

AGENDA ITEM 11. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 3rd ASEAN GO-NGO FORUM ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, 2 DECEMBER 2008

66. Mr. Michael Raper, President of ICSW South East Asia and Pacific, briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 3rd ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development held on 2 December 2008. He highlighted the expert presentations and discussions during the Forum in the areas of social protection, trafficking in persons and adaptation to climate change. He further highlighted the stronger collaboration between the Governments and National Councils and/or other participating NGOs in the preparation and during the 3rd ASEAN GO-NGO Forum. The 3rd ASEAN GO-NGO Forum adopted a set of recommendations which appear as ANNEX 40.

67. Acknowledging the need to continuously leverage on the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum, Mr. Raper underlined the need to:

a. Support the financial and capacity building needs of NGO representatives that would participate at the future ASEAN GO-NGO Forums; b. Establish the Focal Point in each National Council (or its equivalent in ASEAN Member States without National Councils yet established) to coordinate and work together with the SOMSWD Focal Points; c. Preparation and early submission of the country reports on the progress of follow-up actions to the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum's recommendations by the Focal Points of National Councils and/or other NGOs in collaboration with the SOMSWD Focal Points; d. Adoption of a theme for every ASEAN GO-NGO Forum in future; e. Development of a TOR of the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum jointly by ICSW and the ASEAN Secretariat with inputs from ASEAN Member States.

68. The Meeting noted the Recommendations of the 3rd GO-NGO Forum. In this context, the Meeting recommended the following:

i. Organisation of the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development Acknowledging the strategic role of the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum in building a people-centred ASEAN, future Forums should provide adequate opportunities for dialogue between GOs and NGOs on key regional social welfare and development issues; The participation of the NGOs in the Forum should be expanded and not limited to the ICSW's national councils only.

ii. Trafficking in Persons

The ASEAN GO-NGO Forum's work on TIPs should also take cognizance and be in coordination with that of other ASEAN bodies such as the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) to ensure synergy and to avoid duplication of efforts. In this respect the Meeting tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to update the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum and SOMSWD on the progress of SOMTC's relevant work pertaining to TIPs.

iii. Climate Change

The ASEAN GO-NGO Forum should focus on adaptation to the impact of climate change on the socially vulnerable groups and should work in coordination with the relevant ASEAN bodies in particular the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Environment (ASOEN). The ASEAN Secretariat was tasked to update the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum and SOMSWD on regional efforts on climate change adaptation being undertaken by relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies.