



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Working Group Meeting of the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF)**

**24 – 26 August 2021  
9.45 am – 1.00 pm (Kuala Lumpur/Manila Time Zone)  
Zoom Online Platform**

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### **Day 1**

#### **1. Opening Remarks by SEANF Chair 2021, SUHAKAM Commissioner Mr. Jerald Joseph**

- 1.1. Mr. Jerald welcomed all SEANF members to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Working Group Meeting for the year and a special mention was made to the newly appointed NHRCT Chairperson, Ms. Pornprapai Ganjanarintr, and Commissioners. SEANF recorded its appreciation to the previous NHRCT Chairperson and Commissioners for their unwavering commitment throughout their term.
- 1.2. SEANF has achieved several collaborative milestones in the past few months namely under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Statelessness Issues in Sabah between SUHAKAM, Komnas HAM and CHRP, Regional Dialogue on Human Rights and Democratization in Myanmar with individual representatives of AICHR and SEANF-Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Land Rights in UNGP-BHR.
- 1.3. In these unprecedented circumstances and with the devastating and ongoing impact of COVID-19, the pivotal role of NHRIs to promote and protect human rights both nationally and internationally remain of vital importance. Furthermore, NHRIs must continue to work on the link between human rights and democracy.
- 1.4. SEANF is making significant progress in building its working relationship with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and needs to enhance its presence and visibility in the region.
- 1.5. Along with common business matters, the Meeting will discuss thematic issues such as the rights of older persons and the economic rights for communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the human rights situation in Afghanistan and possible interventions by SEANF.

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

- 2.1. The agenda of the SEANF TWG Meeting 2/2021 was adopted with amendments by CHRP to switch the agenda item on the 1<sup>st</sup> day entitled 'Updates on the Thematic Issue of the Rights of Older Persons by CHRP' with the agenda item on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day entitled 'Discussion on SEANF Chairpersonship for the year 2022'.

## **3. Sharing of Major Developments and Challenges in the Region since the 1<sup>st</sup> SEANF Technical Working Group Meeting**

- 3.1. All SEANF members presented their activities, major developments, and challenges faced since the TWG Meeting 1/2021.
- 3.2. On behalf of SEANF members, SUHAKAM conveyed its condolences to MNHRC for the loss of its Commissioner, Daw Tin Kyi U (Ms.).

## **4. Updates on SEANF's Website and SEANF Logo by Komnas HAM**

- 4.1. SUHAKAM presented the updates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> SEANF Strategic Communications Working Group Meeting that was held on 21 June 2021.
- 4.2. Komnas HAM provided an update on the SEANF's website and graciously agreed to host the website until 2023. The website had been revised to incorporate inputs provided by members during the Strategic Communications Working Group Meeting and SUHAKAM's comments. Revisions include a sign-up option for visitors, title amendment from "Who Are SEANF" to "About SEANF", change of the background colour of SEANF members logo to white, and the addition of a contact form in the contact section.
- 4.3. Komnas HAM informed members that ongoing revisions are being made to the website and requested members to share SEANF reports and statements with Komnas HAM to be uploaded onto the website. SUHAKAM as the SEANF Chair has been granted access to the website and may freely add or change the contents of the website.
- 4.4. The contract of the web developer will be renewed until October 2022 and the budget for the website development and maintenance from September 2020 - September 2021 is USD 2,193.60.
- 4.5. The grand launching of the website is aimed to be held at the 18<sup>th</sup> SEANF Annual Conference and in 2022, the focus will be on the improvement of the website such as scheduled maintenance and integrating content with social media.
- 4.6. SUHAKAM suggested scheduling the Strategic Communications Working Group meeting(s) to have a follow-up discussion on the website prior to the Annual Conference. Komnas HAM and CHRP supported SUHAKAM's suggestion and CHRP

proposed that the meeting identify focal points from each NHRI to assist in uploading documents or maintaining parts of the website.

- 4.7. Komnas HAM presented two options for the revised logo based on input from members and a brief explanation of the symbols and images in the logo. The main difference between the two options is the palm leaf that represents peace and peace is also represented by the dove.
- 4.8. SUHAKAM, CHRP, and PDHJ explicitly stated their preference for Option 2 given that it is simpler and has slightly fewer details. MNHRC supported Option 2 subject to the agreement of all members. NHRCT and Komnas HAM had not stated their preference as they will have to consult their respective Commissioners on the preferred option.
- 4.9. SEANF members recorded their appreciation to Komnas HAM for their initiative and efforts in developing and improving the SEANF website and logo.

