



# YOUTH DECLARATION

## AUSTRALIA - ASEAN YOUTH SUMMITS

JUNE – AUG 2024





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AUSTRALIA-ASEAN COUNCIL



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*The Youth Declaration and its recommendations to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 were presented at Parliament House, Canberra, Australia on Monday 19th August 2024 as part of the Australian-ASEAN Youth Summits.*

## **This Declaration is made by students from the following schools:**

*Australian International School, Singapore – representing Singapore*  
*Bairnsdale Secondary College, Victoria, Australia – representing Australia*  
*Burnside State High School, Queensland, Australia – representing Malaysia*  
*Cambodia Rural Students Trust, Cambodia – representing Cambodia*  
*Canberra Girls Grammar School, Canberra, Australia – representing Thailand*  
*Chommany Secondary School, Laos – representing Laos*  
*Hurlstone Agricultural High School, New South Wales, Australia – representing Cambodia*  
*Kelmscott Senior High School, Western Australia, Australia – representing Singapore*  
*Kirwan State High School, Queensland, Australia – representing the Philippines*  
*Milaor National High School, Philippines – representing the Philippines*  
*Sekolah Menengah Sains Tuanku Aishah Rohani, Malaysia – representing Malaysia*  
*Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan Raja Isteri, Brunei Darussalam – representing Brunei Darussalam*  
*SMA Negeri 2 Sekayu, Indonesia – representing Indonesia*  
*SMA Pradita Dirgantara, Indonesia – representing Australia*  
*St Patrick's College, Tasmania, Australia – representing Indonesia*  
*Suankularb Wittayalai Rangsit School (SKR), Thailand – representing Thailand*  
*The Essington School, Northern Territory, Australia – representing Myanmar*  
*Vincentia High School, New South Wales, Australia – representing Vietnam*  
*Vinschool Times City School, Vietnam – representing Vietnam*  
*Werribee Secondary College, Victoria, Australia – representing Laos*  
*Woodville High School, South Australia, Australia – representing Brunei Darussalam*



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## Youth Declaration

*We, as student representatives from Australia and ASEAN, have come together during the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits with a commitment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. We have learned with our peers and from experts and developed empathy and intercultural understanding through effective communication and collaboration. We have considered the perspectives and needs of various countries and collaborated to establish key recommendations for the following Sustainable Development Goals. We urge our collective governments to consider these recommendations and commit to action.*

## Recommendations

### Quality Education (SDG 4)

***Recommendation 1:** Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to tackle teacher shortages and increase teacher motivation through fairer wages, increasing the minimum wage for teachers and providing stronger support systems.*

***Recommendation 2:** Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to solve the disparity between education in rural and metropolitan areas by investing in infrastructure, transportation, and access to technology and other resources.*

### Gender Equality (SDG 5)

***Recommendation 1:** Delegates of the Australian-ASEAN youth summits urge our collective governments to work towards increasing the number of women represented in our respective governments, in order to introduce diverse perspectives and equal representation in our legislative and political processes. This will help us break down gender stereotypes, and support our female citizens in their education, employment and to help prevent gender-based violence.*

***Recommendation 2:** Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to work towards the future and dismantle gender-based stereotypes that enable injustice towards women in accessing equal opportunities, gender-based violence and female representation in leadership.*



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## Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7)

*Recommendation 1: Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to move from the usage of damaging fossil fuels, to promote the usage of solar power and hydropower. This is without endangering animals or committing deforestation.*

*Recommendation 2: Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to invest more money, time and technology into building and funding sustainable energy sources.*

*Recommendation 3: Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to promote and support community-based sustainability projects and shared learnings nationally and regionally.*

## Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)

*Recommendation 1: Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to overcome social inequality to achieve equitable development. The government must ensure equitable development or not just focus on one area.*

*Recommendation 2: Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summit urge our collective governments to invest in rural infrastructure by addressing and improving transportation, energy, water, sanitation, and digital connectivity.*

## Sustainable Cities (SDG 11)

*Recommendation 1: Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to integrate renewable energy sources such as solar panels, wind turbines, and energy storage systems.*

*Recommendation 2: Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to focus on Building Sustainable Dense City Planning: multi-family housing, apartments, and good quality single-family houses.*



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## Climate Action (SDG 13)

*Recommendation 1: Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to focus on Nature repair, which involves growing more trees, integrating them into industries for income, benefiting the environment immediately*


*Recommendation 2: Delegates of the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits urge our collective governments to make sustainable agriculture a mandatory priority as part of their climate change initiatives. This includes promoting effective land usage, implementing sustainable farming techniques instead of harmful practices such as slash-and-burn, and leveraging technology to educate communities and improve farming methods.*

## Call to Action

*We, as the delegates of the Australian-ASEAN Youth Summits, are dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as we believe in creating a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. We call upon all stakeholders, including governments, civil society organisations, and the private sector, to join us in this collective effort towards sustainable development and a brighter future for all.*



# CREATING A BETTER FUTURE WITH ASIA

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