



**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**THE SEVENTH ASEAN GO-NGO FORUM FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

*“Promoting Social Services and Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups”*

**12 September 2012, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

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We, the participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development held on 12 September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, who are government officials and representatives of non-governmental organisations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam;

Cognizant of the deliberation at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which encouraged national and local initiatives aimed at providing social protection floors for all members of the society;

Encouraged by the deliberation at the G-20 Meeting held in June 2012 in Los Cabos, Mexico, which reaffirmed the priority on job-generating economic growth combined with the establishment of Social Protection Floors (SPF);

Further encouraged by the 101<sup>st</sup> International Labour Conference held in June 2012 in Geneva, which adopted the recommendation concerning national floors of social protection;

Aware of the deliberation at the World Conference on Social Work and Development in July 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden, which emphasized the importance of social protection floors;

Reiterating the recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development held on 20 September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, towards universal coverage of social protection to the peoples of ASEAN (**Annex A**);

Keeping with the momentum of the particular recommendation of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development to the 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials on Social Welfare and Development (7<sup>th</sup> SOMSWD) held on 21-22 September 2011 in Bangkok,

Thailand, to issue an ASEAN declaration that expresses the commitment of ASEAN Member States at a higher level to strengthen SPF implementation;

Further reiterating the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Social Protection and Promoting Social Services for Vulnerable Groups held on 11 September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, towards universal coverage and better delivery of SPF in ASEAN Member States (**Annex B**);

Responding to the information, perspectives, issues and recommendations concerning social protection and social services in the region that were shared by the participants during the country presentations and discussions at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development;

Therefore in fulfillment of the recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development, agreed to recommend to SOMSWD the following as a scope for an ASEAN declaration on the strengthening of SPF implementation for the adoption by the ASEAN Leaders in 2013:

#### Aim

1. The declaration aims at supporting the building of an ASEAN Community by 2015 whereby the well-being and livelihood of its peoples, including vulnerable groups, are enhanced by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice through the implementation of SPF.

#### International and regional commitments

2. The right to social protection is a basic human right included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ILO Social Security (minimum standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) and ILO Recommendation concerning national floors of social protection, 2012 (No. 202).
3. Access to social protection is part of ASEAN's commitment to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN as stipulated in:
  - The ASEAN Charter
  - Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Road map for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015)
  - Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II
  - ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of MDGs
  - Strategic Framework for Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015)
  - Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community (2011)

- Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly (2010)
- Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010)
- Joint Declaration on the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in ASEAN (2009)
- ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (2007)
- Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children (2004)
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region (2004)
- Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN (2001)
- Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children (1993)
- Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region (1988)

### Definition

4. SOMSWD is recommended to consider defining the term social protection floor at regional level in consultation with other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies. For the purpose of this recommendation, the social protection floors, in accordance with the ILO Recommendation No. 202, are nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion;

### Principles

5. Everyone, especially those who are vulnerable, is entitled to have equal access to social protection covering essential services as needed by the vulnerable groups;
6. Access to social protection is a human right that should be promoted, protected and fulfilled in conformity with international norms taking into consideration the different cultural, religious, social and economic contexts in the region;
7. The principles of universality of protection based on social solidarity, non-discrimination, accessibility, gender equality, social inclusiveness, coherence, accountability, collective financing and risk pooling should be adhered to in implementing SPF in the region;
8. Implementation of SPF is part of national strategies for the progressive extension of social security towards higher level of protection;
9. SPF is an investment in people to empower them to meet their basic needs and adjust to changes in the economy and labour markets;

10. Social protection is a cross-cutting issue, hence the implementation of SPF requires coordinated and holistic approaches with the involvement of government officials, civil society, social workers, and other stakeholders;
11. Family unit is an important element in providing support to the vulnerable people and therefore should be strengthened and preserved;
12. Governments, communities, civil society, private sector and social partners are key stakeholders in providing support to the vulnerable groups and should cooperate in improving the coverage, quality and sustainability of social protection;
13. Inclusive, participatory and rights-based approach should be ensured in the planning, programming and budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of SPF at all levels in the region to ensure responsiveness to the needs of those concerned;

#### Mechanisms

14. Establish and implement nationally-defined SPF in ASEAN Member States adapted to the specific context of each country and define national priorities concerning SPF;
15. Continuously improve the coverage, quality and sustainability of the existing social protection policies and programmes towards the achievement and universality of social protection floors including persons in the informal sector and covering the human life cycle from birth to death;
16. Ensure the flexibility and multi-sectoral responsiveness of social protection schemes in ASEAN Member States to the immediate needs of people living in poverty and victims of disasters and economic crisis who are at risk of falling into the poverty cycle. In this regard, the needs of vulnerable groups should be included in the disaster risk reduction and climate change agenda in ASEAN;
17. Conduct needs assessments and dialogues as well as establish a multi-sectoral national task force on SPF at national level to ensure effective mapping, documentation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation aimed at improving SPF programmes to meet the needs of the people, particularly vulnerable groups;
18. Undertake a regional legal review of existing legislation, policies and programmes, and assess their impact on human development in ASEAN Member States with a view of progressive implementation of SPF;
19. Strengthen the capacity of government officials, social risk management staff, grant makers, social workers, community development workers, community leaders, non-governmental organisations, social partners, and other stakeholders for better responsiveness, coordination and effectiveness of SPF and delivery services at national and local levels;

20. Foster the involvement of the ASEAN Consortium of Social Work (ACSW) in promoting SPF in the region through activities to improve social and community work education curriculum and assess the vulnerability situations and social protection needs in the region;
  21. Promote participation of the private sector in the implementation of SPF through their corporate social responsibility, which would contribute to the sustainability, accountability and wide accessibility of social protection in the region;
  22. Strengthen the partnerships of ASEAN with UN Agencies, civil society and private sector for the promotion of public-private partnerships for social protection in the region and to support adequate allocation of human and financial resources for the implementation of SPF;
  23. Promote multi-sectoral consultations, information sharing, cooperation and coordination in ASEAN and its Member States for the implementation of SPF in the region. In this regard, a regional consultation mechanism of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) with the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), Senior Officials Meeting on Health and Development (SOMHD) and Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) should be developed to identify collaborative and holistic approach.
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## **ANNEX A**



**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**THE SIXTH ASEAN GO-NGO FORUM FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

***"Establishment of the Social Protection Floor on Social Welfare and Development  
Within ASEAN"***

**20 September 2011, Bangkok, Thailand**

We, the participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development held on 20 September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam;

Acknowledged that everyone, as a member of society, is entitled to have equal access to social protection covering essential services including social security schemes; healthcare services; nutrition, care and education for children; as well as social assistance transfers (cash or in-kind) for the poor and vulnerable groups;

Acknowledged that social protection plays an important role in reducing vulnerabilities of the disadvantaged groups in the society including the older persons, people with disabilities, children, women, people living in poverty, and those working in the informal sector who may not be comprehensively covered by the existing social protection schemes;

Further acknowledged that the existing social safety nets in ASEAN Member States may not be adequate in protecting the people from the risk of falling through the nets and, thus, there is a need to set up or strengthen the social protection floor;

Mindful that while many of ASEAN Member States have already relatively comprehensive social protection systems for the formal sector, there is a need to expand the coverage and delivery systems to cover all citizens;

Agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation amongst ASEAN Member States towards universal coverage of social protection to the peoples of ASEAN through the following actions:

1. Ensure participatory and rights-based approach in designing, implementing and monitoring social protection schemes in ASEAN Member States;

