 September in Bangkok, Thailand that was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and the Working Group on ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism. The purpose of participating in this meeting was to use the avenue to engage directly with the representatives of the High Level Task Force on drafting the ASEAN Vision Post 2015. Despite the changes in the way activities have been arranged in the last leg of the project, all objectives, outputs and milestones were achieved.

Civil society's follow up engagement activities at the national level after the Regional Consultation in Jakarta (May 2015) proved that the outcomes of this project were also met. The national engagement activities were conducted in Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, and Malaysia. The discussion during the Meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, and the Regional Consultation in Bangkok (September 2015) provided HRWG and WEAVE with some confirmation that civil society's agenda on mainstreaming human rights and gender justice were included in the Political Security Community, and Social Cultural Community. There has been little update regarding the Economic Community pillars as the representatives from this particular Community hardly present in all meetings.

The following is the extract of the inclusion of civil society's submission in the draft post-AMM (confidential document) on ASEAN Vision 2025. The following table highlights civil society's inputs on human rights, and civil society participation.

<p>Vision section of the document</p>	<p>"Rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN community, where our peoples enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms, higher quality of life and the benefits of community-building, reinforcing our sense of togetherness and common identity guided by purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter;"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN community, where our peoples enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms, higher quality of life and the benefits of community-building, reinforcing our sense of togetherness and common identity guided by purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter;</li> <li>• A peaceful, stable and resilient Community with enhanced capacity to respond effectively to challenges in an outward-looking region as part of a global community of nations, while maintaining ASEAN centrality;</li> <li>• A vibrant, sustainable and highly integrated economies, enhanced ASEAN connectivity as well as strengthened efforts in narrowing the development gap;</li> <li>• An ASEAN empowered with capabilities to seize opportunities and address challenge;</li> </ul>
<p>Elements of the Vision 2025</p>	<p><b>ASEAN Political Security Pillar: ASEAN Political-Security Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A united, inclusive and resilient community, in which our peoples live in a safe, harmonious and secure environment, embrace the values of tolerance and moderation and uphold ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohesive, responsive and relevant in addressing challenges to regional peace and security and play a central role in the evolving regional security architecture, while deepening our engagement with external partners and contributing to global peace, security and stability;</li> </ul> <p><b>ASEAN Economic Pillar: ASEAN Economic Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly integrated and cohesive regional economy;</li> <li>• Competitive, innovative and dynamic Community;</li> <li>• Enhanced economic connectivity as well as integration and cooperation across sectors;</li> <li>• A more resilient, inclusive and people-oriented, people-centred community that engenders equitable development and inclusive growth; narrowing the development gap through enhanced SME development policies and cooperation; effective business stakeholder engagement, sub-regional development cooperation and projects; and greater economic opportunities to support poverty eradication; and</li> <li>• Global ASEAN that fosters a more systematic and coherent approach towards its external economic relations</li> </ul> <p><b>ASEAN Socio-Cultural Pillar: ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committed, <b>participative</b> and socially-responsible community through an <b>accountable</b> and inclusive mechanism, upheld by principles of good governance;</li> <li>• Inclusive community that promotes high quality of life, equitable access to opportunities for all and promotes and protects human rights;</li> <li>• Sustainable community that promotes social development and environmental protection through effective mechanisms;</li> <li>• Resilient community with enhanced capacity and capability to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, disasters, climate change as well as emerging threats and challenges; and</li> <li>• Dynamic and harmonious community aware and proud of its identity, culture and heritage</li> </ul>
Political Security Pillar	" ... safe, harmonious and secure environment, embrace the values of tolerance and moderation and uphold ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms."
Economic Pillar	"... resilient, inclusive and people-oriented, people-centred community that engenders equitable development and inclusive growth" the bias appears to remain with the private sector -- i.e., "effective business stakeholder engagement, sub-regional development cooperation and

	<p>projects" (while the document still use the framework of economic competitiveness)</p> <p>We also received feedbacks from the official that gender equality, and civil society is included in the document.</p>
Socio-Cultural Pillar	"Committed, participative and socially-responsible community through an accountable and inclusive mechanism, upheld by principles of good governance."