**Decision:** SUHAKAM to convene meeting(s) of the SEANF Strategic Communications Working Group to work out the final details of the website to be launched at the 18<sup>th</sup> SEANF Annual Conference in December 2021. Members to state their final preference on the SEANF logo and make final comments to the brief explanation via email by 3 September 2021. The preferred option of the SEANF logo shall be finalised and tabled at the SEANF Annual Conference 2021 for adoption.

## **5. SEANF Chairpersonship for the year 2022**

- 5.1. MNHRC presented the context in which the decision was made. CSOs were strongly demanding the removal of MNHRC's membership from SEANF which put the SEANF Chairperson in a difficult situation. Upon deliberation, MNHRC decided that it is not in the best position to take on the role of SEANF Chairperson for the year 2022 as the situation on the ground is unpredictable and recommended that the opportunity be made open to other members.
- 5.2. Understanding the difficulty in this present moment for MNHRC to take up the role of SEANF Chairperson for the year 2022 and in accordance with the SEANF Rules of Procedure, SUHAKAM proposed that the CHRP assume the SEANF Chairpersonship for the year 2022.
- 5.3. CHRP acknowledged the difficulties faced by MNHRC and accepted the proposal to assume the SEANF Chairpersonship for the year 2022 in this unprecedented period.
- 5.4. CHRP sought the support and guidance from Komnas HAM and SUHAKAM as both members have assumed the SEANF Chairpersonship commendably amid the COVID-19 pandemic and with the challenges it brings.
- 5.5. SUHAKAM expressed its gratitude to the MNHRC Chairperson for his consideration and for providing a proposal on how to move forward.

- 5.6. Members supported the proposal on the rotation of Chairpersonship that will be endorsed at the 18<sup>th</sup> SEANF Annual Conference.

## **Day 2**

### **1. Updates and Discussion on the Development of SEANF's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan by SUHAKAM**

- 1.1. SUHAKAM presented the updates from the 1<sup>st</sup> Technical Working Group Meeting to Develop the SEANF Strategic Plan for 2022 - 2026 (TWGSP) that was held on 21 July 2021 and eleven potential priority issues for SEANF's 2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan namely public health and human rights, torture prevention, freedom of speech, expression and association, human rights defenders and freedom of information and freedom of press in addition to the six priority issues of the current Strategic Plan.
- 1.2. APF agreed to provide its support to the SEANF in the development of its Strategic Plan and allocated funds for the hiring of a Consultant. The APF advertised a Request for Proposal to seek a Consultant and had received one proposal.
- 1.3. On behalf of SEANF, SUHAKAM informed the APF on its agreement to engage with the Consultant and will meet with the APF and the Consultant to finalize the details of the contract and provide an update on the progress of the development of SEANF's 2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan thus far.
- 1.4. SUHAKAM presented the zero draft of SEANF's 2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan and welcomed members to provide their brief background and collaborations that had been conducted by SEANF in the past five years.
- 1.5. SUHAKAM proposed to include a brief section on the SEANF logo and interpretation given that the logo will be adopted at the 18<sup>th</sup> SEANF Annual Conference.
- 1.6. CHRP inquired on the deadline for members to submit input and NHRCT inquired on whether there is a monitoring or evaluation of the current Strategic Plan. SUHAKAM stated that there had not been any monitoring or evaluation of the current Strategic Plan, but the Consultant will be required to develop a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) framework for the final SEANF's 2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan.
- 1.7. SUHAKAM highlighted that input from members is an important bedrock for the Consultant in providing information on the capacity of SEANF and how to further enhance it. SUHAKAM suggested including and taking into consideration the SEANF Permanent Secretariat when developing the Strategic Plan given that a Permanent Secretariat will provide for a better management of SEANF.
- 1.8. Komnas HAM proposed to mention how SEANF members will work together, manage and communicate amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, given that it has affected the work of NHRIs and has the potential of becoming an endemic.

**Decision:** SUHAKAM to convene the next meeting of the TWGSP with the Consultant. Members to provide inputs on the background of their respective NHRIs to the zero draft of SEANF's 2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan by 3 September 2021.

## **2. Thinking Post-COVID19 Pandemic: Recommendations on Economic Rights for Impacted Communities**

### **2.1. SUHAKAM**

- Malaysia classified income per household and divided it into three main categories - B40, M40, T20.
- Based on the report by the special rapporteur, Philip Alston, and data accumulated, Malaysia is not equipped to prepare for the COVID-19 pandemic due to the lack of data available and social protection.
- The main impact of the pandemic on household income in Malaysia is the increasing number of poor households from 405.4 thousand households in 2019 to 639.8 thousand households in 2020.
- The Government has introduced eight economic stimulus packages to aid the economic structure of the vulnerable communities.
- SUHAKAM called the Government to implement human-rights-based poverty alleviation programmes, including human rights standards in policy planning, and urged the Government to use the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to measure poverty in its future five-year development plans.
- SUHAKAM had advised the government to be more inclusive on giving aids to refugees and asylum seekers, migrant and undocumented migrants, and indigenous people.

### **2.2. PDHJ**

- The Government of Timor-Leste has established several decree laws as part of the economic recovery program.
- The laws are household cash transfers, employment support measures, salary supplements for frontliners based on the degree of risk, food security and social protection via a Food Basket program, and financial support procedures for the private sectors.
- PDHJ recommended improvement on the support provided by the government. The recommendations are targeted to different ministries such as the Ministry of Estatal to improve the database system on aggregate families, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to increase local agriculture production, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion to be more inclusive in distributing household transfer.

### 2.3. NHRCT

- The Thailand Government via the Ministry of Finance has taken several measures to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic.
- The economic measure for 2020 is divided into three main focuses which are measure to prevent risks that may occur to entrepreneurs along with the relief of the cost of living for the general public, measure to enhance liquidity and reduce the burden of expenses, and measure to mitigate and restore the economy as well as to hedge against business risks.
- The economic measures for 2021 are the continuing measures from 2020.
- The roles of the NHRCT during the pandemic are monitoring and evaluation, protecting and promoting human rights.

### 2.4. CHRP

- CHRP recently released the 2020 Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation in the Philippines: ESC Rights covers the first year of the pandemic.
- The report includes key information on social and political rights as well as discussions on economic, social, and cultural rights.
- The CHRP sponsored the Adequacy of the Government's Action in Fighting COVID-19 in Philippines survey and the majority of the citizens stated the help from the Government is adequate. It should be noted, however, that the survey was conducted before the arrival of the more infectious virus.
- There is a wide digital divide in the right to education as the Government has not adequately provided proper learning devices to all teachers and students, especially in the rural area.
- The protection of the rights of medical workers by the Government is inadequate specifically in terms of security protection and discrimination against them.
- The rights of the migrant workers is one of the Government's main priorities. The Government has repatriated Filipinos from all over the world and provides them with the appropriate program such as the livelihood program for the distressed Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).
- CHRP recommended the Government to provide adequate resources for the health sector to ensure quality health care for all, ensure the highest attainable standard of health service is delivered to the Department of Health and assist the Local Government Unit (LGU) to set-up COVID-19 ready health facilities, ensure the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) for social amelioration program, adopt policy measures to buffer the economic impact to older workers in the informal sector and other vulnerable sectors, expedite the

distribution of social pension, and ensure overseas Filipino workers or in the country have full access to the health care system.

- In the long term, post-COVID-19 recommendations should include greater investment in health systems, greater investment in digital technologies, and increased capacity of LGUs for service delivery in light of the Mandanas Ruling.

## 2.5. MNHRC

- The Government stimulus package measures in the first and second wave resembled the Thai Government's but with much lesser amounts because of a lack of reserve. The stimulus focuses on big and medium businesses, the extension of loan repayment, reduction of interest rate, and discounted electricity for the public and factories.
- The economic situation in Myanmar before COVID-19 was the same as during the pandemic. Myanmar has always prioritized political consolidation rather than economics since the previous NLD Government.
- Though the economy is stagnant, the current Government is still aiming for an increase in GDP from 4% to 6% which mainly depends on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). However, the Government failed to retain this plan as the OEC countries such as the USA and Japan are badly affected by the pandemic.
- The restriction in Myanmar to contain the virus specifically closing the economy has affected many start-up companies, tourism industries, and manufacturing are also severely affected.
- The COVID Action Plan which is the continuity from the previous Government covers the vaccination programme but they depend more on China and Russia instead of India.
- During the second and third wave in July, it was difficult to contain due to the rapidness of the virus and the resistance from the people, armed groups and international condemnation against the new Government is one of the main reasons why the foreign investors withdrew from Myanmar.
- The Government limits the usage of the internet which has affected businesses who rely heavily on it, especially the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).
- The previous Government gave a one-off payment of around 30 USD to medium households and to people above 80 years old, but it was only a one-off thing.
- The new Government faces difficulties in restructuring the economic condition in Myanmar as people keep on resisting and the health worker joined the movement.