2. Promote the mainstreaming of the concerns of everybody in the society, especially the vulnerable groups such as older persons, people with disabilities, children and women, and their participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of social protection legislations, policies and programmes in ASEAN Member States;
3. Enhance the support systems and commitment to improve social protection for all, especially the vulnerable groups of society, to enable them to live in dignity as well as to have equal opportunities to employment enabling them to be self-reliant by setting up minimum standards of social protection in ASEAN;
4. Encourage study on the existing legislations, policies and programmes and their impacts to the human development in ASEAN Member States with the intention of exploring the possibilities and challenges of expanding social insurance schemes to cover informal sector comprehensively;
5. Convene a platform to enhance the knowledge among government officials, NGOs, and social workers on the social protection floor initiative (SPFI) and their capacity to implement social protection schemes progressively;
6. Continue information sharing and exchange of views among government officials, NGOs, international organisations, and other stakeholders in ASEAN Member States on social protection with the objective of learning from the best practices and experiences of each other in improving the social protection coverage and delivery service;
7. Mobilise resources and promote CSR role of the private sector in the region to ensure that adequate financial and human resources are secured for sustainable social protection that is widely accessible to all peoples especially the vulnerable groups;
8. Develop regional statistical indicators in ASEAN to measure the development of vulnerable groups as the result of social protection implementation in ASEAN Member States;
9. Establish an inter-sectoral consultative mechanism in ASEAN and its Member States to promote information sharing, regional cooperation and evaluate the implementation of social protection initiatives;
10. Encourage all ASEAN Member States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) and foster its implementation at community level;
11. Recommend the Senior Officials on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to issue an ASEAN Declaration that expresses the commitment of

ASEAN Member States at a higher level to strengthen the social protection floor initiative (SPFI) implementation.

The participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development expressed their high appreciation to the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of the Forum. The participants also expressed appreciation for the information sharing by the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Disabled Peoples' International Asia Pacific (DPI-AP) in the Forum.

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## **ANNEX B**



**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL PROTECTION AND PROMOTING**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS IN ASEAN**

**11 September 2012, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

We, the participants of the Regional Workshop on Social Protection and Promoting Social Services for Vulnerable Groups in ASEAN held on 11 September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, from the governments and civil society organisations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam as well as international organisations notably ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, ICSW, and the ASEAN Secretariat. The list of participants appears as ANNEX A;

WERE MINDFUL that social protection is an important tool in improving the quality of life and livelihood of vulnerable groups in the region including the older persons, persons with disabilities, children, women people living with HIV and AIDS, people living in poverty, stateless persons, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and victims of disasters;

ACKNOWLEDGED that everyone, especially those who are vulnerable, is entitled to have equal access to social protection covering essential services as needed by the vulnerable groups;

ACKNOWLEDGED that access to social protection and social services is a human right that should be promoted, protected and fulfilled in accordance with the commitments of ASEAN Member States to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ILO Social Security (minimum standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) and ILO Recommendation concerning national floors of social protection, 2012 (No. 202);

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGED that family unit is an important element in providing support to the vulnerable people and therefore should be strengthened and preserved;

Therefore, AGREED to recommend the following concrete actions towards universal coverage and better delivery of Social Protection Floor Initiatives (SPFI) in ASEAN Member States:

- a. To implement nationally-defined social protection floor initiatives in ASEAN Member States and strengthen the existing national social protection schemes towards the achievement of social protection floor. In this regard, ASEAN Member States would need to define national priorities concerning SPFI and develop or strengthen their social protection schemes;
- b. To consider conducting an assessment-based national dialogue and/or establishing a national task force on social protection floor, which may be by leveraging the existing mechanisms, in each ASEAN Member State with the involvement of government officials, civil society, social workers, and other stakeholders to ensure inclusive, participatory and rights-based approach;
- c. To ensure adequate standards of living of the vulnerable groups vis-a-vis the prevailing poverty indices through the development and implementation of social security measures and national plans that cover the human life cycle from birth to death;
- d. To continuously improve the coverage, standards and policies of the existing social security measures through capacity building of all stakeholders for preemptive and/or better responsiveness to the immediate needs of victims of disasters who are at risk of falling into the poverty cycle and to those who are working in the informal sector who have not been covered by the existing social security schemes comprehensively;
- e. To ensure that vulnerable groups are included in the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change agenda in ASEAN;
- f. To renew efforts of ASEAN Member States to identify stateless persons, refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs through, among others, the conduct of a regional analysis on national laws, policies and programmes with a view of promoting effectiveness, mapping and documentation, public awareness activities and safeguarding the rights of those concerned;
- g. To work towards universal birth registration to ensure access to social protection and social services;
- h. To strengthen the partnerships of ASEAN with the UN Agencies including UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF, and ILO, for the promotion of social protection and social services for vulnerable groups;

