



RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE ASEAN CONSENSUS ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS TO DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) strongly supports the proposed Resolution of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly calling for a comprehensive review of the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers to develop more effective implementation mechanisms.

Nineteen years after the landmark 2007 ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, and nine years following the adoption of the 2017 ASEAN Consensus, the region stands at a pivotal juncture. While these frameworks have laid the foundation for regional cooperation, our collective experience confirms that aspirational commitments are no longer sufficient without robust, binding implementation mechanisms. It is time to transition from dialogue to enforcement and MFA urges ASEAN Member States to champion the AIPA resolution, as this comprehensive review is the necessary step to bridge the gap between policy and the lived realities of migrant workers.

MFA supports this resolution for the following reasons:

- Nine years of limited progress demonstrate an urgent need for reform. Despite the adoption of the 2017 ASEAN Consensus, many of its commitments remain merely aspirational due to the absence of robust monitoring, accountability, and compliance mechanisms.
- Bridging the gap between policy and reality requires this comprehensive review. It offers a critical opportunity to mandate concrete protections against systemic issues such as recruitment abuses, excessive fees, passport confiscation, wage theft, trafficking, and barriers to justice.
- Transitioning to enforceable standards will stabilize the regional labor market. Stronger cooperation promotes fair labor mobility and reduces exploitation, which in turn enhances investor confidence and contributes to the sustainable economic growth that ASEAN seeks.
- Operationalizing compliance is the core purpose of this review. We urge the evaluation of enhanced reporting systems, regional oversight, and mutual legal assistance, with a clear eye toward developing a legally binding regional instrument that moves us beyond dialogue and into enforcement.
- Reinforcing the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 necessitates this step. Developing effective implementation mechanisms is a test of ASEAN's credibility in building a truly people-centered and people-oriented Community that honors the rights of its migrant workers.

We look forward with optimism to the potential of this initiative. By adopting the AIPA proposal, ASEAN Member States have a meaningful opportunity to transform our shared aspirations into concrete, operational mechanisms that truly safeguard the rights of migrant workers. We invite our partners across the region to join us in supporting this comprehensive review, confident that together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive Community that upholds the dignity and well-being of all.

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Migrant Forum in Asia is a grassroots migrants movement committed to advancing social justice for migrants and members of their families.

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