



## **MESSAGE FROM THE ASEAN WOMEN FOR PEACE REGISTRY (AWPR) ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

***28-30 October 2024  
Manila, Philippines***

The ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) participated in the International Conference on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) on 28-30 October 2024 in Manila, the Philippines. The Conference, hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, was organised to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, and as a platform to stock take and assess the progress made in implementing the WPS Agenda across various regions.

The AWPR Members commenced their Conference week by having a *WPS Knowledge Exchange* session with members of the Australian Civil Society Coalition on WPS, on 28 October 2024. The Knowledge Exchange provided an opportunity for mutual learning regarding regional and national action plans on WPS, on lessons learned concerning practical-operational challenges and approaches on WPS, and advocacy approaches on WPS issues, with particular focus on climate security and disaster response.

The AWPR Members took a leading role in organizing the *Special Forum: Bridging Regions for Women, Peace and Security*, held on 30 October 2024. The Special Forum provided a venue for government and civil society representatives from regions and sub-regions, particularly in Southeast Asia and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), to exchange experiences on WPS regional partnerships, discuss common WPS priority areas, and explore cross-region collaboration and partnerships – including the possible establishment of a network between regions.

The International Conference provided an invaluable opportunity for AWPR Members to interact and network with their peers from other regions – particularly strengthening the bonds of sisterhood with women peace leaders from MENA region. Bearing in mind the recent escalation of conflict in many parts of the world, the AWPR Members expressed their grave concern over the continued violence and deteriorating humanitarian situations impacting civilians, especially women and children, in conflict areas. AWPR Members supports the recent Chairman's Statement of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits in Vientiane, Lao PDR, as well as several other recent statements by ASEAN Leaders and Foreign Ministers within the past year. The AWPR appeals to

all parties in conflict to cease violence and explore any and all possible avenues to attain peace, always ensuring women's participation in meaningful roles and positions. The four pillars of WPS Agenda – participation, protection, prevention, relief and recovery – provides the framework for women's role in conflict prevention, resolution and peace mediation. Efforts to resolve conflict must involve the full, effective and meaningful participation of women, in order to ensure that the safety and well-being of women, children, the elderly, the vulnerable and the minorities are safeguarded. Women's involvement will also lend support towards guaranteeing de-escalation of violence, safe delivery of humanitarian assistance and a return to normalcy during post-conflict relief and recovery.

The AWPR expresses appreciation for the support from ASEAN's external partners towards further advancement of the WPS Agenda in the region, as well as support towards the Registry.

The AWPR as a Registry stands ready to support ASEAN and its Member States in ensuring the effective and meaningful role of women in conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

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