



**REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
ASEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

Date: 11 June 2025

Ref: OL OTH 44/2025

- To:**
- (1) **Astrid Puentes Riaño**
Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment
 - (2) **Lyra Jakulevičienė**
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
 - (3) **Elisa Morgera**
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change
 - (4) **Mary Lawlor**
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
 - (5) **Marcos A. Orellana**
Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes

**ON THE MATTER OF THE JOINT COMMUNICATION FROM SPECIAL PROCEDURES
MANDATE-HOLDERS ON THE PROPOSED ASEAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO
A SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT**

Dear Special Rapporteurs and Chairperson,

On behalf of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), I acknowledge with appreciation your joint communications dated 9 April 2025 (OL OTH 44/025) and 27 June 2024 (OL OTH 111/2024) on the proposed ASEAN Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment.

Given ASEAN's long-standing history of cooperation on environmental issues, your engagement and your views on the matter are well appreciated. ASEAN takes pride in having issued declarations and agreements in this regard, including relevant joint statements, one of which is on climate change, bearing on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP). On AICHR's part, it has been actively hosting programmes on environmental human rights from 2014 to date.

The proposed Declaration reflects ASEAN's collective and enduring commitment to the promotion of environmental human rights, as enshrined in Article 28(f) of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration 2012 (AHRD). In developing the text, AICHR has engaged in a careful and inclusive process over an extended period, guided by the consensus of ASEAN Member States and informed by constructive inputs from a broad range of stakeholders including the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN).



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We have duly noted your kind offer of technical support, as well as the insights you have shared. As kindly acknowledged in your letters, the inputs were offered as suggestions. We welcome such suggestions, and their review and possible integration shall remain subject to AICHR's deliberations and the shared priorities of ASEAN Member States.

In this context, it is important to highlight the framework that guides the interactions between Special Procedures mandate-holders and regional human rights bodies, such as AICHR.

We recall the principles outlined in the *Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-Holders of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/RES/5/2)*, particularly those affirming impartiality, independence, and non-interference. Moreover, while paragraph 6 of the *Manual of Operations of the Special Procedures* encourages engagement with regional human rights mechanisms, such engagements are aimed at fostering mutual understanding and voluntary exchange.

My fellow AICHR Representatives and I remain committed in promoting and continuing meaningful cooperation and constructive dialogue with all partners, including the Special Procedures Mandate-Holders, in a manner that accounts for regional contexts and mandates.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

EDMUND BON TAI SOON
AICHR Chair

- cc. 1. AICHR Representatives
 2. ASEAN Secretariat
 3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia