

**ASEAN Regional Forum
Framework on Inclusive Processes for the Women, Peace and Security and
Youth, Peace and Security Agendas in
Confidence Building Measures,
Preventive Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution**

Furthering the “Concept Paper on Inclusive Processes for Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution” approved by the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers at the 27th ARF in Hanoi, Vietnam on 12 September 2020;

Building on the “Joint Statement on Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum” adopted at the 26th ARF in Bangkok, Thailand on 2 August 2019;

Acknowledging the disproportionate impact of armed conflict and humanitarian crises on women and youth and the increased occurrence of all forms of violence against women and girls, including but not limited to sexual violence, trafficking in persons, and exploitation prior to, during, and after armed conflict; the important roles of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding and peacekeeping; the importance of supporting the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes at all levels of decision-making; and the importance of engaging men and boys in support of women’s empowerment within the broader WPS agenda;

Building on the recognition of the role that youth play in regional peace and security issues and the impact of those issues on youth as reflected by the “Joint Statement to Promote the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda (YPS) at the ASEAN Regional Forum” adopted at the 28th ARF in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in 2021;

Noting that UNSC Resolution 2250 defines youth as 18 to 29 years of age but that the definition of youth is nationally determined;

Reaffirming the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”, adopted at the 27th ARF on 12 September 2020 in Hanoi, Vietnam, which encourages the effective implementation of the “Joint Statement on Promoting the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum” and promotes women empowerment in peace and security processes by providing more training, increasing deployment and meaningful participation of women at all levels, and incorporating the WPS agenda into the relevant planning and implementation of United Nations peacekeeping operations in accordance with their mandates;

Building on Sections 3.6 and 3.8 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)” to encourage the development of an ARF consultation process with accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations on regional security matters in the ARF and to encourage networking and consultations with Track II organizations;

Advancing Sections 1.1.6, 1.2.20, 1.3.11, 1.4.12, 1.5.9 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”, respectively, to utilize, where appropriate, the work of national and regional think tanks, as well as the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs), to assist in the work of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISM) on Disaster Relief, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Maritime Security, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs Security);

Recognizing that Track II organizations continue to contribute to the work of the ARF through the implementation of existing procedures;

Acknowledging the progress made on strengthening linkages between Track I and Track II diplomacy;

Understanding that the inclusion and meaningful participation of women and youth is beneficial to peace, security, and preventive diplomacy efforts undertaken by the ARF;

Reaffirming the Women, Peace and Security Agenda laid out in UNSC Resolutions 1325 (2000); 1820 (2008); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2009); 1960 (2010); 2106 (2013); 2122 (2013); 2242 (2015); 2467 (2019); 2493 (2019); the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda advanced in UNSC Resolutions 2250 (2015); 2419 (2018); and 2535 (2020); and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;

Understanding that inclusion of women and youth in the ARF refers to efforts, opportunities, and practices in the ARF that both facilitate the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and youth in decision-making processes that affect their peace and security and enhance the institutional capacities of the ARF to engage with women and youth in decision-making processes related to peace and security;

Recognizing the primary responsibility of national governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies, and activities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace and that inclusivity, including by ensuring full, effective and meaningful participation of youth without discrimination of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, disability, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, is key to advancing peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account;

Noting that inclusion is defined differently by each respective ARF participant and emphasizing that, based on the principles of consensus, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference and on a voluntary basis, this Framework seeks to address the inclusion of women and youth as related to the ARF and to recommend guidelines for cooperation among ARF participants consistent with relevant international and national laws and regulations;

Recognizing that this Framework supports the advancement and implementation of inclusivity in the ARF.

I. Inclusion in the ARF

The ARF seeks to advance confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy, and conflict resolution to address regional political, peace, and security issues of common interest and concern. Many of the peace and security issues of regional concern on which the ARF cooperates are complex, interconnected, and affect a variety of stakeholders, including women and youth.

As a key forum for dialogue on such issues, the ARF is designed to be inclusive of all ARF Participants' perspectives by adhering to the principles of consensus and consultation and should not exclude any Participants' equal participation. By exploring opportunities to include women and youth through dialogue and consultation, the ARF can better advance preventive diplomacy in the region.

II. Women, Peace and Security

Building on the "Joint Statement on Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (2019) at the ASEAN Regional Forum" and Sections 3.6 and 3.8 of the "Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)", this Framework encourages ARF Participants to enhance women's full, equal, and meaningful participation, promote gender equality and integrate gender perspectives in prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace within the ARF by:

2.1 Enhancing and empowering the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making in prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and peacebuilding in the ARF;

2.2 Encouraging the input and meaningful participation of accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations – including women's organizations – implementing the WPS agenda, and contributing where appropriate, to the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and peacebuilding in the ARF, building on Sections 3.6 and 3.8 of the "Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)";

2.3 In the design, approval, and implementation of relevant concept notes and relevant ARF statements in prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and peacebuilding in the ARF, acknowledging the roles and experiences of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, applying gender analyses, and integrating, where relevant, gender perspectives to promote and enhance the full, equal, and meaningful participation and protection of women and girls;

2.4 Encouraging and promoting ARF activities on advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda at the regional and international levels, where appropriate;

2.5 Enhancing collaboration and information sharing with accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations implementing the WPS agenda and EEPs through consultation on ARF activities across areas of cooperation on peace and security issues of common interest and concern to facilitate consistency with the WPS agenda, and building on Sections 1.1.6, 1.2.20, 1.3.11, 1.4.12, 1.5.9, 3.6, and 3.8 of the "Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)";

2.6 Promoting equal opportunity to access assistance and support to women-centered projects that contribute to the expansion of women’s roles in peace and security processes and the prevention and resolution of armed conflict and peacebuilding, as well as projects that contribute to the protection of the rights of women and girls in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas;

2.7 Contributing to the process of raising public awareness regarding the importance of the role of women to peacekeeping, peacemaking, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution.

III. Youth, Peace and Security

Building on the “Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum” and Sections 3.6 and 3.8 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”, this Framework encourages ARF Participants to deepen their understanding of issues of critical importance to the YPS agenda and enhance the meaningful participation of youth, with consideration of youth facing specific risks in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas, in ARF peace and security processes by:

3.1 Promoting the representation and participation, where appropriate, of youth in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

3.2 Empowering youth perspectives by taking into consideration the constructive involvement of youth in ARF activities in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

3.3 Encouraging the representation of youth perspectives or experts on peace and security issues affecting youth in the ARF EEPs in accordance with the “Terms of Reference of the Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs)” and “Guidelines for the Operation of the Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs)”;

3.4 Evaluating avenues of consultation with youth-led organizations to engage in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

3.5 Incorporating consideration of youth and youth issues when planning, drafting, and negotiating ARF statements, as well as considering the impact of such statements on youth in the prevention and resolution of conflict, peacebuilding, and sustaining peace;

3.6 Applying a youth-oriented perspective in the evaluation and approval of concept notes for ARF activities in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

3.7 Encouraging the development of an ARF consultation process with accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations implementing the YPS agenda in the content and implementation of appropriate ARF activities on the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, building on Section 3.6 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”;

3.8 Encouraging ARF activities to advance the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda with particular consideration of youth facing specific risks in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and to mitigate the conditions that lead to radicalization and involvement in armed conflicts, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and transnational crime;

3.9 Enhancing collaboration and information sharing with accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations and EEPs through consultation with ARF in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace to ensure consistency with the YPS agenda, and building on Sections 1.1.6, 1.2.20, 1.3.11, 1.4.12, 1.5.9, 3.6, and 3.8 of the “Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025)”;

3.10 Promoting equal opportunities to access assistance and support youth-led projects and activities that contribute to the building of capacity and empowerment of youth in the prevention and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

IV. Sharing Progress and Best Practices

This Framework may be revisited, when necessary, in intersessional activities to share progress and best practices.

Adopted on the Fifth of August in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two (2022) at the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.