



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE ASEAN POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
(PMC) 10+1 SESSIONS WITH THE DIALOGUE PARTNERS  
25 July 2016  
Vientiane, Laos**

**“TURNING VISION INTO REALITY FOR A DYNAMIC ASEAN COMMUNITY”**

1. The ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC)+1 Sessions with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America were held in Vientiane, Laos on 25 July 2016.
2. These meetings provided the opportunity for ASEAN and the Dialogue Partners to review the progress in cooperation between ASEAN and the respective Dialogue Partners and for both sides to renew their commitments to further strengthen future cooperation aimed at contributing to the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 as well as the promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. These meetings also served as platforms for the Ministers to exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern.
3. The Ministers underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN's Centrality, unity and leadership in the evolving regional architecture.
4. The Ministers welcomed the contributions by the Dialogue Partners and External Parties to ASEAN connectivity, particularly to the implementation of the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and its successor document.
5. The Ministers appreciated Dialogue Partners' contribution and support for the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and look forward to their continued support towards the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III (2016-2020).
6. The Ministers of the Dialogue Partners welcomed the declaration of the ASEAN Community at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, which represented a major milestone in ASEAN's integration. The meeting also commended ASEAN's new strategic framework, “ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together”.
7. The Ministers of RCEP Participating Countries noted the progress made to date and encouraged all Parties to intensify efforts to advance the RCEP negotiations towards a modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement, as well as an early and successful conclusion.

**Australia**

8. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Australia was co-chaired by H.E. Aung San Suu Kyi, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and The Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia.

9. The Meeting welcomed the progress of the ASEAN-Australia Plan of Action (2015-2019) to implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership, which was adopted by Leaders at the ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, November 2014.

10. The Meeting condemned the violence and brutality committed by extremist organizations and radical groups in Iraq and Syria, whose impact increasingly poses a threat to all regions of the world. Both sides therefore agreed to continue to cooperate to address the threat of international terrorism and violent extremism in a comprehensive manner. The Meeting appreciated Australia's co-chairing of the Experts Working Group on Counter Terrorism under the ADMM-Plus with Singapore over the period 2014-2017. The Meeting supported all measures to jointly tackle the threat of international terrorism and violent extremism.

11. The Meeting underscored the importance of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process) in combating people smuggling and human trafficking issues. The Meeting took note the Bali Declaration on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime as the outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process on 23 March 2016. In this connection, ASEAN Ministers noted Australia's support to combat human trafficking through the AUD 50 million Australia-Asia Program in Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) and Australia's new 'International Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery' launched at the sixth Bali Process Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in Bali in March 2016. The Meeting also appreciated the support of Australia for the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP). The Meeting welcomed the commencement in 2015 of the AUD 20 million Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution to Growth and Development in ASEAN (TRIANGLE II).

12. The Meeting welcomed the extension of the ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) II from 2015 to 2019, supporting the institutional strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat and regional mechanisms and capacities to implement the AEC Blueprint. The Meeting welcomed Australia's substantial support of AUD 8 million for the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Grow Asia Initiative developed in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat.

13. The Meeting agreed that all Parties should continue to work together to maximize the benefits of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA), through development cooperation, trade promotion and economic diplomacy activities. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed Australia's continued support for the implementation of the AANZFTA, including the extension of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program until 2018. The Meeting was also pleased with the ongoing implementation of the First Protocol to Amend the AANZFTA, which will improve the administrative efficiency and encourage enhanced business utilization of the AANZFTA.

14. The Meeting note the alignment of Australia's regional aid programme with ASEAN's priorities in supporting regional economic growth, human security and empowering women and girls. The Meeting welcomed the Mekong Business initiative (MBI), which works with Mekong countries to expand the private sector by improving the regulatory environment for small to medium enterprises. The Meeting noted that Australia's support to Mekong Water Resources Program contributed to help manage

the region's water resource for greater economic opportunities. The Meeting noted Australia's support for women's economic engagement in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

15. Noting that education is a key aspect of ASEAN-Australia cooperation, the Meeting supported efforts to intensify people-to-people links especially in the education sector. ASEAN Ministers welcomed the New Colombo Plan's support for over 4,500 Australian undergraduates to work and study in the ten ASEAN Member States since 2014 and Australia's commitment to increasing opportunities for student exchange in the Indo-Pacific region.

16. The Meeting welcomed the launch in 2015 of the Australia-ASEAN Council, further strengthening people-to-people and institutional links. The Meeting was encouraged by the Council's active engagement with ASEAN Missions in Canberra and early progress in implementing activities to improve community understanding of each other's economies and societies.

17. The Meeting appreciated Australia's support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). Australia looked forward to continuing its partnership with ASEAN through relevant regional mechanism such as the ADMM-Plus to enhance military-military and military-civilian coordination in rapid disaster response.

18. The Meeting underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. The Meeting noted the commitment of ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, and welcomed ASEAN Member States and China efforts to work towards the early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

19. The two sides exchanged views on the future cooperation of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations and discussed potential areas of cooperation, especially on the subject of innovation where Australia can share its experience and expertise in the fields of science and technology, climate change renewable energy and food security. The Meeting also exchanged views on connectivity, gender issues, youth leadership and private sector development.

20. The Meeting looked forward to the first biennial Leaders' Summit to be held in Laos in September 2016 as an important opportunity to further strengthen the Strategic Partnership.

## **Canada**

21. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Canada was co-chaired by H.E. Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and H.E. Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada.

22. The Meeting welcomed the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2016-2020) to further deepen and enhance ASEAN-Canada partnership in all areas of common interest, including border security and human trafficking, infrastructure development, trade and investment, good governance, human rights, including the rights of women and children, disaster risk management, climate change and

connectivity among others. The Meeting underlined the ongoing Canadian support for regional programs in ASEAN which currently amounts to almost CAD 76 million. In particular, the Meeting welcomed Canada's announcement of its support for nuclear and radiological security through the ASEAN Centre for Energy.

23. ASEAN welcomed Canada's commitment to ASEAN centrality and its enhanced engagement with Southeast Asia through ASEAN-Canada cooperation, including the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment, thus showing its strong interest to utilise existing ASEAN-led mechanisms to implement ASEAN-Canada cooperation.

24. The Meeting recognized the threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism and agreed to cooperate in combating these threats. In this regard, ASEAN welcomed Canada's commitment to assist ASEAN to address regional security challenges and Canada's expanding engagement in the ASEAN Regional Forum, including Canada's co-chairing and hosting of the Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy and ARF Defence Officials Dialogue in 2017. ASEAN welcomed Canada's commitment to assist ASEAN to address regional security challenges with an additional funding pledge of more than \$17 million.

25. ASEAN noted Canada's desire to expand its regional engagement by joining the EAS and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus).

26. The Meeting looked forward to the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations in 2017. In this regard, the Meeting agreed to strengthen ASEAN-Canada engagement by, expanding economic partnership, and identifying new potential areas of cooperation.

27. ASEAN noted Canada's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for a two year period beginning in 2021.

## **China**

28. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with China was co-chaired by H.E. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore and H.E. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

29. The Meeting welcomed the significant progress achieved since its inception. The Meeting looked forward to the continuing implementation of the adopted Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity for the period of 2016-2020 which would further strengthen the deep and broad-based partnership for closer ASEAN-China relations.

30. The Meeting welcomed the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and expressed appreciation for the activities conducted in commemoration of this milestone. The Meeting urged all parties to work expeditiously towards finalising the deliverables including the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit for the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and the Joint Statement on Production Capacity Cooperation, as well as ensuring the successful outcome of the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit in September this year. The Meeting emphasized the need to make full use of ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund to support cooperation activities and projects in the years ahead for mutual benefit.

31. The Meeting appreciated the continued effort by ASEAN and China to intensify dialogue and consultations, so as to enhance mutual trust and confidence. This was reflected in the conduct of the following meetings:

- i. 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC on 9 to 11 March 2016 in Manila, Philippines;
- ii. 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee on 11 April 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia;
- iii. 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC on 27 April 2016 in Singapore;
- iv. 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultation on 28 April 2016 in Singapore;
- v. 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC on 8 June 2016 in Ha Long, Viet Nam;
- vi. 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC on 9 June 2016 in Ha Long, Viet Nam; and
- vii. Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 14 June 2016 in Yuxi, Yunnan Province, China.

32. The Meeting underscored the importance of maintaining strong economic ties between ASEAN and China. It welcomed the positive role played by the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) in promoting economic and trade relations. Moving ahead, the Meeting and looked forward to the full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Certain Agreements thereunder between ASEAN and China in order to bring about greater prosperity for our peoples and development of our economies. This would bring us closer to realising the twin goals of two-way trade and investment of US\$1 trillion and US\$150 billion respectively by 2020. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to a liberal and substantive air services framework in line with the upgrading of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement.