**III. National Consultations**

National consultations to gather inputs from the civil society groups were conducted in eight countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The gathering of civil society inputs from Brunei Darussalam (Majelis Kesejahteraan Masyarakat), and Singapore (Think Center) were conducted online by HRWG’s partners in the respective countries.

**3.1 National Consultation in Cambodia**

The National Consultation in Cambodia was co-organized by SILAKA, Cambodian Volunteers Services (CVS) and Cambodian Civil Society Working Group on ASEAN (CCWA) on May 12, 2015 in Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The consultation received well attention from civil society. From 35 invitations circulated, there were 43 participants showed up (28 male and 15 female) and 14 of them were youth participants.

The one-day Consultation invited three speakers to discuss about the assessment of the ASEAN Community building (2009-2015), Civil Society’s engagement with ASEAN and the vision for 2025, before went to group discussions on three pillars of the Community.

**3.2 National Consultation in Indonesia**

There were 25 participants attended the National Consultation in Indonesia that was organized by Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) in collaboration with Kalyanamitra Foundation on 15 May 2015 in Grand Cemara hotel, Jakarta. Daniel Awigra of HRWG facilitated the consultation. The results of the national consultation in Indonesia and other AMS will serve as the basis for the drafting of the Civil Society’s inputs to the ASEAN post-2015 Vision document.

**3.3. National Consultation in Lao PDR**

The Consultation in Vientiane was organized by ADLWE in Learning House, Vientiane, Lao PDR on 21 May 2015. There were 17 participants, including nine youth and 13 female participants. The participants come from different sectors, i.e. indigenous people rights, women rights, child rights, environment, youth development, legal development project, persons with disabilities, and NGO network in Lao PDR.

During the one-day discussion, both in plenary or in group discussions, participants were active in expressing their opinions and felt secure to propose their analysis on the current issues in the



country. The Executive Director of ADLWE said that the invited participants were carefully selected, so trust among the participants was established quickly which contributed greatly to effective and productive discussions. The participants have basic knowledge about ASEAN integration project, which is helpful in discussing the visions, aspirations, and inputs for actions for ASEAN Vision 2025.

### **3.4 National Consultation in Malaysia**

HRWG's local partner, North-South Initiative organized the national consultation on May 19, 2015 in Pusat Perdagangan Seksyen 8, Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 27 participants attended the consultation, which included eleven youth and 12 female participants, and one transgender.

Participants come from different sectors like Orang Asli (indigenous people), LGBT, women's rights, human rights, migrant workers, farmers, bar council, etc. The consultation began with the presentation by Daniel Awigra of HRWG to discuss about ASEAN Vision 2025 and the importance of engaging the process. Participants were divided into three groups to discuss issues, visions and solutions based on political-security, economic cooperation and socio-cultural pillars. To gain inputs from the participants, the discussion used the book café methodology, which gave each participant to give his/her inputs to each pillar.

### **3.5 National Consultation in Myanmar**

There were 27 participants of the national consultation in Myanmar (three of them are youth, and 20 are female participants). The consultation was organized by Women League of Burma (WLB) on May 19, 2015 in Best Western Green Hills Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar. The participants represent different sectors, i.e. sexual rights, extractive industry, transitional justice, indigenous people rights, women rights, child rights, environment, youth development, persons with disabilities, and NGO network in Myanmar. Participants come from different ethnic nationalities as well, i.e. Naga, Kachin, Burmese, Shan, Pa-O, Lahu, and Karen.

After the introduction session and the discussion related to the implementation of Roadmap ASEAN Community (2009-2015), facilitated by Daw Tay Tay from WLB and Yuyun Wahyuningrum from HRWG, participants were divided into three groups on political-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars.



### **3.6 National Consultation in the Philippines**

There were 43 participants attended the Consultation in Manila. The Consultation was organized by The Philippine Women Network for ASEAN and Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau (WLB) on May 14-15, 2015 in La Breza Hotel, Quezon City, The Philippines.