- People are more concerned on political issues rather than economic revival which lead to double the amount of poverty post-COVID-19.

## 2.6. Komnas HAM

- Komnas HAM issued 18 policy recommendations on COVID-19 to the Government and four of the recommendations are on rebuilding the economy - social safety assistance, building community solidarity, protection of Indonesian citizens abroad, specifically migrant workers, and protection for workers.
- Indonesia has one of the highest infected cases and death rate in the world which illustrate the efforts provided by the Government to fulfill the right to health and protect the right to life.
- The poverty rate in March 2021 reached 27.55 million people, while the unemployment rate was 9.77 million people.
- Komnas HAM urged the government to fulfill the right to social security under the pandemic when facing situations that prevent them from enjoying other rights such as during Community Activities Restrictions Enforcement (PPKM) for people to earn daily income.
- Most of the informal workers are hardly hit by the pandemic due to the less protection of their rights and this includes the Precariat group.
- The pandemic has raised a number of orphans and they have to survive under minimal economic support.
- Komnas HAM proposed a joint effort with other NHRIs to assess and carry out a study on the impact of COVID-19 in the region on social and economic rights.
- Komnas HAM recommended to protect all workers, revise Law on Job Creation to include the protection of all informal workers, address the right's assistance to those who are vulnerable, ensure access to vaccines for all, and ensure transparency and accountability in providing social security for vulnerable people.

### **3. Updates on SEANF-AICHR Engagement by SUHAKAM**

- 3.1. SUHAKAM highlighted that as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), SEANF should be the closest partner to AICHR in the region, however, this is not yet the case.
- 3.2. The informal meeting held between SEANF and AICHR on 25 November 2020 provided a good and open platform to discuss common areas of interest and future cooperation. SEANF members have also been working with individual AICHR representatives and there has been a good exchange of invitations to the respective institution's events and activities.
- 3.3. SUHAKAM continued the efforts initiated by Komnas HAM and wrote to the AICHR Chair to request for a meeting between SEANF and AICHR and sought the same protocol of engagement. AICHR agreed to meet with SEANF and proposed that the meeting be held during the Special Meeting of the AICHR 02/2021 that is scheduled to be held sometime in late November 2021. If SEANF agrees to the proposal, AICHR will inform SEANF on the specific date once the dates for the Special Meeting of the AICHR 02/2021 has been confirmed.
- 3.4. The engagement with AICHR is slowly institutionalizing itself over time and that every SEANF Chair will make it part of SEANF's regular agenda to engage with AICHR and even more so than before. SUHAKAM suggested that SEANF also engage with AICHR representatives who do not have NHRIs and invite the representatives as speakers to events.
- 3.5. MNHRC highlighted that AICHR is quite different from SEANF in many aspects, especially in terms of financing and the number of duties and that the current model of engagement with AICHR has been effective so far. There have been gradual changes in the attitude of AICHR representatives and agreed that as a way forward, SEANF should continue on this path and engage with AICHR frequently.

**Decision:** SUHAKAM to inform the AICHR Chair on SEANF's agreement to AICHR's proposal and propose the modality for the engagement. SEANF members to actively participate in AICHR activities and to invite AICHR to participate in SEANF activities.

### **4. Discussion on the Human Rights Situation in Afghanistan and Possible Intervention by SEANF led by CHRP**

- 4.1. Members shared information on the situation in Afghanistan, expressed concern on the safety of the people and colleagues at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and discussed possible interventions by SEANF.
- 4.2. Members agreed in principle on the five action points as follows:

- 4.2.1. Release a joint statement by SEANF directed to AIHRC, Afghanistan authorities, UN, and public on SEANF's position on protecting NHRIs and human rights defenders in the region.
- 4.2.2. SUHAKAM as a member of the APF Governance Committee, to put forward the proposed interventions by SEANF.
- 4.2.3. Members to have a dialogue with their respective governments on the situation in Afghanistan and to propose for an open-minded and human rights based approach on Afghanistan refugees.
- 4.2.4. Members to request their respective governments to take an active role in international efforts for Afghanistan through the UN and other regional forums to move forward on this agenda.
- 4.2.5. Dialogue with the UNHCR Regional Office in Bangkok to find out what is their efforts and to also raise our concerns and extend our solidarity.