33. The Meeting welcomed the activities held in commemoration of the ASEAN-China Year of Educational Exchanges this year. The Meeting also recognised the work of the ASEAN-China Centre in enhancing mutual understanding, people-to-people exchanges and facilitating trade, investment, tourism, education, culture, and information and media between ASEAN and China. In this connection, the Meeting welcomed the progress made in finalising the revised MOU on the ASEAN-China Centre and looked forward to its adoption at the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit.

34. The Meeting noted China's initiatives under the 2+7 Cooperation Framework for ASEAN-China relations, and looked forward to working closely with China to enhance cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual respect, benefit and consensus.

35. The Meeting welcomed China's continued support for ASEAN integration as well as ASEAN's efforts in realising ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, including through narrowing the development gap and enhancing ASEAN Connectivity.

36. The Meeting appreciated China's support in maintaining ASEAN unity and Centrality in the evolving regional architecture.

37. The Meeting underlined the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security and freedom of navigation in, and overflight above, the South China Sea. The Meeting endorsed the Joint Statement by Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States and China on the Full and Effective Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct (DOC) of Parties in the South China Sea (SCS) which reflected its commitment to

ensure the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety. While noting the progress made in the consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), the Meeting encouraged that the pace of meetings be maintained to ensure the early conclusion of a COC on the basis of consensus. The Meeting reached consensus in principle on the application of the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) for navy ships in the South China Sea. The Meeting looked forward to finalising initiatives under the DOC including the Draft Guidelines for Hotline Communications among Senior Officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of AMS and China in Response to Maritime Emergencies, as well as the observance of CUES for naval vessels in the South China Sea, in time for the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit.

38. Looking ahead, the Meeting welcomed the proposal to designate the Year 2017 as the ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation which would serve to increase two-way tourism and promote greater people-to-people exchanges between both sides.

### **European Union**

39. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with the European Union (EU) was co-chaired by H.E. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, as the representative of the European Union, on behalf of the EU High Representative Federica Mogherini.

40. The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Coordination Meeting held in October 2015 in Bangkok and the Informal ASEAN-EU Meeting, represented by Thailand as Country Coordinator, in November 2015 in Luxembourg, as a significant step forward in paving the way towards the establishment of an ASEAN-EU strategic partnership.

41. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the 21<sup>st</sup> AEMM on 13-14 October 2016 in Thailand to further discuss our efforts in enhancing ASEAN-EU partnership in contributing to the promotion of peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the Southeast Asia region. The meeting also took note of the proposal to have two main deliverables of the 21<sup>st</sup> AEMM, namely, a short Political Declaration and a Roadmap, that will help generate momentum for realizing a Strategic Partnership.

42. The Meeting looked forward to the commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations in 2017 and encouraged all relevant stakeholders to identify a number of commemorative activities.

43. The Meeting agreed to further strengthen our efforts in tackling transnational crime challenges, particularly in the area of counter-terrorism, trafficking in persons, irregular movement of persons, as well as cyber-crimes.

44. The Meeting agreed to enhance maritime cooperation through existing ASEAN-led mechanisms as well as the convening of the ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation regularly.

45. The Meeting welcomed the successful convening of the inaugural ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights on 19-23 October 2015 in Brussels. Both ASEAN and the EU expressed satisfaction on the mutual engagement and agreed to explore regular dialogues on human rights issues of mutual interest.

46. The Meeting noted the positive outcome of the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations on 3 March 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, which commended the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2015-2016 and in the joint stock-taking exercise of ASEAN-EU economic relations. The Meeting looked forward to continue exploring the feasibility of a region-to-region ASEAN-EU FTA.

47. The Meeting looked forward to the commencement of negotiations on the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement, which will bring mutual benefit to both regions, by enhancing people-to-people and business-to-business interactions.

48. The Meeting shared the same view that closer people-to-people ties are a core component of a deeper ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations. In this regards The Meeting agreed to further strengthen people-to-people connectivity through youth and academic exchanges, research and innovation, as well as tourism.

49. The Meeting welcomed the fruitful outcome of the 3rd ASEAN-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Days (STI Days) organised from 10-12 May 2016 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The Meeting also looked forward to the International Conference on STI Cooperation in Thailand and the 4<sup>th</sup> STI Days to be convened in the Netherlands in 2017.

