

# Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming in ASEAN

POVERTY ERADICATION AND GENDER DIVISION

ASEAN SECRETARIAT



# Gender in the Economy

- **Women make up around half of the graduates** in most ASEAN countries, only 30 women per every 100 men are in leadership positions at work.
- Equality in the world of work: An additional US\$28 trillion (S\$38 trillion), or **26 per cent**, of incremental global gross domestic product (GDP) could be achieved in 2025.
- Women account for nearly half (48.7 per cent) of the intra-ASEAN migrant working age population. Yet **concerns** are raised about intersecting gender, age, ethnicity and legal status vulnerabilities at different stages of the “migration journey”.
- **“Smart” Economics**: Education level, financial and digital inclusion, legal protection, and **unpaid care work**



Education  
level



Financial and  
digital inclusion



Legal  
protection



Unpaid care  
work



# Women and economy

- There is a remarkable increase of women-owned MSMEs among all ASEAN countries. In total, there are **61.3 million women entrepreneurs** in 10 ASEAN countries.
- **Promote women's participation and skills** development in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.), including information and communication technologies (ICT)
- increasing women's participation in the economy could **add an additional US \$12 trillion to annual global output by 2025**. Closing gender gaps in hours worked, participation and productivity could result in GDP gains of up to 30 per cent for East and South-East Asia (excluding China) by 2025 (UNESCAP 2017)



# ASEAN instruments on advancing the empowerment of women and girls



Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals



Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)



Joint Statement on Women, Peace and Security



# Action Agenda on Mainstreaming WEE in ASEAN

The Action Agenda aims to mainstream Women's Economic Empowerment through innovation, trade and inclusive business, and human capital development

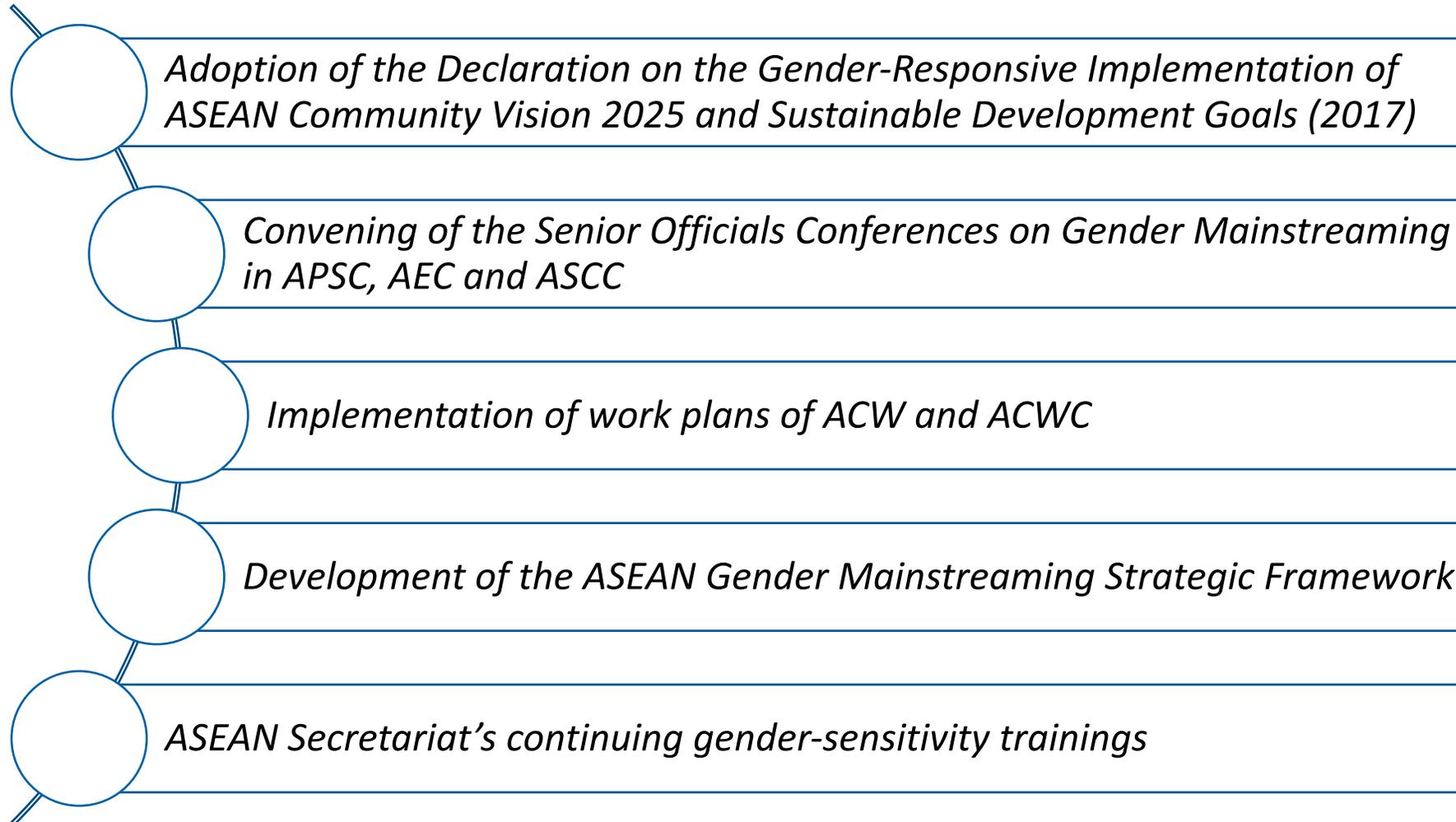
1. **ADDRESS** the barriers that impede maximizing women's full economic potential
2. **PROMOTE** women's participation and skills development in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.), including information and communication technologies (ICT)
3. **INVEST** in programs which provide enabling environments for women micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)
4. **INCREASE** women's representation and leadership in the workforce at the executive and managerial positions by intensifying human capital development
5. **ENCOURAGE** PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION
6. **CONSIDER** organizing an annual ASEAN Women's Business Conference



# ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework



## Key developments and milestones



# *ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework*

- Affirm the **strategic nature** of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework while at the same time **addressing the practical needs** of the ASEAN sectoral bodies, particularly in building their capacities on gender mainstreaming
- The strategic framework is intended to serve as a **tool** for ASEAN Member States and ASEAN **to achieve gender equality goals, to communicate** ASEAN's commitments and deliverables, and **identify the responsible bodies and entities** for its roll-out while giving due recognition and consideration to the current institutional arrangements and structures within ASEAN
- The strategic framework would **enumerate key milestones until 2025.**, and **forecast the vision post-2025**



# *ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework*

- ASEAN sectoral bodies expressed the **need for an overarching framework** to guide their efforts in mainstreaming gender perspectives in their areas of work. Specifically, they indicated the need for **practical guidelines and tools**, as well as **building their capacities and identification of focal points**, to aid their efforts on gender mainstreaming.
- The roll-out of the strategic framework is **not meant to be an additional work that would burden the sectoral bodies**. Rather, it is meant to be integrated in existing institutional arrangements and mechanisms of the ASEAN sectoral bodies and ASEAN Member States.



## *Key developments and milestones*

### **AMAF's Approach to Gender Mainstreaming in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors**

- Public measures that apply a gender perspective which as a result affect the behavior of different stakeholders (amongst others producers, farmers and regulators). The gender policy covers key elements to be integrated into a set of policies and programs to ensure women working in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors in ASEAN are empowered.
- Adopted at the 40<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting, 11 October 2018, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
- ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Research Development (ATWGARD)

### **ASEAN Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies to Promote Decent Work for All**

- Being developed by the Task Force on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies to Promote Decent Work for All convened by the Senior Labour Officials' Meeting (SLOM)

### **Technical Working Group on Protection, Gender and Inclusivity under the ACDM Working Group on Prevention and Mitigation**



# Recent key developments and milestones

## Gender Mainstreaming Workshop in Rural Development and Poverty Eradication

- The Workshop served as an inaugural platform to learn, dialogue and share on good practices, practical actions and ways forward to mainstream gender in the rural development and poverty eradication sector of ASEAN.
- It is one of the steps to be taken following the deliberation of SOMRDPE to implement the recommendations arising from the Senior Officials Conference on Gender Mainstreaming in ASCC sectoral Bodies in 2018.
- *RDPE Workplan 2021-2025* : Human: Improved access and use by women, youth, and minority people of ICTs, financing, and new technologies to develop production and livelihoods resulting to better employment and income and well-being and **Increased in number of youth and women-led enterprises; and increase in incomes and quality of employment of rural women and youth.**

## Gender Mainstreaming in the environment sector

- Strengthening Human Rights and Gender Equality through Climate Change Action and Disaster Risk Reduction, EmPower – Women for Climate Resilient Societies
- EmPower is a regional project implemented by UN Women and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It aims to address key drivers of gender-based vulnerability and enhance human rights through mainstreaming gender and human rights concerns in climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Asia and the Pacific.



# Moving forward...

1. Mapping and identifying priority areas to implement WEE agenda across sectors and pillars
2. Promoting cross-sectoral and cross-pillar dialogue and collaboration
3. Identifying entry points and Mainstreaming WEE in the work of ASEAN sectors (workplans 2021-2025)
4. Highlight the issue of intersectionality and multiple-vulnerabilities and spatial inequality
5. Conduct more research and evidence-based analysis to inform policies and practices especially on WEE and unpaid care work
6. Continue with campaign and advocacy on women's economic leadership and entrepreneurship at all levels in both urban and rural sectors.

