



ASEAN Inter - Parliamentary Organization

The 23rd General Assembly

8-13 September 2002, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Res. 23GA/2002/Eco/01

RESOLUTION ON AFTA IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

The Twenty-third General Assembly:

Realizing that the actual growing economic globalisation process is presenting ASEAN with not only great opportunities but also tremendous challenges;

Reaffirming that a strong AFTA will compete effectively with other regional economic organizations;

Reiterating that the ASEAN Free Trade Area is an engine for regional economic development to meet the following economic goals:

- + Increasing intra-ASEAN trade through the removal of regional tariffs and non-tariff barriers;
- + Attracting foreign investors to the region by establishing a single market;
- + Encouraging ASEAN Member Countries to actively integrate into the international economy which is undergoing rapid changes;

Noting the proposal to accelerate the implementation of AFTA in four new member countries of ASEAN, namely Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam put forth in the

ASEAN Informal Economic Ministerial Meeting in Malaysia and the 25th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the Implementation of CEPT/AFTA Scheme;

Affirming that it is necessary to take further measures to realize AFTA, taking into account each country's conditions with an aim to help them overcome constraints unfolded in the implementation process,

Hereby resolves:

- a) **To welcome and support** the active efforts, in the past and at present, by the Association and its Member Countries to strengthen economic cooperation within ASEAN, creating premises for the realization of "ASEAN Vision 2020";
 - b) **To call on** ASEAN Member Countries to continue implementing the Ha Noi Plan of Action (HPA) and promoting the implementation of agreements on regional economic integration, namely the Agreement on ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), the Agreement on the Harmonization of ASEAN Customs Procedures, and the Agreement on ASEAN Investment Area (AIA);
 - c) **To recommend** ASEAN Member Countries to promote economic reforms, including financial structure and tax system with a view to accelerating the liberalization process;
 - d) **To call for** the active participation of the AIPO Member Parliaments in formulating a legal framework conducive to trade and investment liberalization in ASEAN; to endorse and assist Governments' efforts in finding effective measures to continue implementing the AFTA roadmap; and
 - e) **To call on** ASEAN Members to adopt appropriate measures to assist enterprises, especially small and medium-sized ones, of the four new Members, namely Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam, with an aim of accelerating the AFTA implementation process.
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