50. ASEAN appreciated the EU's continued support for the ASEAN Centre of Biodiversity (ACB), the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). The Meeting looked forward to the finalization of the EU's Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP) program, which will grant the ACB access to up to EUR 10 million to improve the protection status of threatened peatland areas that could be declared ASEAN Heritage Parks in the future.

51. ASEAN noted the EU's desire to expand its regional engagement by joining the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus).

52. The Meeting underlined the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. The Meeting noted the commitment of ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, and welcomed ASEAN Member States and China efforts to work towards the early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

## **India**

53. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with India was co-chaired by H.E. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam and H.E. General (Dr.) V.K Singh (Retd), Minister of States for External Affairs of India.

54. The Meeting emphasized the significance of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership in contributing towards peace, stability and security in the region. In this context, the Meeting welcomed India's "Act East Policy" and reaffirmed India's pertinent role in continuing its support for ASEAN's Community Building efforts, as well as ASEAN's unity and Centrality in the evolving regional architecture.

55. Reaffirming the determination to further enhance cooperation by effectively implementing the 2016-2020 ASEAN-India Plan of Action, the Meeting appreciated the efforts by ASEAN and India officials to develop the list of priority areas for implementation during 2016-2018 and noted that the list would be submitted to ASEAN and India Foreign Ministers for ad-referendum adoption.

56. The Meeting reiterated its commitment to strengthen cooperation to effectively deal with traditional and non-traditional security challenges such as maritime security, terrorism, violent extremism and transnational crimes under the frameworks of the 2016-2020 ASEAN-India Plan of Action and the ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism. In this regard, ASEAN suggested that India explore the possibility of cooperating and working with the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (ABMTC) and looked forward to India hosting the Government-to-Government Cyber Dialogue in 2016.

57. The Meeting encouraged greater maritime cooperation between ASEAN and India, including capacity building, and sharing of best practice to settle disputes at sea through peaceful means. In this regard, the Meeting emphasized the importance of the sea lines of communication in the region for security, trade and economic prosperity of ASEAN, India and international community.

58. The Meeting noted the importance of deepening trade and economic relations through the effective implementation of the ASEAN-India Trade-in-Goods, ASEAN-India Trade-in-Services and the ASEAN-India Investment Agreements. The Meeting shared the view that ASEAN and India should undertake further measures, among others, boosting trade and investment, strengthening SMEs competitiveness, enhancing cooperation in innovation, and promoting regional value chains and production networks. The Meeting encouraged early operationalization of the ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre to further boost trade and investment cooperation activities in the region and looked forward to India's support in the expeditious conclusion of the RCEP negotiations.

59. The Meeting highlighted ASEAN-India connectivity as a priority cooperation area. In this regard, the Meeting expressed appreciation for India's commitment of a USD 1 billion line of credit for connectivity projects and welcomed the efforts made by the CPR and the Indian Mission to ASEAN to develop the modalities on utilizing this credit line. The Meeting looked forward to the completion of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral highway, including exploring the extension of the road project to Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam. The meeting noted the ongoing efforts to enhance air connectivity between ASEAN and India, to support the growth of business and tourism, and looked forward to the convening of the first Meeting of the ASEAN-India Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangement. The Meeting also underlined the importance of people-to-people connectivity through enhanced cultural exchanges involving, among others, diplomats, youth, media and intellectuals.

60. The Meeting welcomed Prime Minister Modi's announcement last year to increase the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund from USD 1 million to USD 5 million, to establish an ASEAN-India Innovation Platform and to build digital connectivity through the use of Gigabit-capable Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology. The Meeting looked forward to the early and effective realization of these initiatives.

61. The Meeting agreed to further strengthen ASEAN-India cooperation in disaster management and humanitarian assistance, including supporting ASEAN in the realization of ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disaster as One in the region and outside the region which will be adopted at the 28<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Laos in September 2016. The Meeting encouraged India to support ASEAN's efforts in preparedness for handling disasters and risk reduction as envisioned in ASEAN Community Vision 2025 on Disaster Management.

62. The Meeting welcomed the successful conclusion of the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) as well as the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015. The Meeting further reiterated the shared commitment to address the adverse effects of climate change and appreciated India's support for ASEAN's effort through the effective utilization of the ASEAN-India Green Fund with the Inception Workshop on Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation held on 5-6 February 2015 in Bangi, Malaysia, the Inception Workshop on "Climate Change Projections and Assessment of Impacts; Modelling and Capacity Building Programme-India-ASEAN Region" held on 22-28 February 2016, as well as cooperation between ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) of India.

63. The Meeting expressed appreciation for India's strong support and commitment to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and emphasized the need to further strengthen cooperation in other areas such as food and agriculture, trade facilitation, education, clean and renewable energy, tourism, health and well-being, SMEs, and start-ups.

64. The Meeting welcomed the successful outcomes of the Delhi Dialogue VIII with the theme of "ASEAN-India Relations: A New Paradigm" held 17-19 February 2016 in New Delhi.

65. The Meeting stressed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea.

66. The Meeting underscored the importance for the states concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), without resorting to the use of force or threat of force, and to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of the activities and avoid actions that would further complicate the situation and escalate disputes.

67. The Meeting stressed the need for ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, and work expeditiously towards the early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

68. The Meeting noted that 2017 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and 10th year of ASEAN-India interaction at the Summit level. The Meeting welcomed the list of commemorative activities to be conducted throughout 2017.

## Japan

69. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Japan was co-chaired by Honourable Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam and H.E. Fumio Kishida, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

70. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the steady progress made in the implementation of the Vision Statement on ASEAN–Japan Friendship and Cooperation and its Implementation Plan adopted in Tokyo, Japan in 2013 on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN–Japan relations.

71. We were pleased to note the conclusion of the negotiations for Chapter on Trade in Services, including the Financial and Telecommunication annexes as well as Chapter on Movement of Natural Person (MNP) under the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and looked forward to the conclusion of the investment negotiations.

72. The Meeting reiterated its commitment to combat terrorism and transnational crime through strengthened cooperation under the ASEAN–Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime, including in further pursuing cooperation against terrorism, cybercrime and trafficking in persons in the region. The Meeting further emphasised the importance of promoting moderation in order to counter violent extremism which poses a serious threat to the region. In this regard, the Meeting noted the successful convening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Senior Official's Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)+Japan Consultation held on 25 May 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia which agreed to regularly update the SOMTC+Japan Work Plan to reflect projects that have been and will be implemented.

73. ASEAN Ministers welcomed Japan's intention to contribute even more proactively in securing peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the international community, under its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, including "Legislation for Peace and Security", which took effect in March 2016.

74. Recognising the critical need for quality infrastructure, the Meeting welcomed Japan's Initiative of Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure and the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment, which would contribute to promoting quality infrastructure in Asia and enhancing regional connectivity. The Meeting encouraged Japan's support for better air connectivity between ASEAN and Japan, including the establishment of a ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement.

75. ASEAN Ministers appreciated Japan's initiatives to support ASEAN's efforts to develop human resources under "Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative" and to increase the role of women in economic development, through "Japan-ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund".

76. The Meeting valued Japan's contribution to ASEAN Community building efforts and continued support for sub-regional cooperation. In this regard, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers commended Japan's strong commitment to assist the Mekong region in realizing "quality growth". They appreciated Japan's support represented by its consistent implementation of "New Tokyo Strategy 2015," under the framework of the "Mekong-Japan Cooperation" and welcomed the "Japan-Mekong Connectivity

Initiative” as well as Japan’s contributions to ASEAN community building efforts under the initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) with the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III. The Meeting underscored that strong Japan-Mekong cooperation will enhance ASEAN-Japan relationship by bringing growth to the region as a whole.

77. The Meeting welcomed the outcome of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Public–Private Dialogue on New Industries that was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016, and expressed appreciation to Japan for the sharing of experience on increasing services productivity.

78. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the ASEAN-Japan Centre for its continued contribution to promote trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges and emphasised the need to further strengthen the Centre with a view to addressing new challenges between ASEAN and Japan, in accordance with the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism.

79. On disaster management, the ASEAN Ministers appreciated Japan’s support for the full operationalization of the ASEAN coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), in particular efforts to establish an integrated ICT system. The Meeting welcomed efforts to further enhance cooperation on the Implementation of the Work Programme for the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and looked forward to the implementation of the projects under the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) Initiative.

80. The Meeting highlighted the importance of people-to-people exchanges to build closer contact, mutual understanding and friendship between ASEAN and Japan. In this regard, the ASEAN Ministers commended Japan’s active role in the implementation of exchange programmes under various initiatives such as the Japan – East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2016, “WA-Project” and Sport for Tomorrow.

81. The Meeting underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability of the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting shared concerns over the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula, including the nuclear test and launches using ballistic missile technology by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), which are in violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. The Meeting urged the DPRK to comply with the relevant UNSC resolutions. The Meeting called for the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and highlighted the importance of creating conducive environment towards the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks to help pave the way for maintaining and strengthening peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting also emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.

82. The Meeting emphasized the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. The Meeting underscored the importance of exercising self-restraint in the conduct of the activities, and for the states concerned to resolve disputes through peaceful means in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Meeting underlined the need for ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China (DOC) in its entirety, and welcomed ASEAN

Member States and China efforts to work towards the early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

## **New Zealand**

83. The ASEAN PMC 10+1 Session with New Zealand was co-chaired by H.E. Retno L.P. Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and The Hon. Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.

84. The Meeting acknowledged the successful convening of the 40<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit, held in Kuala Lumpur on 22 November 2015 which elevated the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations from a Comprehensive Partnership to a Strategic Partnership.

85. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the substantive progress of ASEAN-New Zealand cooperation, particularly in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Statement for ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership 2016-2020, as well as the activities under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration.

86. The Meeting welcomed the implementation of New Zealand's two key Strategies, the People Strategy and the Prosperity Strategy, which were launched at the Commemorative Summit, as a notable demonstration of New Zealand's firm commitment to the Strategic Partnership.

87. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed New Zealand's continued valuable contributions towards ASEAN in strengthening ASEAN's Community Building and integration process, achieving ASEAN Community Vision 2025, as well as recognition of ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture. In this regard, ASEAN expressed appreciation for New Zealand's increased engagement in the region through ASEAN-led mechanisms, namely ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus, which has contributed to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

88. The Meeting expressed appreciation to New Zealand for its important support in education, business, disaster risk management, and agriculture cooperation. The Meeting also welcomed New Zealand's interest to enhancing cooperation on connectivity, including air links and regulatory cooperation. The Meeting noted the already strong tourism and people flows between ASEAN and New Zealand.

89. The Meeting noted the importance of deepening trade and economic relations through supporting the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA).

90. The Meeting stressed the need to further strengthen cooperation in other areas such as education, business-to-business interaction, SMEs development, technology innovation, agriculture, food safety and productivity, sanitary and phyto-sanitary, connectivity, people-to-people contacts, youth exchange, and disaster management.

91. The Meeting also expressed appreciation for New Zealand's role as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2015-2016 in contributing to international peace and security.

## Republic of Korea (ROK)

92. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with ROK was co-chaired by H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and H.E. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

93. The Meeting welcomed the signing of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods (AKTIG) Agreement in August 2015 and looked forward to its full implementation. The Meeting were also encouraged that the Parties are working toward further liberalisation of sensitive products in line with the modality endorsed by the Economic Ministers in August 2015 to enhance trade relations with a view to achieving two-way trade of USD 200 billion by 2020.

94. The Meeting took note of the outcome of the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Dialogue on 2-3 June 2016 in Pyeongchang, the ROK. Both sides agreed to further strengthen engagement in all areas of cooperation. The Meeting supported the continued discussion on security-related matters within the framework of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue.

95. The Meeting looked forward to deepening cooperation in the area of aviation through the ASEAN-ROK Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements and to conclude an air services agreement between ASEAN and the ROK.

96. The Meeting supported the role of ASEAN-ROK Business Council (AKBC) and encouraged it to work closely with the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) to promote Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and private sector participation in the region. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> AKBC, to be held in Lao PDR in 2016.

97. The Meeting underlined the importance of promoting cooperation to support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing development gap and enhancing connectivity in ASEAN. The Meeting took note of ROK's four presidential initiatives for the implementation of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely Better Life for Girls, Safe Life for All, Science, Technology and Innovation for Better Life and the New Rural Development Paradigm.

98. The Meeting welcomed ROK's assistance in disaster risk reduction and mitigation efforts regionally and bilaterally through the following agencies: Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in resilience against the impact of climate change, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in mobilizing climate financing.

99. The Meeting reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and expressed support for the denuclearisation of this region in a peaceful manner. In this regard, the Meeting shared concerns over the recent developments in the Korean peninsula, including the nuclear test and launches using ballistic missile technology by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which are in violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. The Meeting called for the creation of an environment conducive to early resumption of the Six-Party Talks to make further progress in denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.