The consultation invited Paul Raymund P. Cortes, Chief of Mission and Director for Summits Office of ASEAN Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs to present the topic on “*What’s in it for marginalized peoples?: The ASEAN Post-2015 Vision and ASEAN Community 2025*”, Yuyun Wahyuningrum (HRWG) and Jelen Paclarin (WEAVE) to discuss about civil society engagement and Maureen Pagaduan on “*What does People-centred ASEAN Community mean to marginalized groups?*”. On the second day (May 15, 2015), participants discussed the key recommendations and strategic actions for ASEAN Community 2025.

### **3.7 National Consultation in Thailand**

The consultation was organized by Foundation for Women (FFW) on May 19, 2015 in Bangkok Christian Guest House, Bangkok, Thailand. There were 28 people participated in the consultation. Among the participants six of them are youth, 28 are women and two are transgender. The participants come from different sectors; human rights, gender equality, sexual orientation, environment, minority issue, anti-corruption, development issues, migrant workers, climate watch, Free Trade Agreements watch, etc. The participants came together to discuss and gave their inputs on ASEAN Vision 2025 in three pillars.

The consultation started with the presentation by Suntaree Kannikar, assessing the work of ASEAN. Daniel Awigra shared about Post 2015 vision and the importance of civil society participation in the process of drafting the document. The participants were divided into three groups to discuss issues, visions and solutions based on political-security, economic cooperation and socio-cultural pillars. As the discussion used a book café methodology, each participant had a chance to give his/her inputs to each pillar.

### **3.8 National Consultation in Vietnam**

The Consultation that was organized by People Participation Working Group (PPWG) on May 18, 2015 in the office of Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment (iSEE), in Hanoi, Viet Nam. 21 Participants attended the consultation that 13 of them are female, and six out of 21 are youth.

Participants come from different working background such as children protection, ethnic minority, LGBT protection, and so on. Le Quang Binh, Director of iSEE opened the consultation by giving presentation on civil society engagement in ASEAN so far. Daniel Awigra from HRWG presented the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the importance of civil society participation in building a real people-centred community. Participants were divided into three groups to discuss issues, visions and solutions based on political-security, economic cooperation and socio-cultural pillars.

## **IV. Regional Consultation**

The Regional Consultation to formulate Civil Society Inputs on ASEAN Vision 2025 was organized at Ritz-Carlton Hotel Jakarta, Indonesia and attended by 35 participants from nine ASEAN member countries. No participant from Brunei Darussalam attended the Regional Consultation in Jakarta due to limited and restricted funding available. Nevertheless, coordinated by Judy Abdullah from the Social Welfare Council of Brunei Darussalam, civil society in Brunei managed to formulate their inputs via online consultation. The purpose of the Regional Consultation is consolidate the recommendations coming from civil society groups in ASEAN ten countries to be ready for presentation to ASEAN related bodies, including the High Level Task Force (HLTF).



The Regional Consultation was organized in four back-to-back elements: a) Preparatory meeting among the organizers (HRWG and WEAVE), b) Proper Regional Consultation on Civil Society's inputs to the ASEAN Vision 2025, c) Civil Society Dialogue with HLTF Indonesia, and d) Presenting the Civil Society's Inputs to the CPR and the ASEAN Secretariat.



The Regional Consultation started with the opening remarks by the organizer to surface the objective of the meeting and the expected outcomes. Daniel Awigra of HRWG informed the participants on the process of the national consultations in eight countries and gathering of the online inputs from civil society groups in Singapore and Brunei Darussalam. It was followed by the presentations from WEAVE members on the similarities and differences of inputs from civil society in the region as well as the contentious issues related to three pillars of ASEAN Communities. Included in the presentation in the session one was about the accountability mechanism in the blueprints.

Yuyun Wahyuningrum highlighted one of the problems in the previous community blueprint, which is the absence and/or lack of accountability mechanism, whereby public receive the development of community plan implementation from the ASEAN government and where grievances can be addressed. It is also unclear who is responsible on regionalization project in ASEAN. Yuyun called for civil society to include the recommendation on having a proper accountability tools and mechanisms in which ASEAN in their discussion during the Regional Consultation. Yuyun suggested a peer review mechanism such as in the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) or like the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), whereby member states report to regional/international body on the implementation of the work plan regularly and discuss the recommendations for further actions.

Another model of accountability mechanism that can be considered is the World Bank model, which has two functions: a) problem solving and b) compliance review. Problem-solving function aims to actively respond to the concerns of people affected by ASEAN Community projects through fair,

transparent, and consensus-based problem solving. While compliance review aims at providing people who are directly, materially and adversely affected by ASEAN Community projects during formulation, processing, or implementation can file a request for compliance review to an Independent Compliance Review Panel, whom will investigate compliance with ASEAN's operational policies and procedures.

After agreeing on the plan in engaging ASEAN during the course of Regional Consultation in Jakarta from 25-27 May 2015, participants started group discussions on a) political-security, b) economic and c) social-cultural pillars taking the compiled inputs from national consultations. The discussion took longer time from what it was planned. The participants spent half day on 24 May, a whole day in 25 May and another half day in 26<sup>th</sup> May due to number of contentious issues in the three pillars. The final outcome document on the civil society inputs on the ASEAN Vision 2025 is attached along with this report.

Following the Regional Consultation, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015, civil society had a dialogue with two members of the HLTF of the ASEAN Post-2015 from Indonesia:

- Mr. I Gede Agung Wesaka Puja, Directorate General on ASEAN Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, member of HLTF and specifically deals with the Political-Security.
- Mr, Raden Wijaya from the Ministry of Human Development and Culture, member of HLTF focusing on the negotiation of the social-cultural pillar.

Mr. Puja briefed civil society participants on the work of HLTF and its timeline. He informed that there has been four round of meetings since HLTF was established in January 2015 in drafting the ASEAN Vision Post-2015. Its strong focus, at the moment is on the structure of the Vision and its attendant documents in the three pillars of ASEAN Community. HLTF still needs to have another ten rounds of meetings in order to finalize the Vision by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 for adoption in the 27<sup>th</sup> Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The post-2015 blueprint will enter into force from the 1st of January 2016.

The Vision that was developed by members of the HLTF will highlight the overarching elements of the three pillars; political-security, socio-cultural, and economic. These elements particularly include ASEAN key principles that underscore the importance of mutual trust, people-oriented- and people-centeredness. There was a suggestion to add a new pillar in the ASEAN Community, specifically on awareness and sustainable development in ASEAN. At the same time, there was an opinion that it was not the right time to add a new mechanism, but rather ASEAN should focus more on strengthening the existing ones.

Mr Puja said that during the drafting of the Vision Post-2015, HLTF has been consulting with different stakeholders, including AICHR, sectoral bodies, AIPR, ASEAN-ISIS and the Secretariat-General of ASEAN. HLTF received suggestions to also consult with civil society organizations. As a matter of fact, civil society organizations are of great significance to the drafting process, as these organizations represent the voices of the people on the ground. ASEAN must continue its dialogue with civil society in order to achieve the goal of people-oriented and people-centeredness. ASEAN is committed to enhance its capacity in order to realize a people-centered, rule-based community, which is characterized by a "sense of community", communal relationships, political cohesiveness, economic integration and a strong ASEAN secretariat. However, the ASEAN's mantra of "consensus" to some extent creates great challenges in negotiation. Mr Puja added that HLTF works with both good faith and a consensual perspective and determination to establish a vision, which maintains peace, stability and prosperity in the region, and realizes a better future for the ASEAN people and their societies.

During the Q&A session, Mr Puja responded all questions from participants, ranging from the concerns over the lack of clarity related to the inclusion of actions related to human security and other non-traditional security issues; lack of information access on ASEAN's decisions and meetings; ASEAN's relations with China; the absence of accountability mechanisms; lack of civil society engagement; policies related to the youth; nuclear power in the political-security pillar; the promotion of democracy in ASEAN member states; and that ASEAN is not only lacking of political will but is also lacking of understanding on global dynamic.

Presenting the development in the process of drafting the social-cultural pillar of the ASEAN Vision Post-2015, Mr Wijaya emphasized the HLTF's efforts in ensuring the people-oriented, people-centered and socially responsible are ingrained in the current process. Mr Wijaya explained that there was a slightly different meaning between the terms: people-oriented and people centered. The former represent the notion that ASEAN people are the ASEAN's main target of development, while the later "implies that ASEAN people are the main actors, that is something we have to focus on". He also said that "the benefits of ASEAN should be for its people, and it should promote and protect the human rights for all, including vulnerable groups, women, children, youth, elderly persons, migrant workers, indigenous people and persons with disabilities. Furthermore ASEAN should focus on alleviating poverty and narrowing the existing poverty gaps".

According to Mr Wijaya, the Socio-Cultural pillar of ASEAN Vision Post-2015 consists of five elements and characteristics, which requires ASEAN to 1) engage and benefit, 2) be inclusive, 3) be sustainable, 4) be resilient, and 5) be dynamic.

First of all, with regard to ASEAN's engagement and benefits, ASEAN should enhance its commitment, participation and social responsibility, particularly through accountability and inclusive mechanisms that are beneficial for all, contribute to people-to-people-connectivity, while empowering people and strengthening institutions. Secondly, ASEAN should be inclusive in a sense that it should provide equal access to opportunity and human rights protection for all. Furthermore, it should work actively on reducing barriers and obstacles with regard to that matter. Thirdly, ASEAN should improve its sustainability to the extent that promotes sustainable environmental, social and economic development. This also includes sustainable management of ASEAN's ecosystem, biodiversity and natural resources, as well as promoting sustainable ASEAN cities and sustainable climates. Fourthly, ASEAN should be resilient in a sense that it should enhance ASEAN's capacity and capability to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, natural disasters and climate change. It focuses on a climate adaptive ASEAN with enhanced institutional human capacities to adapt to the impacts of climate change; a safer ASEAN, which is able to respond to all health-related hazards, including biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear threats. ASEAN should become disaster resilient, and be able to anticipate, cope, adapt and build back; better, smarter, faster and more efficient. Lastly, ASEAN should be more dynamic. It should strengthen its ability to innovate and become a pro-active member of the global community. It should adapt to global innovations, and make itself up for future challenges. ASEAN should be innovative and embrace a culture of entrepreneurship.

#### **4.1 Presenting the Civil Society's Inputs to the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (CPR)**



The presentation of the Civil Society's Inputs to the CPR was opened by H.E Ambassador Rahmat Pramono, the Indonesian Permanent Representative to ASEAN. During the opening session, H.E Ambassador Rahmat Pramono highlighted the current activity in ASEAN in developing a new roadmap and the importance of civil society's engagement, Ambassador Rahmat Pramono, the Indonesian Permanent Representative to ASEAN, then invited Dato' Hisamuddin (the current Chair of the Permanent Representative to ASEAN) from Malaysia to share his views. Dato' Hisamuddin confirmed that he accepted the civil society inputs in the Dialogue. He expressed that even though, the document is thick (49 pages), he will read it out carefully. He welcomed such initiative, and hoped to see more in the

future. He believed that to have a good and people-centered blueprint, ASEAN has to engage civil society group and listen to their aspirations. Dato' Hisamuddin further explained that ASEAN just adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, which focuses on the people-oriented, people-centered ASEAN. This Declaration is the first of its kind in ASEAN, which shows the shift of ASEAN Commitment to be translated into meaning and actions.