- i. To promote multi-sectoral consultations, sharing of vulnerability reports, good practices, and dialogues in ASEAN and its Member States towards closer cooperation and coordination for the improvement of social protection coverage, delivery services and curriculum development for social workers and community development workers. In this regard, a regional consultation of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) with the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), Senior Officials Meeting on Health and Development (SOMHD) and Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) was recommended to identify collaborative and holistic approach in promoting social protection floor initiatives in ASEAN.
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**Regional Workshop on Social Protection and Protecting the  
Rights of Vulnerable Groups**

**11 September 2012, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

- 1. Ms. Fatimah Md Salleh**  
Acting Director of Social services Community Department  
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
- 2. Ms. Noryani Haji Abdul Rani**  
Community Development Officer, Department of Community Development  
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
- 3. Ms. Nellie Sunny**  
Honorable Secretary  
Brunei Darussalam Social Welfare Council
- 4. Ms. Siti Zaleha Kaprawi**  
Assistant Secretary  
Brunei Social Welfare Council

**CAMBODIA**

- 5. Mr. Prak Chanthoeun**  
Director General of Technical Affairs Department  
Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation
- 6. Mr. Nhep Chane**  
Director of International Cooperation Dept  
Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation

7. **Mr. Oum Sophannara**  
Director of Department of Child Welfare  
Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation
8. **Mr. Samheng Bora**  
Deputy Director, International Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation
9. **Mr. Ou Ongphal**  
Vice Chief of ASEAN Bureau, Department of International Cooperation  
Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation
10. **Ms. Sarah Chhin**  
Manager, Project SKY  
International Cooperation Cambodia

## INDONESIA

11. **Mr. M. Rizki Safary**  
Deputy Director, ASEAN Functional Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
12. **Mr. Satriyo Pringgodhany**  
Head of Section, ASEAN Functional Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13. **Dr. Laila Refiana Said**  
Vice Secretary General  
Indonesia National Council on Social Welfare

## LAO PDR

14. **Mr. Chomyaeng Phengthongsawat**  
Director of International Relation and Cooperation  
Office of Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
15. **Mr. Chitdavanh Chantharideth**  
Office staff, Office of Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
16. **Mr. Phonekeo Phonesavath**  
Office of ASEAN Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## **MALAYSIA**

- 17. Ms. Zurina Ahmad**  
Under Secretary, Policy Division  
Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development
- 18. Ms. Norani Mohd Hashim**  
Director General, Department of Social Welfare  
Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development;
- 19. Ms. Nur Shafizah Shahidan**  
Assistant Secretary - National Social Policy Division,  
Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development
- 20. Mr. Dato Halim Ibrahim**  
President of National Council on Social Welfare Malaysia (NCSWM)

## **MYANMAR**

- 21. Ms. Hmway Hmway Khyne**  
Minister Counselor  
Embassy of Myanmar to Viet Nam

## **THE PHILIPPINES**

- 22. Ms. Villar Florita**  
Assistant Secretary, Policy and Programs Group  
Department of Social Welfare and Development
- 23. Ms. Sandra M. Camesa**  
President  
National Council of Social Development Philippines
- 24. Mr. Fransiskus Kupang**  
Executive Director  
Coalition of Services of Elderly, Inc

## **SINGAPORE**

- 25. Ms. Nancy Ng**  
Director of Social Welfare, Social Welfare Office  
Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports

26. **Ms. Lim Seow Ling**  
Senior Policy Officer, Policy Branch  
Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports
27. **Ms. Grace Francesca Ming Hui Chan**  
Principal Social Worker, Director of Social Welfare Office  
Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports

## THAILAND

28. **Mr. Cheechooen Chinchai**  
Deputy Director, Office of the National Commission on Social Welfare Promotion  
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
29. **Ms. Tunlaya Amasuwan**  
International Affairs Officer, Bureau of International Cooperation  
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
30. **Ms. Vajiraya Buasri**  
Vice President  
National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand (NCSWT)
31. **Ms. Chalermsee Chantaratim**  
Member, Committee on International Affairs  
National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand (NCSWT)

## VIET NAM

32. **Mrs. Le Kim Dung**  
Director General of International Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
33. **Ms. Ha Thi Minh Duc**  
Director of ASEAN Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
34. **Ms. Tran Thanh Minh**  
Officer of ASEAN Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
35. **Ms. Nguyen Ngoc Anh**  
Officer of ASEAN Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
36. **Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy**  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs

37. **Ms. Le Thi Hong Thom**  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
38. **Ms Nguyen Thi Mai Anh**  
Bureau of Social evils Prevention and Control
39. **Mr. Tran Tuan Tu**  
Bureau of Employment  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
40. **Mr Pham Hong Trung**  
Bureau of Employment  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
41. **Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Toan**  
Officer, Bureau of Social Protection
42. **Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Toan**  
Bureau of Social protection
43. **Ms. Nguyen Thi Huong**  
Comforchild
44. **Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh Huong**  
University of Labor and Social Affairs
45. **Mr Nguyen Trung Hai**  
University of Labor and Social Affairs
46. **Ms Nguyen Thi Thanh Huong**  
University of Labor and Social Affairs
47. **Mr. Vu Ngoc Binh**  
Specialist in Gender
48. **Mrs. Tran Thi Thanh Thanh**  
President  
Viet Nam Association for Protection of Children's Rights (VAPCR)
49. **Madam Tran Thi Mai Huong**  
Vice President  
Viet Nam Association for Protection of Children's Rights (VAPCR)
50. **Ms. Dao Tra My**  
Viet Nam Association for Protection of Children's Rights (VAPCR)

- 51. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Minh Chau**  
Director of International cooperation Dept  
Viet Nam Association for Protection of Children's Rights (VAPCR)

#### **ASEAN SECRETARIAT**

- 52. Ms. Mega Irena**  
Assistant Director/Head  
Social Welfare, Women, Labour and Migrant Workers Division  
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department
- 53. Ms. Marisna Yulianti**  
Technical Officer  
Social Welfare, Women, Labour and Migrant Workers Division  
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department
- 54. Ms. Ruri Narita Artiesa**  
Technical Officer  
Social Welfare, Women, Labour and Migrant Workers Division  
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department

#### **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE (ICSW)**

- 55. Ms. Braema Mathiapparanam**  
Regional President  
International Council on Social Welfare

#### **UNHCR**

- 56. Mrs. Snadrine Tyler**  
UNHCR Regional Office in Bangkok

#### **ILO**

- 57. Ms. Celene Peyron-Bista**  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

#### **UNICEF**

- 58. Ms. Le Hong Loan**  
Chief, Child Protection Section  
UNICEF Viet Nam

## UN WOMEN

- 59. **Ms. Nguyen Thi Thuy**  
Program officer of UNIFEM Viet Nam
- 60. **Ms. Estefani Aguallar**  
Policy Officer of UN Women

## AECID

- 61. **Ms. Patricia Teresa Rosa**  
Expert – AECID Project
- 62. **Ms. Ane de Mendoza Barbera**  
AECID - Viet Nam

## OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- 63. **Ms. Deborah Chatsis**  
Canadian Embassy in Ha Noi, Viet Nam
  - 64. **Mr. Do Duong Hien**  
PLAN
  - 65. **Mrs. Lynda Ford**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Community Workers Association (ACWA)
  - 66. **Mr. Tony Mayow**  
Executive Committee Member  
Social Development Partners
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