**Decision:** Members agreed in principle on the five action points and were encouraged to implement the five action points. CHRP to initiate the drafting of the SEANF joint statement and circulate to members for inputs and comments.

### **Day 3**

#### **1. Updates on the Establishment of the Permanent Secretariat and SEANF Rules of Procedure**

- 1.1. Komnas HAM presented the background and updates on the signing of the SEANF Rules of Procedure (RoP). In February 2021, the clean draft version of the RoP was distributed among SEANF members.
- 1.2. Komnas HAM informed members that the process of signing the hardcopy of the RoP is still in progress and therefore, the discussion about the Host Country Agreement has been postponed. For the next course of action, Komnas HAM will arrange for the intergovernmental meeting to discuss the next scheme upon receiving the signed hardcopy of the RoP from MNHRC.
- 1.3. Komnas HAM proposed for MNHRC and PDHJ to re-sign the RoP via e-signature instead of signing a printed copy. This will ensure a pristine copy of RoP will be uploaded on the SEANF website and for ease of reference.
- 1.4. SUHAKAM informed that PDHJ had received the hard copy of the RoP from SUHAKAM. Komnas HAM requested PDHJ to send the hard copy of the RoP to MNHRC and finally, Komnas HAM.

**Decision:** MNHRC and PDHJ to re-sign the soft copies of the RoP via e-signature. PDHJ, MNHRC, and Komnas HAM to expedite the process of signing the hardcopy of the RoP within a month and subsequently Komnas HAM to follow through with meetings with

MOFA Indonesia on the establishment of the SEANF Permanent Secretariat by the end of the year.

## **2. Updates on the Thematic Issue of the Rights of Older Persons by CHRP**

2.1. After the TWG Meeting 1/2021, CHRP has engaged with individual SEANF members seeking endorsement for recommendation letters from the GANHRI WG on Ageing on the drafting of a convention specifically on Rights of the Older Persons and the inclusion of NHRIs in the process.

2.2. The letters were addressed to:

- Chair of the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA)
- President of the United Nations General Assembly
- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- United Nations Secretary-General

2.3. CHRP expressed its gratitude to SEANF members for their support as most of the members, namely SUHAKAM, PDHJ, NHRCT, and Komnas HAM have signed on the letters. The letters are now pending endorsement from the GANHRI Bureau.

2.4. CHRP sought MNHRC's endorsement of the letters and suggested that it could be collectively endorsed as SEANF. MNHRC accepted the proposal and CHRP agreed to follow through with the process directly with MNHRC.

2.5. CHRP has been using the SEANF Baseline Paper on the Rights of Older Persons in South East Asia for their consultations. Subject to the agreement by the members, CHRP will lead the update of the SEANF baseline study on older persons with focus on ageing and age discrimination, impacts of the pandemic responses of governments, and call for a binding treaty.

2.6. CHRP also proposed for the SEANF to submit written and/or video statements on older persons at the 48th Session of the UN Human Rights Council. CHRP will share the draft statements with the members.

2.7. CHRP also called for the SEANF members to join the #AgeWithRights Campaign on 1 October 2021 in conjunction with the International Day of Older Persons. The initiatives were led by the Global Alliance on the Rights of Older People (GAROP).

## **3. Next Steps and Preparations towards the 18th SEANF Annual Conference**

3.1. SUHAKAM sought members' understanding of any logistic and administrative shortcomings, considering the challenges of different time zones and ground situations in SEANF member countries. SUHAKAM welcomed members to give constructive feedback for future improvements.