100. The Meeting expressed their support for the Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Initiative for Peaceful Unification of the Korean Peninsula of

the Republic of Korea as well as the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI) in promoting lasting peace in the Korea Peninsula, as well as cooperation and trust in Northeast Asia.

## **Russian Federation**

101. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with the Russian Federation was co-chaired by H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, and H.E. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

102. ASEAN and Russia are marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Dialogue Partnership in 2016. The Meeting appreciated the achievements of ASEAN-Russia cooperation in the last two decades across a wide range of areas, including political, security, trade and economic, culture, people-to-people exchange and development, which have strengthened and enhanced the relations as well as contributed to regional peace, security, stability and prosperity.

103. The Meeting welcomed the successful convening of the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership held on 19-20 May 2016 in Sochi, Russian Federation with the outcome documents as follows:

- I. Sochi Declaration of the ASEAN-Russian Federation Commemorative Summit to Mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-Russian Federation Dialogue Relations “Moving Towards a Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit”.
- II. Comprehensive Plan of Action to Promote Cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Russian Federation (2016-2020).
- III. Report of the ASEAN-Russia Eminent Persons Group (AREPG) “ASEAN and Russia: a Future-Oriented Multidimensional Strategic Partnership”.

104. The Meeting looked forward to the effective implementation of the CPA 2016-2020 to further deepen and widen cooperation in the three pillars, namely political and security, economic and social-cultural. The Meeting emphasized the significance of realizing full potentials of ASEAN-Russia partnership in all areas of common interest, taking into account ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together and its Blueprints, as well as the results of the implementation of the Comprehensive Programme of Action to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and Russia 2005-2015.

105. The Meeting took note of the Report of the ASEAN-Russia Eminent Persons Group (AREPG) and tasked their officials to follow up on the recommendations contained in the AREPG Report.

106. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that a number of commemorative activities as well as the activities of the ASEAN-Russia Year of Culture 2016 have been planned and carried out to signify the broadening and strengthening of cultural ties between ASEAN Member States and the Russian Federation. The meeting also highlighted the successful convening of the first ASEAN-Russia Culture Ministers Meeting on 19 May 2016 in Sochi, Russia and looked forward to more activities to encourage people-to-people contacts in 2016, including the ASEAN-Russia University Forum in Vladivostok (Russia), the ASEAN-Russia Youth Symphony Orchestra Performances in Laos and the ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit in Cambodia.

107. The Meeting encouraged the implementation of joint sectoral work plans in the areas of science & technology, agriculture and food security, and energy, as a follow up to the Commemorative Summit.

108. The Meeting agreed to further promote ASEAN-Russia economic relations by effectively implementing the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap which is aimed at further institutionalising a comprehensive dialogue mechanism on trade-related issues with a view to promoting cooperation in sectors of mutual interest to ASEAN and Russia taking into account regional and global developments.

109. We emphasized to deepen cooperation in combating international terrorism, including under the framework of the “ASEAN-Russia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism,” signed in Jakarta, Indonesia on 2 July 2004, and under the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2015-2017 adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 6 August 2015.

110. Recognising that Regional Security Architecture shall promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The Meeting emphasized that the ongoing discussion on Regional Security Architecture shall not replace, but reinforce and give added value to the existing mechanisms.

### **United States of America**

111. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with the United States of America was co-chaired by H.E. Tan Sri Othman Hashim, Secretary-General of the Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and H.E. John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States of America.

112. The Meeting highlighted the significant progress made in ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations in the past year, particularly with the elevation of relations to a strategic partnership at the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-U.S. Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015. The Meeting acknowledged that the strategic partnership was further cemented with the Special ASEAN-U.S. Leaders’ Summit in Sunnylands, California in February 2016.

113. The Meeting discussed the progress and future direction of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations, and looked forward to commemorating 40 years of ASEAN-U.S. relations in 2017. The Meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment to continue promoting close cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).

114. The Meeting underscored the importance of the U.S.’ continued support to ASEAN Community Building and regional integration efforts, particularly on the implementation of “ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together”.

115. The Meeting discussed the progress of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership (2016-2020) and decided to continue to identify and implement priorities and practical measures to be undertaken to realise the full potential of the strategic partnership. The Meeting also reiterated the goals of the ASEAN Political-Security Blueprint 2025 in promoting regional peace and stability.

116. The Meeting decided to continue to cooperate closely to effectively deal with traditional and non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism, violent extremism, drug-trafficking, maritime security, cybercrime, wildlife trafficking and trafficking in

persons, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing through increased engagement and collaboration. In this regard, the Meeting highlighted the significant progress made on these issues, demonstrated by the adoption of the EAS Statement on Countering Violent Extremism in November 2015. The U.S. commended ASEAN's efforts such as the signing of the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children in November 2015; the convening of the International Conference on De-radicalisation and Countering Violent Extremism in early 2016 in Kuala Lumpur; the establishment of the regional counter-messaging centre in Malaysia; and the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production. ASEAN expressed its appreciation towards the U.S.' efforts to address these issues through various programmes such as the ASEAN-U.S. Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (PROGRESS) Programme; and the Aviation and Border Security Programme. ASEAN further expressed appreciation for the U.S.' continued support and active engagement on these issues, particularly in the framework of the EAS, ARF, ADMM Plus and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC). The Meeting decided to continue to work together to address ISIL's continued influence, including through strengthened information sharing and law enforcement capacity building.

117. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ARF and the EAS in upholding ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture. ASEAN recognised the U.S.' important support in promoting regional cooperation through the latter's active participation in ASEAN-led mechanisms.

118. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to promote disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to work towards the accession of the Nuclear Weapon States (P5) to the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty, which will contribute positively to keeping the region free of nuclear weapons. The Meeting further reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the region and expressed support for the early denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

119. The Meeting pledged to continue working together to advance ASEAN-U.S. economic cooperation and support the realisation of an innovative, entrepreneurial ASEAN Economic Community. In this regard, the Meeting agreed to further expand and strengthen trade and investment ties, create more employment opportunities, support small and medium enterprises (SMEs), foster innovation, enhance productivity growth and continue to facilitate the cooperation among ASEAN-U.S. Business communities for mutual economic benefit. The Meeting commended the U.S.-ASEAN Connect Initiative and welcomed the establishment of the U.S.-ASEAN Connect Centres in Jakarta and the increased efforts of regionally focused personnel at the strategic location in Bangkok and in Singapore. The Meeting further acknowledged the progress achieved on assisting SMEs with the launching of the Online SME Academy in May 2016.

120. The Meeting welcomed the United States' initiative to enhance aviation, energy, and information and communication (ICT) relations with ASEAN and looked forward to the conclusion of an ASEAN-U.S. Aviation Cooperation framework and further engagement through the U.S.-ASEAN Energy Cooperation Work Plan and U.S.-ASEAN ICT 2016 Work Plan.

121. The Meeting agreed to continue to work together to advance ASEAN-U.S. cooperation on socio-cultural issues. The Meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment to further enhance cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, fisheries and marine conservation, climate change and the environment, green financing, education, health and cultural exchanges.

122. The Meeting welcomed the positive outcomes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) as well as the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015. The Meeting further reiterated the shared commitment to effectively implement the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Statement on Climate Change of 2014, especially in creating a low-carbon economic growth, building more climate resilient societies, and strengthening ASEAN's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

123. The Meeting agreed to further nurture young leadership and promote people-to-people exchanges in the region, complementing existing programmes such as the Young Southeast Asia Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) and the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme. ASEAN expressed appreciation for the existing ASEAN-U.S. Fulbright Visiting Scholars Programme, as well as the new ASEAN-Fulbright Scholarship in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. relations next year.

124. The meeting recognised the threat of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and welcomed the U.S.' collaboration with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) and the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), and the U.S. Task Force in Combating IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud to address this IUU Fishing. The Meeting underlined the importance of strengthening international cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as EAS and ARF to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing.

125. The Meeting underlined the importance of maintaining peace, stability, safety, security, freedom of navigation and over-flight above the South China Sea. The Meeting underscored the importance of exercising self-restraint in the conduct of the activities, and for the states concerned to resolve disputes through peaceful means in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Meeting stressed the need for ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, and work expeditiously towards the early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

126. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the positive trajectory of ASEAN-U.S. strategic partnership and relations that have contributed to the maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The Meeting welcomed the continued valuable engagement of the U.S. in the region through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ARF, EAS, ARF, ADMM Plus and AMMTC.

127. The Meeting looked forward to the landmark commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. relations next year.

