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**THE 34th GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**17th - 23rd SEPTEMBER 2013**

**RES.34GA/2013/ /WAIPA/01**

**RESOLUTION ON**

**FOSTERING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH IN ASEAN**

***The Thirty-Fourth AIPA General Assembly:***

***Mindful that*** every woman and child has the fundamental right to the highest attainable standard of health and to achieve equity in health and health services, as outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), to which are highly committed to by all UN member states in 2000;

***Noting*** the concern of the United Nations on the achievement of MDG 4 (a two-thirds reduction in under 5 mortality) and MDG 5 (a three-quarters reduction in maternal mortality) which are the furthest from being achieved by 2015 and requiring urgent need of innovative and strategic actions as well as political will and resources for greater impact;

***Recalling*** the Chairman’s Statement of the 22nd ASEAN Summit issued in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 25th April 2013 which recognizes the contribution of women to the overall ASEAN community building efforts and the importance of promoting the health of the people of ASEAN;

***Encouraged by*** the strong leadership of ASEAN Member States in responding rapidly to regional and global health challenges, and that this leadership, along with the implementation of innovative strategies, has played a key role in the success of many ASEAN countries in reducing incidence of maternal and infant mortality rates;

***Further recalling*** AIPA Resolution 30GA/2009/Soc/07 which amongst others considered health as an ultimate goal of social and economic development and is a major regional agenda and affects every household;

***Acknowledging*** that sustained political will and commitment from ASEAN governments and parliaments are required to accelerate progress on women’s and children’s health; and

***Recognizing*** the efforts and the contribution of the ASEAN Health Ministers in building ASEAN healthy region and their active and effective participation in regional and international forums in addressing global health challenges including the work of ASEAN Taskforce on Maternal Child Health (ATFMCH);

***Reiterating*** WAIPA commitment to advancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of MDGs and to attaining AIPA’s aims and purposes, in particular the promotion of solidarity, mutual understanding, cooperation and closer relations as well as the exchanging of best practices and the dissemination of information amongst all parliaments of ASEAN member countries***.***

***Hereby resolves to:***

***advocate*** for women’s and children’s health and for enabling national legislation, policies, processes and cultural contexts to ensure that women’s and children’s health are considered as prioritized for attention and action.

***urge*** their respective Governments to strengthenand improve the facilities, delivery and accessibility of health services for women and children including reducing financial barriers. In particular, to provide training for skilled birth attendants and identifying gaps through the collection of relevant and timely data on maternal, reproductive and child health.

***further urge*** their respective Governments and promotegreater awareness through broader participation from all sectors of society on issues pertaining to women and child health to intensify efforts in accelerating the achievements of the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and in support of ASEAN Taskforce on Maternal and Child Health (ATFMCH).

***encourage*** gender equality and empower women in all spheres of work, strengthening legislative tools, as well as legal framework towards creating a stronger enabling environment for women’s and children’s health.

***promote*** greater accountability and transparency in the appropriate allocation of funds and resources to address women’s and children’s health needs, in particular to focus on mutual technical aids and assistances not only among ASEAN countries but with other countries in Asia Pacific and international communities.

***Call on*** the respective ASEAN member states to work closely with community and adopt an integrated health care approach that include health promotion and prevention of both communicable and non-communicable diseases targeting women and children.

Adopted on the 22nd day of September 2013 during the 34th AIPA General Assembly in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.