



REGIONAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER
South East Asia & the Pacific
Bulletin #3 Oct 2012

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Letter from the Regional President

Dear members and partners,

The International Council on Social Welfare (Southeast Asia and Pacific Region) is proud to announce its newly elected board of members for 2012-2014.

- *Regional President: Ms Braema Mathiapparanam, Singapore*
- *Vice President: Datin Paduka Hajah Khatijah, Malaysia*
- *Treasurer: Mrs Lynda Ford, Australia*

The region is looking forward to implementing more awareness-raising on the Social Protection Floor (SPF) as well as organisational development workshops for member organisations on thematic issues. Our members will be continuing the good work from the discussions at the Joint World Conference that took place in July, this year. We strongly urge our all our members and partners to join us for the next Joint Conference to be held in Melbourne in 2014.

As we continue the good work so far with a new team, we would also like to acknowledge the important work done by Denys Correll, the ex-Executive Director of the ICSW. The region could not have done without the strong secretariat support provided by Denys with his consistent commitment to push the agenda on SPF in the region, especially with regards to our annual ASEAN GO NGO Forums.

This year's ASEAN GO NGO Forum took place in Hanoi, Vietnam from the 9th to 12th of July 2012. We are pleased with the outcome and hope that the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Declaration on SPF will be accepted and will become a reality.

There has been much regional developments the past year. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) has announced that 2013-2022 will be the next Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities. We would also like to congratulate Singapore on joining the rest of ASEAN member countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We also look forward with anticipation to the finalization of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), which will be focusing on a rights based approach for all people in ASEAN.

ICSW SEAP plans to reach out to the Pacific and have more thematic peak bodies involved in the work of ICSW for 2013. We also look forward to hearing from our members re key initiatives so that we can all learn from each other. MARUAH, ICSW member organisation from Singapore, has conducted nation-wide consultations on the CRPD with the community and submitted proposals for the CRPD with members of the community. In this edition, we also feature the work of Malaysian Council for Rehabilitation and their work with Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Once again thank you for the support, for staying with ICSW and most importantly for the work you keep doing.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Braema Mathiapparanam
Regional President (SEAP)*

2012 Joint World Conference, Stockholm, Sweden



This year's Joint World conference was held from the 8th to 12th of July in Sweden. It featured different daily themes listed below:

- Human Rights and Social Equality
- Environmental Change and Sustainable Social Development
- Global Social Transformation and Social Action

The next Joint World Conference will be held in 2014 in Melbourne. To read plenary and interviews from the conference, please click [here](#).

2013 – 2022 Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities

An estimated 15% of the population, or 650 million persons with disabilities, live in the Asian and Pacific region. The majority of these persons live in poverty and suffer discrimination, exclusion, inequality and prejudice.

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) has officially declared **2013-2022 as the “Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities”** and invited all stakeholders to help make it a success. Sponsored by Korea, the resolution was adopted unanimously at UNESCAP’s 68th ministerial session held in Bangkok between 17-23 May 2012.

A [High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012](#), will be convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012.

- The ESCAP Intergovernmental Meeting will review this progress and also launch the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.
- The Meeting is also expected to adopt the Incheon Strategy, a pioneering document that will guide national and regional action in a multitude of domains:
 - reducing poverty among persons with disabilities;
 - improving accessibility of the physical and ICT environments;
 - enhancing access of persons with disabilities to education and employment opportunities;
 - promoting their participation in decision-making processes, promoting gender equality for women with disabilities;
 - making disaster risk reduction disability-inclusive; and accelerating the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the ESCAP region.
- Through the Incheon Strategy, ESCAP countries will be charting the course of regional cooperation during the new Decade with a view to improving the lives of the 650 million persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The Meeting will also see the launch of the first Disability-Inclusive Business Award in the region, a partnership between ESCAP, the Nippon Foundation and the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD).

To read more, please visit UNESCAP’s website [here](#). To read about the resolution, click [here](#).

The Pacific Islands Forum 2012 and Related News



The Forum has come and gone, and the question remains: how much of that aid will translate into real benefits for the little host nation? What tangible impact will the Forum have on the Cook Islands?

The Polynesian Leaders Group issued a statement after their meeting calling it “morally unconscionable” that wealthy nations continue to derive energy from dirty sources, as island nations are disproportionately burdened by the effect. Read full report [here](#).

