

H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn Secretary-General of ASEAN

August 4, 2023

Re: ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative

Dear H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn,

We are writing on behalf of the **Asia for Animals Coalition**, a network of local and international animal protection and conservation organizations as well as other international animal welfare organizations promoting the One Health approach to enable health for all.

We would like to express our gratitude for the ASEAN Leaders' *Declaration on One Health Initiative*, recently issued at the 42nd ASEAN summit.¹ This statement represents a bold commitment that emphasizes the health and wellbeing of animals and ecosystems.

We very much welcome this significant and commendable step that underscores the importance of a collaborative and multisectoral approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, plant, and environmental health and wellbeing. The declaration lays the foundation for enhanced coordination, cooperation, communication, and multisectoral collaboration among and within ASEAN member states following a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, which is required to tackle health threats, including zoonotic pathogens, antimicrobial resistance, and other challenges to human and animal lives, ecosystems, and livelihoods.

We applaud the ASEAN Leaders' efforts to include primary prevention addressing the root causes and drivers of zoonoses at source, improved preparedness, and timely response to health threats. As guided by the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OHJPA) and the work of the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), including their recent definition of zoonotic spillover 'prevention', we encourage ASEAN to lay emphasis on primary prevention of zoonotic outbreaks and pathogen spillover from animals to humans.^{2,3}

This can be done by addressing the root causes and drivers of disease (re)emergence such as ending high-risk practices and promoting basic animal and human health and animal welfare practices, which

¹ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). (2023). ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative. <u>https://asean.org/asean-leaders-declaration-on-one-health-initiative/</u>

² FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOAH. (2022). One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026). Working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment. <u>https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2289en</u>.

³ One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP). (2023). Prevention of zoonotic spillover: From relying on response to reducing the risk at source. <u>https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/prevention-of-zoonotic-spillover</u>



are key parts of the One Health approach. The ASEAN Leaders' *Declaration on One Health Initiative* serves as a beacon of hope and progress and most importantly **it serves to inspire transformational change and enhance collaboration**.

We wholeheartedly support this remarkable undertaking. We would see immense value in ASEAN countries championing the integration of the One Health approach as per the OHHLEP iteration and One Health Joint Plan of Action in UN fora including the Political Declaration on Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response being discussed in New York, as well as the WHO instrument on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response.^{4,5,6} We are actively communicating about the ASEAN Leaders' commitment and encouraging other regions to follow suit, leveraging the valuable lessons and experiences gained from this endeavor.

The undersigned organizations from around the globe, on behalf of the many millions of members they represent, thank you for making the commitment to the health and wellbeing of people, animals, and planet.

Sent on behalf of AfA's Core Member Organizations:

- 1. Anima Society for the Protection of Animals (Macau) (ANIMA)
- 2. Animal Concerns Research & Education Society (ACRES)
- 3. Animal People Forum
- 4. Animal Protection Denmark
- 5. Animal Rescue Cambodia (ARC)
- 6. Animals Asia Foundation (AAF)
- 7. Blue Cross of India (BCI)
- 8. Born Free Foundation
- 9. Change for Animals Foundation (CFAF)
- 10. Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO)
- 11. FOUR PAWS International
- 12. Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS)
- 13. Humane Society International (HSI)
- 14. Jane Goodall Institute Nepal

⁴ FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOAH. (2022). One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026). Working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment. <u>https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2289en</u>.

⁵ Intergovernmental negotiating body (WHO). (2023). Instrument on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response Q&A.

https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/pandemic-prevention--preparedness-and-response-acc ord

⁶ General Assembly of the United Nations. (2023). Zero Draft: Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response.

https://www.un.org/pga/77/2023/06/06/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-pandemic-prevention-preparedness-and-response-hlm-co-facs-letter-zero-draft-of-the-political-declaration/.



- 15. Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)
- 16. Samayu
- 17. Sarawak Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA)
- 18. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Hong Kong (SPCA HK)
- 19. VShine Animal Protection Association
- 20. World Animal Protection (WAP)



Please respond to Sarah Grant, Asia for Animals Coalition, info@asiaforanimals.com.

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H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai Minister of Foreign Affairs

Vietnam: Ms. Dao Hong Lan Minister of Health

H.E. Mr. Bui Thanh Son Minister of Foreign Affairs

With support from AfA's Network Member Organizations:

- 1. ACTAsia
- 2. Action for Dolphins (AFD)
- 3. Action for Primates (AfP)
- 4. Advocating Wild
- 5. All Life In A Viable Environment (ALIVE)
- 6. Alliance for Earth, Life, Liberty & Advocacy (AELLA)
- 7. Animal Advocacy Africa (AAA)
- 8. Animal Defenders International (ADI)

- 9. Animal Friends Croatia (AFC)
- 10. Animal Friends Jogja (AFJ)
- **11.** Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF)
- 12. Animal Nepal
- **13.** Animal Projects & Environmental Education (APE Malaysia) (APE Malaysia)
- 14. Animal Rescue Organization Pakistan (ARO)



- 15. Animal Rights Center Japan (ARC)
- 16. Animal Welfare And Anti Harassment Society
- **17.** Animal Welfare Awareness, Research and Education (AWARE)
- 18. AnimalConcepts
- 19. Animals Don't Speak Human (ADSH)
- 20. AnimO Mina's Animal Sanctuary (AnimO)
- 21. ANIMONDIAL
- 22. Bali Animal Welfare Association (BAWA)
- 23. Bali Monkey Aid Network (MAIN)
- 24. Ban Animal Trading
- 25. Bat World Japan
- 26. Born Free USA
- 27. British Hen Welfare Trust (BHWT)
- 28. Brooke
- 29. Captured in Africa Foundation (CIAF)
- **30.** Cat Beach Sanctuary Penang (CBS)
- 31. Catalyst
- 32. Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA)
- 33. Cattitude Trust Chennai
- **34.** China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF)
- **35.** Coalition For Cruelty Free Africa
- 36. Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)
- **37.** Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA)
- 38. Compassion Works International (CWI)
- 39. Corbett Foundation
- 40. Dharamsala Animal Rescue (DAR)
- **41.** Djurskyddet Sverige (Animal Welfare Sweden)
- **42.** Earth Island Institute Asia Pacific (EII-AP)
- 43. Ecoflix Foundation
- 44. Elephanatics

- 45. Elephants in Japan (EIJ)
- 46. Elephation
- 47. English Budgie
- 48. Environment Films
- 49. Ethical Seafood Research Ltd. (ESR)
- 50. Fish Welfare Initiative (FWI)
- 51. FLIGHT
- 52. Franciscan Order Hong Kong (OFM)
- 53. Freedom for Animals (FFA)
- 54. Fundación para el Asesoramiento y Acción en Defensa de los Animales (FAADA)
- 55. Future 4 Wildlife
- 56. Global Animal Welfare
- 57. Global Sanctuary for Elephants (GSE)
- 58. GREY2K USA Worldwide
- **59.** Greyhound Compassion
- 60. Help Animals
- 61. Help Animals India
- 62. Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust (HART)
- 63. Hollow Paws
- 64. Humane Animal Society (HAS)
- 65. Humane League Japan (THL Japan)
- 66. In Defense of Animals India (IDA)
- 67. In Defense of Animals USA
- **68.** International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF)
- **69.** International Primate Protection League (IPPL)
- **70.** International Student One Health Alliance (ISOHA)
- **71.** Israeli Primate Sanctuary Foundation (IPSF)
- 72. IUCN Section on Small Apes (SSA)
- 73. Jakarta Animal Aid Network (JAAN)
- 74. Japan Anti-Vivisection Association (JAVA)
- 75. JBF Trust India
- 76. JK Wildlife Pte Ltd (JKW)



- 77. Karuna Society for Animals & Nature
- **78.** Kolkata Animal Welfare Indian Foundation (KAWIF)
- 79. Korea Animal Rights Advocates (KARA)
- **80.** Kurdistan Organization for Animal Rights Protection (KOARP)
- **81.** Laboratoire d'écologie et environnement - Université de Bejaia -Algeria
- 82. Lady Freethinker (LFT)
- 83. Landmark Foundation (LMF)
- 84. Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization (LAEO)
- 85. Lawyers for Animal Rights (LAR)
- 86. Lifelong Animal Protection (LAP)
- 87. Magic Marble Foundation (MMF)
- 88. Mission Motor
- 89. Moving Animals
- **90.** Neotropical Primate Conservation (NPC)
- **91.** Nepal Animal Welfare and Research Center (NAWRC)
- **92.** North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA)
- 93. Nowzad
- 94. One Voice
- **95.** One World Actors Animal Rescues (OWAP)
- 96. ONG Sante Animale Afrique (SAA)
- 97. Orangutan Aid
- 98. Orca Rescues Foundation (ORF)
- 99. PACK Taiwan (PACK)
- **100.** Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)
- **101.** Panthera Africa Big Cat Sanctuary (Panthera Africa)
- **102.** People for Animals Trust Faridabad (PFA Faridabad)
- 103. People's Fund (TPF)

- **104.** Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)
- **105.** PETA Asia 亚洲善待动物组织 (PETA Asia)
- **106.** Plants and Animals Welfare Society (PAWS Asia)
- 107. Plataforma ALTO
- 108. Pro Wildlife
- **109.** Proyecto ALA Animales Latino América (Proyecto ALA)
- **110.** Put an End to Animal Cruelty and Exploitation (PEACE)
- 111. Rhino & Elephant Defenders (RED)
- **112.** Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RNZSPCA)
- **113.** Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia) (SAM)
- **114.** Sanctuary for Health & Reconnection to Animals & Nature (SHARAN)
- **115.** Save Animals Initiative Sanctuary Trust (SAI)
- **116.** Save Animals Value Environment Jammu and Kashmir (SAVE)
- 117. Save The Asian Elephants (STAE)
- 118. Save the Dogs and Other Animals
- 119. Sea First Foundation (SF)
- **120.** Seaotter Alliance
- **121.** Selamatkan Yaki (SY)
- **122.** Shakuntala Society for Animal Welfare and Nature (SWAN)
- 123. Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- **124.** Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK)
- 125. Sinergia Animal
- **126.** Society for Animal Welfare and Management (SAWM)



- **127.** Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Selangor (SPCA Selangor)
- **128.** Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Singapore (SPCA Singapore)
- **129.** Society for the Protection of Animals Ljubimci (SPAL)
- **130.** Society for Travelers Respecting Animal Welfare (STRAW)
- 131. Soi Dog Foundation
- 132. StopMonkeyAbuseAsia (SMAA)
- **133.** Stray Relief and Animal Welfare (STRAW India)
- **134.** Stripes and Green Earth Foundation (SAGE Foundation)
- 135. Sun Bear Outreach
- **136.** Susy Utzinger Stiftung für Tierschutz / Susy Utzinger Animal Welfare Foundation (SUST)
- 137. Taiwan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals 台灣防止虐待動物協 會 (TSPCA)
- 138. Tracks Investigations (TRACKS)
- 139. Tree of Compassion

- 140. Vegans of Jabalpur
- 141. Vervet Monkey Foundation
- 142. Vive
- 143. Voice for Dogs Abroad (VFDA)
- 144. Voice for Zoo Animals
- 145. Voice of Animal Nepal (VOAN)
- 146. Voice4Lions
- **147.** Wanicare Foundation
- 148. We Animals Media (WAM)
- 149. Wild & Free Rehabilitation & Release (W&F)
- 150. Wild Futures
- 151. Wild Welfare
- 152. Wildlife Alliance
- **153.** Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT)
- **154.** Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre India (WRRC)
- **155.** Winsome Constance Kindness Trust (WCKT)
- **156.** World Federation for Animals (WFA)
- 157. Zoocheck



























With support from other organizations:

- 158. Freeland
- 159. Re:wild
- 160. The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime

