



**Concluding Statement of the 17<sup>th</sup> SEANF Annual Conference  
The South East Asia National Human Rights Institution Forum (SEANF)  
Cisco Webex, Bogor, Indonesia  
24-26 November 2020**

The South East Asia National Human Rights Institution Forum (SEANF) consisting of the National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia (Komnas HAM), the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP), the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT), and the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice of Timor-Leste (PDHJ), held the **17<sup>th</sup> SEANF Annual Conference** on a hybrid communication basis (virtual and offline) in Bogor, Indonesia from 24-26 November 2020.

The main outcomes of the **17<sup>th</sup> SEANF Annual Conference**, convened on 24-26 November 2020 virtually through the Cisco Webex Meetings application, were as follows:

**Day 1 (Tuesday, 24 November 2020)**

- **Adoption of the Agenda**

1. The agenda of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was adopted with amendment due to additional agenda, Special Meeting between SEANF and AICHR on 25 November 2020 at 08.30 am.
2. The second day meeting started at 09.45 am.

- **Adoption of the Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Working Group 2020**

3. SEANF members adopted the report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting held on 25-27 August 2020 virtually in Jakarta Indonesia using Cisco Webex platform, as amended by SUHAKAM and CHRP.

- **Sharing of Major Developments and Activities since the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

4. SEANF members shared major developments and activities undertaken since the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on a wide range of issues and any impacts of COVID-19 pandemic into the human rights works area, including the rights to freedom of movement, protection of the rights of stateless persons, indigenous peoples, women and children. Other issues are: abolishment of the death penalty, promotion of human rights education and public awareness raising, the promotion and protection of human rights in the issue on problem and systematic solving of sexual violence against school children by teachers or educational personnel, advocacy activities relating to business and human rights, LGBTIQ, monitoring of the human rights situation in prisons and detention centres, accreditation review, the Commissioner structural shifting, and capacity assessment. Mostly, the SEANF Member's works have shifted into digitalization during the COVID-19 pandemic time.

- **Side Event: Webinar on National and International Initiatives in Torture Prevention**

5. Komnas HAM as part of its prevention of torture initiatives together with four other state institutions, The Ombudsman of Republic Indonesia, Witness and Victim Protection Agency, The

National Commission on Violence against Women and National Commission on Child Protection organized a Webinar on Torture Prevention. The objectives of this Webinar were to strengthen SEANF commitment in developing regional model for prevention mechanism and have comparative initiatives in torture prevention; to promote the ratification of OPCAT and to share knowledge and experiences regarding to torture prevention.

## **Day 2 (Wednesday, 25 November 2020)**

- **Special Meeting between SEANF and AICHR**

6. This meeting has been proposed by SEANF member since 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Dili, Timor-Leste. Komnas HAM as SEANF Chairperson facilitated through a dialogue with AICHR Representatives in Indonesia and sent an official letter on behalf of SEANF dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 addressed to AICHR Chair. The AICHR Secretariat responded on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 by email. AICHR conducted the closed virtual meeting on 25 November 2020. This meeting was off the record. During the meeting, the SEANF Members shared proposals on future cooperation with AICHR including collaboration on human rights issues of common concern such as migrant workers, business and human rights, international human rights instruments and rights of vulnerable communities.

The AICHR Chair informed the Meeting that the AICHR Five-Year Work Plan 2021-2025 and the Priority Programmes/Activities 2021 has been finalized and is now ready for implementation.

The Meeting agreed that COVID-19 and public health was among the key common areas of interest and both AICHR and SEANF

reiterated their commitment to working closely together in future.

- **Discussion and approval of guidelines for use of SEANF social media platform**

7. The SEANF members have adopted the guidelines with amendments from SUHAKAM, CHRP, and PDHJ.

- **The progress of SEANF website**

8. Komnas HAM has been developing SEANF's Website and inserted some materials from the web archives into the website <https://seanf.asia>. There were some inputs on SEANF logo design. SUHAKAM suggested that Komnas HAM provides some background information to explain the meaning of the symbols and the images within the logo. SUHAKAM also suggested that the background color of SEANF members' logos on the main page of SEANF's website should be white instead of yellow and supported to have 11 persons in the logo as it represents South East Asia region. Alternatively, if the forum choose logo with 6 (six) people, SUHAKAM recommended to leave some space for additional people if more NHRIs from the region were to join SEANF in future. The members proposed the logo with blue background as the main option and changing the red-colored hand into the color that represents SEANF's color.

9. Any inputs or new designs for SEANF website and logo should be finalized by 31 December 2020. It is hoped to launch the final version by the TWG Meeting conducted by SUHAKAM in 2021.

- **NHRCT to share experiences on business and human rights and the advocacy for the NAP in Thailand**

10. NHRCT shared the implementation of strategy to mainstreaming the Business and Human Rights since 2018, and has promoted the respect of human rights in business operations, especially in protecting, respecting, and remedy the framework. They organized pilot project to implement UNGPs and National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. The presentation has been distributed to all SEANF members.

- **Adoption of SEANF Statement on the situation of Migrants and Members of their Families amid the COVID-19 crisis**

11. Comments and revisions from SUHAKAM, NHRCT and PDHJ have been incorporated. CHRP updated the statement to include a paragraph on the Global Compact for Migration. The SEANF Members have adopted the statement.

- **Other matters**

12. Komnas HAM informed the members that it convened an informal virtual meeting with the Asian NGO Network on NHRIs (ANNI) as a representative of SEANF on 19 November 2020 to discuss the potential areas of cooperation.

- **Side Event: Online Dialogue on Stateless Issues in Sabah**

13. The online dialogue was co-organised by Komnas HAM, SUHAKAM, and CHRP as one of the activities under the tripartite MoU signed in July 2020.

14. The online dialogue was divided into two sessions with the topics namely, “New narratives in statelessness discourse: national security & human dignity – finding the human rights

balance” and “Working beyond borders: opportunities for regional collaborations in mitigating statelessness in Sabah”.

15. The online dialogue was attended by approximately 118 participants from relevant government agencies, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and academicians. Among others, the discussions during the online dialogue underlined potential approaches which could be undertaken by the relevant stakeholders in addressing the issue of statelessness in Sabah. It was noted that the issue of statelessness is multi-faceted and requires strong commitment from relevant stakeholders and international engagement.

### **Day 3 (Thursday, 26 November 2020)**

- **Discussion on the NHRCT’s proposal towards SEANF’s Guidelines on Torture Prevention**

16. NHRCT proposed the adoption of a new document, namely the Principles and Guiding Framework for SEANF Cooperation on the Prevention of Torture and Other Forms of Ill Treatment and some editorial amendments to the SEANF’s Guidelines on Torture Prevention that has been provisionally adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Dili, Timor-Leste.
17. PDHJ, and CHRP opined that the amendment proposal must be discussed again.
18. SEANF members adopted the SEANF’s the Guidelines on Torture Prevention with amendments from NHRCT and agreed to form the Working Group to discuss the new proposal from NHRCT until generating the recommendation on it.

- **Komnas HAM to update the progress on establishment of SEANF Permanent Secretariat**

19. Komnas HAM updated the Meeting on the efforts it had undertaken in drafting the Host Country Agreement of SEANF Permanent Secretariat with MoFA of Indonesia. Based on MoFA consideration, the Rules of Procedures (RoP) must be formalized first as the basic document.

20. The SEANF members agreed to sign the RoP that has been provisionally adopted in 2017. The closing of the document inserted today's date (26 November 2020) without mentioning the place of signing.

21. The SEANF members agreed on the mechanism of RoP's signing and distribution. The signing will be done by e-sign and pen signature. It will be circulated among the six members.

- **Handing over of SEANF Chairmanship from Komnas HAM to SUHAKAM**

22. On the principle of rotation, the SEANF chairmanship was handed over from the Komnas HAM to the SUHAKAM at the conclusion of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

26 November 2020  
Komnas HAM Secretariat