Representing the organizers, Yuyun Wahyuningrum expressed the appreciation of the 4<sup>th</sup> dialogue in the last five years between CPR and civil society organizations from ASEAN countries. She explained that the inputs of civil society on the ASEAN Vision 2025 came from the aspirations of grassroots groups in ten ASEAN member countries. She said that there has been a similar expectation from one country to another to see ASEAN that is more inclusive, transparent and engaging the people in the future. There was a recommendation to have accountability mechanism in ASEAN where people can lodge their complaints and voices. Despite the high interest about ASEAN, the lack of awareness about ASEAN is also evident in all countries member of ASEAN. It is therefore raising awareness about ASEAN is always on the top of the list of recommendation from civil society groups.

Lao PDR Permanent Representative to ASEAN asked if there was a national consultation conducted in Lao PDR. In his intervention, he explained that only the Government of Lao PDR who has the authority to gather inputs from the people of Lao and bring them to ASEAN after certain screening process. He believed that his comment was not necessary as the inputs were the product of consultation, which was not endorsed by the government. He refused to answer all questions, including about youth and the plan for the 2016 chairmanship. He left the meeting. Nevertheless, the dialogue continued with responses and questions from both civil society and the Permanent Representatives.

The Philippines Permanent Representatives appreciated the inputs from civil society and said that some of the inputs were implemented, some were important and useful and some of them were too radical for ASEAN. Considering that ASEAN comprises of different contexts, she warned civil society that not all inputs could be adopted.

Civil society expressed their interests, concerns, and aspiration during the process of dialogue, including on sensitive issue in ASEAN currently such as Rohingya.

There were five Permanent Representatives attend the Dialogue. They were from Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos and Malaysia. Other AMS were represented by Deputies, and/ or the member of working groups of the CPR. The host ended the Dialogue with the promise of bringing the inputs to the attention of HLTF and the ASEAN Minister Meeting.

#### **4.2 Presenting the Civil Society's Inputs to ASEAN Secretariat**

The ASEAN's Deputy Secretary General on Community and Corporate Affairs, AKP Mochtan received and engaged with civil society groups. He updated the new campaign of Indonesia government toward the launching of the ASEAN Community with the slogan of "ASEAN is us!". Mr. Mochtan asked Yuyun Wahyuningrum to moderate the Q&A session. Civil society posed questions related to:

- The missing link between the quality of life and dignity with the education and some basic problems in ASEAN roadmap 2009-2015, specially the respect of human rights and labor rights in ASEAN.
- Expectation that ASEAN will put forward alternative framework to the benefit of people, grassroots, to be sustainable (SDGs), pro-people and pro-poor.
- Scorecard on the implementation of ASEAN Community blueprints and ways to improve the system and inform the public.
- Refugee and labor issues that ASEAN has to take into considerations, highlighting the needs for the application of humanitarian approach to address the issues including rescuing and assisting the people in the boat who are the victims..
- On ASEAN's measures to prevent cyber bullying against children and young people.
- On civil society's participation and accreditation.
- Renewable energy in ASEAN's community Vision 2025.

Mr. Mochtan stressed that ASEAN recognized all issues mentioned by the participants. Narrowing the development gaps has been on the top of ASEAN priority. ASEAN needs to have deeper solidarity among the members, but the challenges remain on having programs with clearer goals and a proper review mechanism. As for the implementation of ASEAN Community blueprints, Mr. Mochtan explained that based on the scorecard the progress has been on track. However, he recognized the need for having more robust, better methodology, and inclusive to the participation of the people in ASEAN.

Responding to the question on refugees, Mr Mochtan said that it is not only ASEAN problem but the world's problem. There is a need for having better collaboration in dealing with refugee issues around the world including in ASEAN. With regard to the boatpeople from Myanmar and Bangladesh, he further explained that ASEAN members have discussed and facilitated the process of rescuing them from the sea.

#### **4.3 Conducting Press Briefings on Civil Society's Inputs on ASEAN Vision 2025**

Press briefing was organized on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Ritz Carlton hotel. Media Indonesia, Liputan 6 and Okezone attended the press briefing. The speakers for the briefing were Daniel Awigra (HRWG, Indonesia), Chang Jordan (WLB and WEAVE, the Philippines), Usa Lerdsuntard



(Foundation for Women, Thailand), Joel Mark Baredo (Youth, based in Bangkok) and Harry Myo Lin (The Seagull, Myanmar). The speakers reflected the process of drafting the civil society's inputs on the ASEAN Vision 2025, the main concerns of the civil society for the next blueprints and recommendations. Nevertheless, the main question coming from journalists was about the boat people from Myanmar and requested the response from civil society groups.

#### **4.4 Conducting Diplomatic Briefing on Civil Society's Inputs on ASEAN Vision 2025**

Diplomatic briefing was conducted on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May right after the press briefing. Its main objective is to inform diplomatic community about the current situation and development in ASEAN and the responses from civil society group. Representatives from the embassy of Italy, Norway, United States, Australia and Germany attended the diplomatic briefing. Speakers from civil society were Daniel Awigra (HRWG, Indonesia), Chang Jordan (WLB and WEAVE, the Philippines), Usa Lerdsuntard (Foundation for Women, Thailand), Joel Mark Baredo (Youth, based in Bangkok) and Harry Myo Lin (The Seagull, Myanmar). It was an interactive discussion between the civil society groups and the representatives from the embassies on issues related to scorecard, highlight and main messages from the three pillars, and future plan.

#### **4.5 Civil Society Meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia**

Interface meeting platform CSO with the member of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) from Indonesia has been conducted for 3 times; 2012, 2013 and 2014 with Indonesia Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Marty Natalegawa, discussing human rights agenda in ASEAN.

CSO would like to get update from the current process of development of the new vision, Indonesia's vision on the ASEAN Community and its new vision as well as to seek opportunities how to intervene the process since it has only a month ahead. CSO also criticized that in the current update, the blueprint has not mentioned about gender equality.

This year, Indonesian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E A.M Fachir who accepted the interface proposal from HRWG to discuss among other things CSO Inputs to the ASEAN Vision 2025 on 21 September 2015. In this occasion, Mr. Fachir ensured that the protection on human rights including in ASEAN as also part of Indonesian constitution mandate.

He stressed that working together with other CSO counterparts in ASEAN is also important. Especially to ensure their government to uphold human rights commitment in ASEAN. The effort from Indonesian government in promoting human rights is to seek the common interest not the element of conflict.

Bhima Dwi Prayudhanto from MoFA updated that the current blueprint in regard to human rights is better than the previous blueprint because there were some improvements in it, especially after having input from the AICHR. Even though, he proposed to have discussion with HLTF Economy to discuss some human rights agenda in economic pillar.

The meeting attended by representatives of civil society organizations from Indonesia: Pratiwi Febry (LHB Jakarta), AwIGRA (HRWG), Wike Devi Erianti (HRWG), Frenia (PKBI), Anna Arifin (Arus Pelangi), Irpan R (PPDI), Ruben Samisa (ELSAM) and Yuyun Wahyuningrum (HRWG).

#### **4.6 Regional Consultation on the Vision of a People-Centred ASEAN Community**

The Regional Consultation on the Vision of a People-Centred ASEAN Community that organized by Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thailand and co-chaired by the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism was held at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, 24 September 2015. There were more than 100 people from ASEAN member states, such as Foreign minister Thailand, Ambassadors of Singapore, Ambassador of Malaysia, Director General of ASEAN Cooperation the Government of Indonesia, and NGOs in ASEAN countries. HRWG mobilized participants from Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia to participate in this Consultation, namely: Daniel Awigra (HRWG, Indonesia), Sam Seun (SILAKA, Cambodia), Sumitha Shaanthinni Khisna, (Malaysian Bar Association, Malaysia), Yuli Rustinawati (Arus Pelangi, Indonesia), and Shanti Heidi Sijabat (Makar, Indonesia).

The Consultation was opened by a remark of H.E. Mr. Piriya Khempon, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. And then there was Keynote Address by H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Former Secretary-General of ASEAN, Singapore's Representative to the HLTF.

The morning panel discussion on "Mainstreaming Inclusiveness: Opportunities and Challenges in Promoting a People-Centred Agenda under the ASEAN Community Vision 2025", brought together speakers:

- H.E. Mr. Bilahari Kausikan, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.
- H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuangkitkeow, Ambassador of Thailand to Japan, Thailand's Representative to the HLTF.
- Dato Param Kumaraswamy, Co-Chairperson, Malaysian Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism.

That panel discussion was moderated by H.E. Mrs. Kanda Vajrabhaya, Thai Representative to the ACWC.

The main ideas and speeches that have been mentioned during the first panel discussion like: ASEAN has to be strong and must know how to be strong. ASEAN community cannot be good if we just follow through ideas and speeches of people because there are many recommendation and criticism from internal and external of community, but ASEAN must know where they want to go. There are two or three member states that still are the poor members in ASEAN community but we have the special conditions for those poor member states since we need to help them to be equal to other members.

The following panels discussed on how the Charter of ASEAN should be the guide for all member states. There are many countries that could not abide by through the ASEAN charter but also there are items that are not fair for ASEAN community like the concept of non-interference is the root of the problem in ASEAN community.

Speaking in the panel, Jerald Joseph of Malaysia said NGOs works to collect things and problems to tell the governments of each country to solve in the good way, but why some government does not give them the space for working effectively. All governments in ASEAN member states have to aware that criticism is not the sign of hate; it's a commitment to engage to want better change for all. Promote First and Protect Second. We need NGOs and citizens to participate in development process in ASEAN community and each country among member states, we not only need participation but also accountability and capacity building that we need in our ASEAN community. Dr. Saree from AICHR of Thailand said that there is need to amend the terms of reference (TOR) of

AICHR in ASEAN community to inspire them to work independently and have justice as well as accountability in their works.

There were two Interactive Breakout Sessions; the session focused on “Overcoming Challenges in Becoming a More Inclusive, People-Centred and Rules-Based ASEAN Community”, and the session focused on “Embracing Global Norms and Standards: Opportunities and Challenges”. Participants who supported by HRWG went to each group (A and B) and gave their input based on the CSO Input to ASEAN Vision 2025 document. There were some outputs from the breakout session that given by HRWG’s participants, such as forming indicator to make sure the input from CSO have been included, and to have discussion on human rights with the HLTF Economy, etc.

At the end of the program there was inclusion session that focused on “Sharing the Key Discussions of the Two Interactive Breakout Sessions and Exploring the Future Role of Civil Society in Implementing ASEAN Vision 2025”. However, the ASEAN is still not disclosing the draft vision for public as it is the policy of ASEAN to not disclosing the document until it is approved.

## V. Challenges

(Describe challenges faced during the national and regional consultation and steps taken to address the challenges)

## VI. Lessons learned and best practices:

(Highlight some key lessons learned and best practices)



## VI. The Way Forward:

HRWG and WEAVE are committed to continue the work on ASEAN Vision 2025 by the following agreed steps:

1. Tracking down the civil society inputs in ASEAN official documents (in August and onward).
2. Develop indicators on the inputs that have been adopted in ASEAN Vision 2025 together with civil society partners at the national, regional and international level.
3. Submit the indicators to the Ministry of foreign Affairs.
4. Monitor the adopted inputs, afterward by:
  - a. Identifying issues that will be the subject of monitoring from the adopted ASEAN Vision 2025.
  - b. Dividing among members of WEAVE to take issues of expertise in the ASEAN Vision 2025 and becoming the focal point to lead the monitoring process.
  - c. Working in partnership with government on tracking the implementation of the identified issues.
  - d. Gathering evidence-based data, at both quantitative and qualitative.
  - e. Regular reporting on the implementation of the ASEAN vision 2025.
  - f. Develop database and exploring the use of IT.

## **ANNEXES:**

1. Final CSOs inputs on ASEAN Vision 2025 outcome document
2. Final list of participants
3. Final agenda of National Consultation in each AMS
4. Final Agenda of Regional Consultation
5. PPT materials used during the national and regional consultations