- 3.2. The 18<sup>th</sup> SEANF Annual Conference will be held on 1 - 2 December 2021 and the Side Event on the Regional Conference on Prison Reform will be held on 29 - 30 November 2021. The SEANF Annual Conference will be conducted between 9.45 am - 1.00 pm (Kuala Lumpur/Manila Time Zone, GMT +8), a lunch break of 1.5 hours, and an afternoon session from 2.30 - 4.30 pm (Kuala Lumpur/Manila Time Zone, GMT +8).
- 3.3. The agenda items of the Annual Conference will include common business matters, follow-up matters from SEANF TWG Meeting 2/2021, and proposals from members. The highlights of the Annual Conference will include the adoption of the SEANF Logo, grand launching of the SEANF website, adoption of SEANF's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, and handover of SEANF Chairpersonship from SUHAKAM to CHRP.
- 3.4. Subject to safety measures to curb the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions, SUHAKAM looks forward to hosting the 18th SEANF Annual Conference in a hybrid format. SUHAKAM suggested 2 persons per SEANF member to attend in person while there is no limitation for online participation. Members were requested to reserve the dates for the SEANF Annual Conference and the side event on Prison Reform.
- 3.5. The Regional Conference on Prison Reform will be jointly organized by SUHAKAM, the Prison Department of Malaysia, and SEANF and supported by the British High Commission. The objectives of the Regional Conference on Prison Reform are as follows:
- To raise awareness about the human rights challenges in prison settings.
  - To support the Prison Reform Agenda in Malaysia and the Southeast Asia Region.
  - To strengthen the advocacy work towards the reform among key Government agencies.
  - To exchange experiences and good practices among NHRIs and key stakeholders.
  - To submit and discuss the main outcomes with the policymakers, nationally and in ASEAN.
- 3.6. Participants of the Regional Conference on Prison Reform will include SEANF members, government agencies of Malaysia, CSOs, international human rights organizations, Parliamentarians, Members of the judiciary, and detaining authorities in the region.
- 3.7. Members took note of the draft agenda of the Regional Conference on Prison Reform. SUHAKAM invited members to comment/provide input on the agenda and lend their support to share the contact information of SEANF members' respective prison departments.

- 3.8. MNHRC pointed out that it was not included as a speaker and suggested that SUHAKAM should break down the number of representatives from NHRIs and CSOs in the invitation letters.
- 3.9. CHRP stated the prison system in the Philippines is fragmented and it's best to invite the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) instead. CHRP also recommended SUHAKAM to consider inviting representatives from the UN WG on Arbitrary Detention and CHRP may be able to connect SUHAKAM with the Director of the World Prison Research Programme.
- 3.10. SUHAKAM will follow up on the detailed arrangement and will keep members updated once more information is available. SUHAKAM proposed to assess the situation and make the final decision on the modality of the meeting by mid of October 2021.

#### **4. Other Matters**

- 4.1. CHRP informed members that it had a virtual meeting with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and a discussion on the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) to improve international cooperation on migration, and to strengthen the contributions of migrants and migration to sustainable development. The meeting discussed SEANF activities at the sub-regional level and how NHRIs can be more involved. UNESCAP expressed interest in engaging with NHRIs and offered its assistance in terms of capacity building of NHRIs in particular, GCM.
- 4.2. An NGO Koalisi Buruh, working with Indonesian migrant workers in Sabah. SUHAKAM and Komnas HAM had a meeting on this issue and Komnas HAM will be getting updates from their complaint department and will update SUHAKAM and other members accordingly.
- 4.3. CHRP shared the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy with all members.

#### **5. Closing Remarks by SEANF Chair 2021, SUHAKAM Commissioner Mr. Jerald Joseph**

- 5.1. On behalf of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) as the Chairperson of SEANF in 2021, Mr. Jerald Joseph conveyed his appreciation to SEANF members for the unwavering support and active participation in the SEANF TWG 2/2021.
- 5.2. SUHAKAM hopes for the continued engagement between SEANF and Civil society organizations. The dialogue between SEANF and the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), and the Asian NGO Network on NHRIs (ANNI) is a testament of the openness and readiness of SEANF to engage and work together with the Civil-Society Organizations (CSOs) on the human rights issues.

5.3. Mr. Jerald reiterates SUHAKAM's commitments to facilitate and expedite the agreed decisions and action points in the coming months as below:

- Convening the SEANF Strategic Communications Working Group meeting(s) to work out the final details of the website before launching at the 18th SEANF Annual Conference with the SEANF Logo;
- Coordinating a joint statement for SEANF on the human rights situation in Afghanistan;
- Spearheading the SEANF-AICHR engagement which will be held on November 2021;
- To work together with SEANF members and the consultant appointed by the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF) to finalize the SEANF's Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026; and
- Preparing for the 18th SEANF Annual Conference and its side event on prison reform.

5.4. Mr. Jerald hopes that SEANF members will keep the momentum and commitment to continuously support CHRP as the next Chairperson of SEANF for 2022.

5.5. The meeting ended with a photo session.

**Prepared by SUHAKAM, SEANF Chair  
26 August 2021**