



United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), 79 Side Event:

Learnings from ASEAN: Achieving the SDGs for all and leaving no woman or girl behind

27 September 2024

13.15 to 14.30

United Nations HQ, New York

Background and Rationale

In 2015 the Heads of State/Government representing the peoples of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), charted the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 of an integrated, peaceful, and stable community of Nations in full complementarity with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both placing gender equality and women's empowerment as a cornerstone of Sustainable Development.

ASEAN is a highly dynamic and diverse region. Over the past 50 years, Southeast Asia has gone through rapid economic transformation, urbanisation, and demographic shifts. This has brought remarkable gains on poverty reduction and improvements on the health and wellbeing of the ASEAN population, from increasing access to maternal care, to expanding the availability of basic water sources. Yet rising inequalities, including gender inequalities, and the adverse impacts of climate change, especially on women and girls, continue to be a major challenge for sustainable development in the region.

In this context, ASEAN's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 5 on Gender Equality, and the promise of leaving no one behind remains fervent. Their recognition of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as both a catalyst and a pre-requisite to achieving the 2030 Agenda is at the heart of this commitment.

With its second iteration of the ASEAN Gender Outlook, produced in partnership with UN Women and the ASEAN Secretariat, Member States take stock of the progress made for women and girls across the SDGs, analysing data disaggregated at multiple levels to identify who the disadvantaged population groups are, where they live and the specific challenges they face. This new edition of the ASEAN Gender Outlook showcases key achievements on women's participation in decision making, poverty reduction, and food security, among many other areas. It also highlights how climate change may derail recent gains, and the need to prioritize the empowerment of rural women and girls and those left further behind, to achieve the 2030 goals. New data showcases how digitalization may enable progress acceleration across the region, and the importance of investing in infrastructure,

while emphasizing that prioritizing environmental sustainability is essential for achieving a prosperous and inclusive future.

With only six years left to achieve the SDGs, the region will accelerate targeted actions for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, leveraging existing evidence and expanding its outreach efforts. Building on the progress made, the Kingdom of Thailand, the ASEAN Secretariat and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), wish to highlight examples of the transformative actions taking place in the region with an aim to deliver on the Pact for the Future, accelerate progress towards gender equality, the rights and the empowerment of all women and girls, and, in doing so, catalyzing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The side event aims to inspire exchanges among Member States and key stakeholders, showcase good practices and lessons learned, and amplify the unified voice of the region for accelerating progress towards gender equality, and therefore the entire 2030 Agenda.

Format

- The Ministers [Ambassadors or Representatives] of Thailand, Australia, ASEAN Secretariat, and UN-Women executive leadership will provide welcoming remarks.
- The event will have two sections: the first highlighting the progress made through key findings of the ASEAN Gender Outlook, and the second showcasing forward looking actions of Member States
- UN Women will moderate the panel.
- The event will close with a short Q&A session, where other Member States may issue supporting statements.

Audience

- The event will be open to representatives of Member States and the United Nations system
- Accredited civil society representatives will be invited to attend
- Private Sector institutions will be invited to attend
- Social media coverage of the event will be supported by UN Women

Time and Duration

The event will take place at United Nations Headquarters, **Conference Room 6, from 13.15 to 14.30 hrs.**

PROGRAMME

20 min	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Remarks by H.E. Maris Sangiampongsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Thailand • Opening Remarks by H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Lao PDR • Welcome Remarks by The Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Australia • Welcome Remarks by H.E Dato' Astanah Abdul Aziz, ASEAN Deputy Secretary General for Political-Security Community • Welcome Remarks by Ms. Sima Sami Bahous, UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director
20 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight from the Launch of ASEAN Gender Outlook event in KL, Malaysia – a short video clip global (2 minutes) • ASEAN Gender Outlook key findings video: Progress in ASEAN towards gender equality and women’s empowerment across the SDGs
25 min	<p>Moderated Panel Discussion</p> <p>Meeting ASEAN’s commitments to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through evidence-based decision-making</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Soukphaphone Phanit, Permanent Secretary of the Cabinet Office, Lao Women's Union, Chair of ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Childrean - Ms. Francesca Perucci, Director of Policy and Partnerships, Open Data Watch - Ms. Jan Beagle, Director-General, International Development Law Organization - Ms. Thisana Thitisakdiskul, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Thailand’s Noburo Platform Company Limited <p>Moderator: Papa A. Seck, Chief of UN Women’s Research and Data Section, UN Women Headquarters</p>
15 min	<p>Q&A and Closing (moderated by UN Women)</p>
