

What is the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025?

The estimated 90 million Southeast Asians with disabilities¹ encounter attitudinal, communication, environmental and institutional barriers as they take part in the lives of their communities. In December 2018, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) launched a new plan to integrate human rights of persons with disabilities into the ASEAN Community framework. The *ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Enabling Masterplan)* builds on the region’s commitments to create a barrier-free community.

The Enabling Masterplan translates principles from global human rights documents such as the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and from the UN Sustainable Development Goals into actions aligned with the ASEAN Community’s development blueprints.

Engaging All Pillars and Sectoral Bodies

The Enabling Masterplan, which serves as an overlay to integrate disability rights into the ASEAN Vision 2025’s development blueprints, provides guidance for ASEAN pillars and sectoral bodies to ensure that persons with disabilities are included. Several key stakeholders in ASEAN are tasked with supporting this process:

The **ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD)** oversees the implementation of the Enabling Masterplan, relying on a data collection process overseen by the **Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD)**. In practice, it is anticipated that SOMSWD will be the primary points of contact on the implementation of the Enabling Masterplan.

The **ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC)** collects data from each of the three pillars to report on the progress made by member countries. It is anticipated that ASEC and SOMSWD will be responsible for conducting the midterm evaluation in 2021 and final evaluation in 2025. Under the Enabling Masterplan, as **ASEAN Pillars and Ministerial Groups** create workplans and implement projects, progress made toward integrating disability rights will be collected by ASEC. The Enabling Masterplan’s 76 key action points highlight critical areas for disability inclusion under each of the three pillars and are designed to complement the actions under ASEAN’s Vision 2025 regional development blueprints.

According to the Enabling Masterplan, “These priority areas/key action points are specified in recognition of the importance of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the political, legal, economic, social and cultural environment and the full realisation of their rights.”



Meeting in Jakarta, participants of a regional DPO network workshop organized by AGENDA in July 2019 discuss the relationship of the Enabling Masterplan to other regional and international policy frameworks.

“The implementation of the Enabling Masterplan shall employ strategies and approaches that will maximise the role of ASEAN Organs and Bodies, encourage participation of civil society organisations, in particular organisations of persons with disabilities, to enhance opportunities for stakeholder engagement and partnership, including but not limited to, regular public-private-people partnerships (PPPP) conference, social entrepreneurship, and corporate social responsibility for inclusive and sustainable development.”

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¹ According to the World Health Organization, approximately 15 percent of the world’s population has a disability.

Guiding Principles of the Enabling Masterplan

1) Relevance. Disability rights pertain to all community pillars as well as their vision and work plan. The key action points that are enumerated in the Enabling Masterplan affirm such relevance and will be a path toward the realisation of an inclusive community.

2) Complementarity. The Enabling Masterplan complements existing commitments and aspirations of ASEAN leaders and the Member States, most particularly the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, in creating and sustaining an inclusive environment for persons with disabilities.

3) Interrelatedness. All human rights, including the rights of persons with disabilities, are interconnected and interdependent. Coordination among sectoral bodies and participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations will be a key success factor in the holistic implementation of this Enabling Masterplan.

Outreach to Disability Communities

It is noted that the “The implementation of the Enabling Masterplan shall employ strategies and approaches that will maximise the role of ASEAN Organs and Bodies, encourage participation of civil society organisations, in particular organisations of persons with disabilities, to enhance opportunities for stakeholder engagement and partnership.” Disabled people’s organizations (DPOs) can provide expertise on disability rights, guidance on engaging the disability community, and support to collect data to demonstrate the Enabling Masterplan progress. ASEAN Organs and Bodies can reach out to DPOs for technical advice and support to implement the Enabling Masterplan, such as by providing trainings for ASEAN officials on how to integrate disability rights into work plans and direct technical assistance.

The following regional DPO networks in Southeast Asia can be engaged on disability rights issues in ASEAN Community member states:

The **ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF)** is a regional network of DPOs that is accredited to ASEAN. ADF has member organizations in all 10 ASEAN member states and has worked to implement the CRPD and other disability rights frameworks in Southeast Asia. The ADF Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. For more information, please contact ADF’s Chairman, Lim Puay Tiak (puaytiaklim@yahoo.com.sg).

The **General Election Network for Disability Access (AGENDA)** organized DPO coordination meetings as part of the consultative process of developing the Enabling Masterplan. AGENDA network DPOs are located in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The AGENDA Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. For more information, please contact AGENDA Program Manager Erni Andriani (eandriani@ifes.org). The Disability Rights in ASEAN project is supported by the Australian Government and implemented by IFES and AGENDA.



ADF and AGENDA members take part in a mapping exercise in July 2019