



4th ASEF SUSTAINABLE YOUNG LEADERS DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT POST-COVID-19

A multi-part youth programme in 2021 | Virtual, Cambodia & Across ASEM Countries
Official youth event in support of the 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13)

ASEM Youth Declaration

Opening Ceremony of the 13th ASEM Summit on
"Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth"

Hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia
25 November 2021

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Chair of ASEM, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests.

We are deeply grateful for the chance to speak on behalf of young leaders from all 51 ASEM countries who participated in the 4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS4).

The last two years have brought dramatic changes. We were hit by a global pandemic that hurt us all and highlighted economic, political, and social divides. We are on the verge of a post-pandemic world marked by inequality. Striving for a more equitable world will be yet another challenge for our generation.

Now we need decisive and bold leadership.

Through the ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS), the ASEM Youth have demonstrated our Leadership towards four Sustainable Development Goals. We hereby call upon the ASEM Governments to likewise take action.

Regarding Good Health and Well-being – SDG3, we must work together in the spirit of solidarity to tackle the current pandemic and prevent others. We need to fight inequalities and promote inclusion through the strengthening of critical healthcare infrastructure directed towards disadvantaged communities.

Regarding Quality Education – SDG4, intergenerational collaboration is crucial to navigate the new normal. We need the recognition of physical classrooms as a space for social protection and wellbeing for all. We must bridge the digital divide in formal and informal education. And we need to design relevant curricula and reinforce the legitimacy of online education among employers.

Regarding Decent Work & Economic Growth – SDG8, we want further economic cooperation to spur innovation and leverage on the positive impact of digitalisation. This will revitalise the spirit of multilateralism and promote flexible employability for us, young people, in a future job market marked by uncertainty.

Regarding Climate Action – SDG13, Governments must accelerate the advancement of clean technologies and keep the 1.5 degrees goal alive. We must drastically reduce annual emissions. Immediate action must be taken. We seek a meaningful involvement of youth, who are most affected, to play an active role in the design of adaptation policies.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our earlier call to ASEM Leaders to establish a structured dialogue with the youth.

We have been showing up, leading by example in our communities, and proving that our generation is committed to a better world.

Our message is a call for intergenerational unity and inclusive leadership - on a policy level and through actions on the ground. We want to work with you and to prepare for our future. We seek your support in overcoming youth-washing and in creating opportunities for youth leadership.

Your Excellencies,

We are here and we are ready.

Thank you.

This ASEM Youth Declaration was delivered by three youth representatives of the 4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS4) during the Opening Ceremony of the 13th ASEM Summit on 25 November 2021. www.asef.org

Organised by:



In partnership with:



Contributing to:

