

**PRESS STATEMENT BY THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS
ON THE SPECIAL ASEAN-U.S. FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING
IN WASHINGTON D.C., USA ON 4 MAY 2017**

We, the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gathered in Washington D.C., USA on 4 May 2017 for a Special ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State.

We welcomed the positive progress made in ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations, particularly with the elevation of relations to a strategic partnership at the 3rd ASEAN-U.S. Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015 and the successful convening of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Leaders' Summit in Sunnylands, California in February 2016. We reaffirmed the key principles that guide our cooperation, as outlined in the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Leader's Summit: Sunnylands Declaration.

We discussed ASEAN-U.S. relations and U.S. engagement of the region. We appreciated the commitments by the U.S. to ASEAN including supporting ASEAN Community building and regional integration efforts. We appreciated the U.S.' respect and support for ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving regional architecture of the Asia-Pacific. We welcomed the visit by the Vice President of the U.S. to ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta in April 2017 as a testament to the importance of U.S.-ASEAN strategic partnership. We also welcomed President Donald Trump's commitment to attend the 5th ASEAN-U.S. Summit and 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) in the Philippines in November 2017 and the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting in Vietnam in November 2017.

We discussed the situation in the Korean Peninsula and expressed grave concern over the escalation of the tension. We strongly urge the DPRK to fully comply with its obligations arising from all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and international laws.

We also discussed the issue of South China Sea and both sides underscored the importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We reiterated the principles previously agreed by our Leaders and we call for the early agreement on the framework and expeditious conclusion of a code of conduct in the South China Sea.

We commended our Senior Officials for convening the 30th ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue on 3 May 2017 in Washington D.C. The Dialogue deliberated on strategic issues of mutual concern as well as on ways to effectively implement the agreed areas of cooperation under the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership (2016-2020).

We noted that 2017 marks the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. dialogue relations. We look forward to working together with the U.S. to take ASEAN-U.S. cooperation to the next level. We noted the ongoing and planned commemorative activities by ASEAN Member States and the U.S. to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. dialogue relations.

**ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS
4 May 2017**