EAST ASIA SUMMIT LEADERS' STATEMENT ON COOPERATION IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, on the occasion of the 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Manila, Philippines on 14 November 2017;

REAFFIRMING that the EAS**,** with ASEAN as the driving force, will continue to be a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia;

REAFFIRMING our recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development with a view to building a caring and sharing community;

UNDERLINING the complementarity of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with ASEAN Vision 2025 on community building efforts to uplift the standards of living of the peoples of ASEAN;

REITERATING our support to ASEAN's aspiration towards establishing a truly rules-based, people-oriented, people-centered ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the peoples, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic;

RECOGNISING that poverty and its impacts largely affect populations in rural areas as well as groups such as women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, families living in disaster-prone areas and other vulnerable groups, and acknowledging that the challenge of urban poverty still exists**;**

REAFFIRMING that international partnerships and cooperation in poverty alleviation helps improve the well-being of our peoples and promotes progress and development on the basis of mutual interest and benefit;

ENDEAVORING to respect, promote and realise the fundamental principles and rights at work;

DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:

1. Promote policy communication among governments to mutually support efforts to implement objectives under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in accordance with respective sustainable development strategies, towards eradicating all forms of poverty by 2030 for the benefit of our peoples;

2. Enhance open cooperation, as appropriate, on development; finance; sustainable, quality and resilient infrastructure; sustainable industrial development; connectivity; inclusivity; enhancing public services; and other fields that aim to enhance economic opportunities and employment; uplifting the lives of the poor, particularly women, girls and those with disabilities, and those vulnerable to extreme poverty**;**

3. Create a favorable and enabling socio-economic policy environment that would promote access of the poor to financial and support services, livelihood and social protection programmes, and improve access to markets for poverty-stricken areas so as to open channels for their populations to increase their income and accelerate poverty alleviation;

4. Promote regional cooperation, in line with national circumstances and policies, on developing human resources to increase opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and microfinance, enhance access to labour markets and promote sustainable livelihood, especially among the poor;

5. Promote a whole-of-government approach towards multi-dimensional poverty eradication through multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and community-based approaches that also encourages partnership with civil society organisations and the private sector;

6. Promote inclusive growth through appropriate measures, that aim to provide the poor and vulnerable with equitable access to economic and other opportunities, and enable them to participate in socio-economic opportunities including through financial innovation, inclusion and strengthening social enterprise;

7. Promote equitable opportunities to quality education and training for all, and access to information with priority given to the advancement of universal access to education;

8. Promote productivity, technology and innovation as measures to enhance Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) and advance the application of practical technology in less-developed areas;

9. Strengthen the convergence of poverty eradication initiatives at the local, national and regional levels through exchange of ideas, experience sharing and mutual learning, and encourage North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation by such means as policy consultation, community-level learning, forums and meetings as well as pilot projects;

10. Support efforts on eradicating poverty by providing assistance and mobilizing appropriate financial or non-financial resources, including official development assistance, to developing countries in the region, promote sustainable, quality and resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrial development, and endeavor to improve public services such as education**,** housing and healthcare to narrow the

development gap and achieve the sustainable development of the whole region, including through relevant ASEAN mechanisms such as the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2020, Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III and Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 as well as various regional integration and connectivity initiatives;

11. Strengthen engagements and partnerships with the business sector, non-government organisations and global and regional institutions on improving the lives of our peoples;

12. Encourage institutions to conduct research on poverty alleviation that reflect the varying socio-economic and poverty levels of countries, and provide policy proposals and recommendations, and assist in monitoring and evaluation if requested;

13. Support civil society organisations (CSO) to take part in poverty alleviation exchanges and cooperation through voluntary services, knowledge and experience sharing, personnel exchanges and other ways where appropriate.