Climate change is a pertinent issue to the Pacific Islands with a recent report predicting that most of these island states only have a decade before they are forcibly evacuated if nothing is done about it. Read [here](#) for more details.

Another report: *Fresh efforts to weed out AusAID corruption in PNG* looks at prosecuting and tightening measures against corruption in AusAID programmes in the Papua New Guinea. Click [here](#) for further reading.

A world transparency index has been formulated for funding organisations to provide information on their aid programmes but much is to be done. Click [here](#) to read more. Aid transparency is a major obstacle that funding organisations need to overcome.

7th ASEAN GO NGO Forum 2012, Hanoi, Vietnam



The ICSW SEAP co-organised a regional annual meeting to discuss 2012-2013 strategic plans as well as prepare for the annual ASEAN GO-NGO Forum discussions with our partner, the Vietnam Association for Protection of Child Rights (VAPCR).

The theme for this year's ASEAN GO NGO Forum was *Social Protection and improving social services for vulnerable groups in ASEAN*. We commend the Vietnamese hosts for continuing discussions on Social Protection, which was first introduced at the 5th ASEAN GO NGO Forum and built upon at the 6th ASEAN GO NGO Forum.

(This photo features ICSW Member partners from 6th and 7th ASEAN GO NGO Forum Preparatory Meetings. From far left: Dr Vajiraya Buasri, Vice President of National Council of Social Welfare Thailand, Ms Braema Mathiapparanam, Regional President for ICSW SEAP, Mrs Minh Chau, Director of International Cooperation Department from Vietnam Association for the Protection of Child Rights (VAPCR) with staff Ms Dao Tra My.)

These meetings were held at the Sheraton, Hanoi, Vietnam from the 9th to the 10th of September. The 7th ASEAN GO NGO Related Meetings took place subsequently from the 11th to the 12th of September at the Intercontinental Hanoi, Vietnam.

ICSW SEAP Members brainstormed on pertinent points of argument that needed to be highlighted at the ASEAN GO NGO Forum discussions. Following are summary points:

- **Capacity building**
 - Strengthen the capacity of community leaders, NGOs and government officers working on the SPF
 - SPF be implemented with a focus on highly vulnerable groups including children, women, migrants and refugees, homeless people, older people
- **Coordination**
 - That ASEAN member states adopt a declaration on SPF which becomes the framework for sound policy formulation.

- That ASEAN member states institute a multi-sectoral national taskforce on SPF that includes a PPP partnership and takes on a monitoring role issuing an annual vulnerability report.
- ASEAN member states with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) commissions take a clear role in the promotion of SPF.
- Encourage ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to issue a regional report on SPF meeting the needs of vulnerable groups.
- Establish a minimum poverty line for all ASEAN nations as a means for assessing the needs and monitoring the progress.
- **Disaster management response**
 - Ensure that SPF is the operating principle for the ASEAN disaster management response so that the needs of all vulnerable communities are met.
 - SPF Working Group on climate change.
- **Curriculum**
 - ASEAN consortium of social work - curriculum planning.

Most of the above points were included in the discussions at the 7th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development, held on 12 September 2012.

Overall, Ministry representatives at the 8th ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development were recommended to facilitate the adoption of an ASEAN Declaration on social protection floors. Please refer to *Appendix A* for complete details on the 7th ASEAN GO NGO Forum recommendations.

Follow up on the Rio+20 Summit, Brazil, June 20-22 2012



The Summit resulted in a [focused political outcome document](#) which contains clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development. It calls for a wide range of actions, among many other points, including:

- In Rio, Member States decided to launch a process to develop a set of [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), which will build upon the [Millennium Development Goals](#) and converge with the post 2015 development agenda.
- The Conference also adopted ground-breaking guidelines on [green economy policies](#).

- Governments also decided to establish an intergovernmental process under the General Assembly to prepare options on a strategy for sustainable development financing.
- Governments also agreed to strengthen [the United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) on several fronts with action to be taken during the 67th session of the General Assembly.
- They also agreed to establish a high-level political forum for sustainable development. Decisions on its detailed form are expected to be taken during the upcoming session of the General Assembly, with the aim of having the first session of the forum at the beginning of the 68th session of the Assembly.
- Governments also requested the [United Nations Statistical Commission](#), in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant organizations, to launch a programme of work in the area of measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions.
- Governments also adopted the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, as contained in document [A/CONF.216/5](#), and invited the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to designate a Member State body to take any necessary steps to fully operationalize the framework.
- The Conference also took forward-looking decisions on a number of [thematic areas](#), including energy, food security, oceans, cities, and decided to convene a Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014.
- The Rio +20 Conference also galvanized the attention of thousands of representatives of the UN system and major groups. It resulted in over 700 [voluntary commitments](#) and witnessed the formation of new [partnerships](#) to advance sustainable development.

For further information, please visit the United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform [website](#).

However, **much review** has taken place with regards to the apparent challenges of the Rio+20 Summit. The *Guradian* reports in an [article](#) that:-



- (a) We need to define what is at stake – to put equity and sustainability at the centre of global action over the next decade, and establish national targets against which we can hold governments to account.
- (b) There needs to be significant global agreement with the support or acceptance of the BRICSAM (Brazil, Russian, India, China, South Africa and Mexico) countries and developing countries.
- (c) The UN needs to deliver a process which

- people understand and want to invest in.
- (d) Finally, this process will lack credibility in both north and south unless it is matched by a far stronger push by all countries to deliver on the existing MDGs.
 - (e) In another [report](#), the *Guardian* reports failure of Rio+20 in raising human rights issues such as reinforcing the rights obligations of businesses and international financial institutions. Along with failing to recommit to protecting women's sexual and reproductive rights.
 - (f) This report also prescribes that governments need to resist pressure from interest groups – whether business or the Vatican – and show leadership.

Milennium Development Goals report 2012

The report presents the yearly assessment of global progress towards the MDGs, highlighting several milestones – three important MDG targets have been met well ahead of the target date of 2015.

- Gains in poverty reduction and access to safe drinking water
- An improvement in the lives of slums dwellers in urban areas
- Successful measures towards gender parity in primary education, a decline in levels of child mortality, a downward trend of tuberculosis and global malaria deaths and an expansion of treatment for HIV sufferers



The report concludes that meeting the remaining targets, while challenging, remain possible – but only if Governments do not waiver from their commitments made over a decade ago. For more details, please read the full report [here](#).

Polling the world's poor for a post-2015 development agenda

Ben Leo, global policy director of ONE, a global anti-poverty advocacy campaign, commends national and international efforts towards the 2015 Millennium Development Goals but also questions whether the "priorities and concerns of the world's poorest people" are considered.

"...There remains a very real risk of not capturing the most critical voices—those of *the world's poorest citizens*.

The article makes an argument for a "What the World Wants Poll"; a standardised set of questions set to assess the agenda across developing and developed countries. It has since conducted a comprehensive comparative analysis of existing household surveys in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and East Asia. The article highlights its key findings –

- *Income and employment-related issues dominate the list of concerns*

- *Agriculture and food security concerns are high.*

For elaboration, please refer to the article [here](#).

Publications on the region

The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank: Should Asia Have Both? By Vikram Nehru, Asian Development Bank

This paper examines the complementary and competitive roles of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Asia given the backdrop of a changing world in which development priorities and challenges are changing rapidly and the rapid expansion of financial flows to developing countries is challenging the influence of these organizations. The paper highlights changes to the international aid architecture, its increasing fragmentation, the rise of non-traditional donors, and recent efforts at improving aid coordination. With this background, the paper examines the roles of the World Bank and ADB in Asia, provides some comparisons of their performance, notes their overlapping responsibilities, and explains current approaches to coordination and cooperation between them. Click [here](#) to download full report.

[Social Protection for Older Persons: Social Pensions in Asia](#) is a comprehensive read for organisations and individuals working on older persons in Asia. This book examines the effectiveness and relevance of non-contributory or social pensions in supporting older persons in Asia. It also discusses the political economy and financial sustainability of social pension reform, implications for gender equality and social rights, and design and implementation challenges. It features case studies from Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand, Viet Name and South Caucasus and Central Asia. These cases provide key lessons for informing development policy and practice in Asia and the Pacific. It illustrates that a social pension program with low benefits to many beneficiaries is more beneficial than high benefits to few beneficiaries. For further reading material, please click [here](#).

Context: *Asia's aging population is a development challenge; since caring for the elderly can be costly and economic growth and productivity depend on a labour force regularly replenished with young adult workers.*

Only a minority of Asia's elderly receive pension benefits. Indeed, only about one-quarter of the workforce is covered by contributory pensions in the People's Republic of China, Philippines and Sri Lanka. Less than one in 10 are covered by contributory pensions in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Viet Nam. Read more at this [link](#).

[Creating sustainable health and care systems in ageing societies](#) is a report compiled by the Ageing Societies Working Group 2012 with support of the Global Health Policy Summit. It looks at population ageing and possible innovations to ensure effective, equitable and sustainable healthcare for an ageing population. Specifically, the financial system; dealing with high demand and low resources as well as managing care supply. To read the report, please click [here](#).

Initiatives by Members

This segment covers brief highlights from our member organisations around the region. In this edition, we have features from **Malaysian Council for Rehabilitation (MCR)**.

Project Abilympics 2015

MCR was first featured in the first edition of ICSW SEAP 2012 newsletter. This edition provides an update on Project Abilympics and other initiatives.

MCR has upgraded the standard of Abilympics competitions with better selection, training and preparedness thus moving it to the next level. It aims;

- (i) to develop the potential of persons with disabilities (PWDs)
- (ii) to increase public awareness on the PWDs skills abilities
- (iii) to prepare a team for the coming 9th International Abilympics competition (to be held in Finland in year 2015).

The competition will showcase 22 different skills with respective expert resources engaged to assess the skills. The expert resources have been tasked to formulate the rules and regulation for the Abilympics regional/states level competition as judges on the respective appointed categories.

MCR has also held stakeholder meetings with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in promoting employment and skills training for the PWDs were held nation-wide in June 2012. An Abilympics committee was formed as an outcome of these meetings. A roadshow will be held soon to demonstrate the selected skills.

'Disability Awareness Training' Manual

MCR collaborated with the Public Health Department, Ministry of Health in producing a manual on 'Disability Awareness Training' for health personnel at the primer level. It has also organised workshops, which took place in May and July 2012 respectively.

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As always, we are keen to hear from our readers and welcome contributions. Best wishes, Braema Mathiapparanam, President, South East Asia & Pacific Region and Dilpreet Kaur, [dkaur@icsw.org](mailto:dkaur@icsw.org), Programme Officer, South East Asia & Pacific.  
Website: [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org)

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Please distribute this newsletter as widely as possible.

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## **Appendix A**

### **FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS THE SEVENTH ASEAN GO-NGO FORUM FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

*“Promoting Social Services and Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups”*

**12 September 2012, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

We, the participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development held on 12 September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, who are government officials and representatives of non-governmental organisations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam;

Cognizant of the deliberation at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which encouraged national and local initiatives aimed at providing social protection floors for all members of the society;

Encouraged by the deliberation at the G-20 Meeting held in June 2012 in Los Cabos, Mexico, which reaffirmed the priority on job-generating economic growth combined with the establishment of Social Protection Floors (SPF);

Further encouraged by the 101<sup>st</sup> International Labour Conference held in June 2012 in Geneva, which adopted the recommendation concerning national floors of social protection;

Aware of the deliberation at the World Conference on Social Work and Development in July 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden, which emphasized the importance of social protection floors;

Reiterating the recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development held on 20 September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, towards universal coverage of social protection to the peoples of ASEAN;

Keeping with the momentum of the particular recommendation of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GONGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development to the 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials on Social Welfare and Development (7<sup>th</sup> SOMSWD) held on 21-22 September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, to issue an ASEAN declaration that expresses the commitment of ASEAN Member States at a higher level to strengthen SPF implementation;

Further reiterating the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Social Protection and Promoting Social Services for Vulnerable Groups held on 11 September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, towards universal coverage and better delivery of SPF in ASEAN Member States;

Responding to the information, perspectives, issues and recommendations concerning social protection and social services in the region that were shared by the participants during the country presentations and discussions at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development;

Therefore in fulfillment of the recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development, agreed to recommend to SOMSWD the following as a scope for an ASEAN declaration on the strengthening of SPF implementation for the adoption by the ASEAN Leaders in 2013:

#### Aim

1. The declaration aims at supporting the building of an ASEAN Community by 2015 whereby the well-being and livelihood of its peoples, including vulnerable groups, are enhanced by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice through the implementation of SPF.

#### International and regional commitments

2. The right to social protection is a basic human right included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ILO Social Security (minimum standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) and ILO Recommendation concerning national floors of social protection, 2012 (No. 202).

3. Access to social protection is part of ASEAN's commitment to enhance the wellbeing and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN as stipulated in:

- The ASEAN Charter
- Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Road map for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015)
- Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II
- ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of MDGs
- Strategic Framework for Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015)
- Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community (2011)

- Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly (2010)
- Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010)
- Joint Declaration on the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in ASEAN (2009)
- ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (2007)
- Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children (2004)
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region (2004)
- Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN (2001)
- Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children (1993)
- Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region (1988)

#### Definition

4. SOMSWD is recommended to consider defining the term social protection floor at regional level in consultation with other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies. For the purpose of this recommendation, the social protection floors, in accordance with the ILO Recommendation No. 202, are nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion;

#### Principles

5. Everyone, especially those who are vulnerable, is entitled to have equal access to social protection covering essential services as needed by the vulnerable groups;

6. Access to social protection is a human right that should be promoted, protected and fulfilled in conformity with international norms taking into consideration the different cultural, religious, social and economic contexts in the region;

7. The principles of universality of protection based on social solidarity, non-discrimination, accessibility, gender equality, social inclusiveness, coherence, accountability, collective financing and risk pooling should be adhered to in implementing SPF in the region;

8. Implementation of SPF is part of national strategies for the progressive extension of social security towards higher level of protection;

9. SPF is an investment in people to empower them to meet their basic needs and adjust to changes in the economy and labour markets;
10. Social protection is a cross-cutting issue hence the implementation of SPF requires coordinated and holistic approaches with the involvement of government officials, civil society, social workers, and other stakeholders;
11. Family unit is an important element in providing support to the vulnerable people and therefore should be strengthened and preserved;
12. Governments, communities, civil society, private sector and social partners are key stakeholders in providing support to the vulnerable groups and should cooperate in improving the coverage, quality and sustainability of social protection;
13. Inclusive, participatory and rights-based approach should be ensured in the planning, programming and budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of SPF at all levels in the region to ensure responsiveness to the needs of those concerned;

#### Mechanisms

14. Establish and implement nationally-defined SPF in ASEAN Member States adapted to the specific context of each country and define national priorities concerning SPF;
15. Continuously improve the coverage, quality and sustainability of the existing social protection policies and programmes towards the achievement and universality of social protection floors including persons in the informal sector and covering the human life cycle from birth to death;
16. Ensure the flexibility and multi-sectoral responsiveness of social protection schemes in ASEAN Member States to the immediate needs of people living in poverty and victims of disasters and economic crisis who are at risk of falling into the poverty cycle. In this regard, the needs of vulnerable groups should be included in the disaster risk reduction and climate change agenda in ASEAN;
17. Conduct needs assessments and dialogues as well as establish a multi-sectoral national task force on SPF at national level to ensure effective mapping, documentation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation aimed at improving SPF programmes to meet the needs of the people, particularly vulnerable groups;
18. Undertake a regional legal review of existing legislation, policies and programmes, and assess their impact on human development in ASEAN Member States with a view of progressive implementation of SPF;



19. Strengthen the capacity of government officials, social risk management staff, grant makers, social workers, community development workers, community leaders, nongovernmental organisations, social partners, and other stakeholders for better responsiveness, coordination and effectiveness of SPF and delivery services at national and local levels;

20. Foster the involvement of the ASEAN Consortium of Social Work (ACSW) in promoting SPF in the region through activities to improve social and community work education curriculum and assess the vulnerability situations and social protection needs in the region;

21. Promote participation of the private sector in the implementation of SPF through their corporate social responsibility, which would contribute to the sustainability, accountability and wide accessibility of social protection in the region;

22. Strengthen the partnerships of ASEAN with UN Agencies, civil society and private sector for the promotion of public-private partnerships for social protection in the region and to support adequate allocation of human and financial resources for the implementation of SPF;

23. Promote multi-sectoral consultations, information sharing, cooperation and coordination in ASEAN and its Member States for the implementation of SPF in the region. In this regard, a regional consultation mechanism of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) with the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), Senior Officials Meeting on Health and Development (SOMHD) and Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) should be developed to identify collaborative and holistic approach.