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JOINT STATEMENT
1st ASEAN – Republic of Korea Health Ministers Meeting
15 May 2022, Bali, Indonesia

The 1st ASEAN – Republic of Korea Health Ministers Meeting was held on 15 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

AFFIRMING the new height of cooperation between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea (ROK), under the ASEAN-ROK Health Ministers' Meeting (AHMM Plus ROK) marked by the convening of the First ASEAN-ROK Senior Officials' Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) on 22 October 2021, which was co-chaired by SOMHD Chair Indonesia and SOMHD ROK. The outcome of this partnership and collaboration was the endorsement of programs and its project activities in Strengthening Health System for Sustainable Universal Health Coverage and Health Security for Resilient Health Systems.

NOTING that the AHMM Plus ROK carry the responsibility to provide guidance and set strategic directions to deepen and expand ASEAN-ROK existing ties of mutually beneficial cooperation and partnership in the field of health sector.

APPRECIATING the active and concerted efforts made by ASEAN and ROK to strengthen health system resilience and enhancing health security through the ASEAN Plus Three Health Sector platform, among others by coordinating regional responses to COVID-19 pandemic as well as accelerating the progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in ASEAN Member States. These efforts envisage to be further strengthened under the ASEAN-ROK HMM platform.

RECOGNIZING the increasing importance of making healthcare services available to the vulnerable population during global health emergencies, underlining the commitment to reach sustainable UHC by sharing knowledge and experiences and;

REALIZING the necessity of effective ICT-powered infectious disease responses in enhancing health system resilience and health security;

UNITED by the commitment to pursue *Advancing the Achievements of ASEAN Health Development*;

AFFIRMING our commitment to *Strengthening Health System for Sustainable Universal Health Coverage and Health Security for Resilient Health Systems*, the Meeting discussed and exchanged views on the preparedness and response to future health challenges; and agreed as follows:

1. Enhance access to the quality of health care services towards attaining UHC and strengthening health security measures by increasing the utilization of high caliber Information and Communication Technology (ICT) system, Artificial Intelligence (AI)

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and Big Data to reduce medical costs, prevent counterfeit medicines, prevent and respond to infectious diseases.

2. Endeavor to develop and build up the national and regional capacity of the establishment of ICT-based healthcare financing system, which is crucial to achieve sustainable UHC. In this regard, ASEAN and ROK agree to share knowledge and experience on the utilization of a system established for stable health financing.
3. Further strengthen the existing infectious diseases surveillance, diagnostic laboratory network, EOC operation, as well as FETN in responding to public health emergencies through ASEAN-ROK Capacity Building Programmes and the on-going establishment of the E-government Cloud-system for Infectious Diseases Response Project to monitor drug and vaccine safety, drug distribution and inventory ensuring the availability and safety of pharmaceutical products and therapeutics.
4. Enhance the capacity of human resources for health through the support of technical assistance and international training courses in the fields of UHC and pandemic preparedness and response through the ASEAN-ROK UHC International Training Course Project with synergistic manner with other ASEAN and ASEAN Plus Three relevant mechanisms such as ASEAN Plus Three UHC Network.
5. Advance the availability of healthcare-related knowledge through the utilization of an ICT-powered knowledge sharing platform which also provides a learning management system to collect health policy data and discuss research results with the participation of internal and international experts from academia, research and medical circles through the ongoing Establishment of Knowledge Sharing Platform in Health Sectors for ASEAN Member States.
6. Strengthen ASEAN-ROK collaboration in building a more robust and resilient regional health systems in ASEAN through supporting the development of local manufacturing of medical countermeasures in ASEAN Member States as well as the establishment of regional research centre and networks, harmonizing with the existing regional centre and networks aiming at achieving equitable access to vaccine, therapeutics and diagnostic tools.
7. Further enhance the ASEAN-ROK collaboration and providing achievable projects implementation include monitoring and evaluation of the areas of cooperation, by tasking the SOMHD to set up a monitoring and evaluate mechanism and communication channel, guided by the Governance and Implementation Mechanism (GIM).
8. Continue cooperating to enhance UHC and advance healthcare systems in the region. In this regard, ASEAN and ROK agree to strengthen public healthcare systems including primary healthcare, and expand areas of mutual cooperation in health promotion and public health.

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9. Endeavor to strengthen the infectious disease response capacity of the ASEAN region by expanding technical support and programs relevant to UHC and pandemic preparedness and response.
10. Endeavor to strengthen core disease control capacities necessary for the regional responses to public health emergencies. In this regard, ASEAN and ROK agree to cooperate on rapid laboratory diagnostics, capacity building for EOC operations and field epidemiological investigation, system support for infectious disease surveillance and risk analysis, and the establishment of E-government cloud-based healthcare infrastructure.
11. Promote equitable access to vaccine, which has become ever more important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and mutually endeavor to enhance the capacity of regional human resources for health to respond to future pandemics. In this regard, ASEAN and ROK agree to utilize paid and unpaid training programs including the biomanufacturing workforce training programs and the ASEAN-Customized UHC training programs.
12. Further enhance the ASEAN-ROK collaboration and provide smoother project implementation, including monitoring and evaluation of above-mentioned programs through the ASEAN-ROK SOMHD health cooperation mechanisms

We look forward to further exchanges of views and collaboration in health development at our next Meeting in Lao PDR in 2024.