



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-U.S. SUMMIT TO COMMEMORATE  
THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ASEAN-U.S. DIALOGUE RELATIONS**

13 November 2017, Manila, Philippines

*“Partnering for Change, Engaging the World”*

1. The Commemorative Summit to Mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-United States of America was held on 13 November 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We recognised that the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations this year was an important opportunity to take steps and implement new initiatives to further strengthen the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations. We reaffirmed the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership which was established in 2015, and the principles of the Sunnylands Declaration of 2016, and reaffirmed our continuous support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture.
3. We acknowledged several high-level exchanges between ASEAN and the U.S. this year and endorsed the view that the future of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations remained bright due to the sustained commitment, shared interests and values, and enduring goodwill on all sides. We reiterated our commitment to chart the way forward and continue political dialogue at the Head of State/Government level through attendance at the annual ASEAN-U.S. Summit and the East Asia Summit.
4. We reaffirmed the need to further strengthen cooperation and coordination in addressing regional and global challenges of common concern such as terrorism, cyber security, human trafficking, international crime, wildlife trafficking, and maritime cooperation. We expressed our support for the continued development of a rules-based regional architecture in the Asia-Pacific.
5. We noted that challenges of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing remain and have become even more complex in the region. We are therefore committed to expanding regional cooperation to address this issue, including through supporting the effective implementation of the relevant international law and instruments. We noted with satisfaction that there are initiatives taken by ASEAN-led mechanisms to discuss and address the challenges of IUU fishing.

6. As strategic partners, we reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen cooperation in all areas identified under the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership (2016-2020) and through the various ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the Post Ministerial Conference (PMC), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) as well as the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Plus U.S. Consultations, and on the basis of strong friendship and mutual respect. We noted with satisfaction the progress made under the Plan of Action, particularly within the five priority areas of economic integration, maritime cooperation, transnational challenges, emerging leaders, and women's opportunities. We looked forward to robust ASEAN-U.S. cooperation to broaden political, economic, and socio-cultural engagement in the years to come.

7. We expressed our grave concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) recent nuclear tests in violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, as well as the increasing number of nuclear and ballistic missile tests over the last year, which have increased tensions in the region. We noted that the DPRK's disregard for international law has resulted in delays in having meaningful dialogue on the real issues facing the Korean Peninsula.

8. We discussed the matters relating to the South China Sea. We welcomed the announcement of the start of substantive negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) with China by Leaders of ASEAN and China at the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit. We also took note of the concerns expressed by some Leaders about land reclamations and activities in the area which have eroded trust and confidence and increased tensions.

9. We continue to reaffirm the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, maritime safety and security, the rules-based order and freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. We support the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for agreed principles, without resorting to the threat or use of force as well as non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of activities in accordance with universally-recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It is paramount for all parties to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration of Conduct (DOC) in its entirety. At the same time, ASEAN welcomes the conclusion and adoption of the framework of a COC in the South China Sea and look forward to an early adoption of a substantive and effective COC.

10. We recognized the complex challenges in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism and pledged to work together to counter radicalization and stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) in and to the region. We reiterated our resolve to strengthen multilateral mechanisms, including supporting ASEAN's counterterrorism programme and implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT), and to enhance aviation and border security, share information on terrorist

networks and counter terrorist financing. We reaffirmed further our commitment to redoubling our efforts to tackle this global threat.

11. We acknowledged the serious threat of illegal drugs to our communities and noted the assistance provided by the United States through the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Funds which support a broad range of capacity building efforts to combat transnational crime including illicit drugs and narcotics interdiction, investigation, and drug demand reduction. We encouraged the further strengthening of anti-narcotics cooperation between ASEAN and the U.S. including through utilizing the capacity of the International Law Enforcement Academy and other forms of U.S. assistance for transnational crime cooperation, training, and capacity building, where appropriate.

12. We highlighted mutually-beneficial economic relations and a shared desire to deepen economic ties and create job opportunities on both sides of the Pacific. We underscored the importance of promoting free and fair trade, through the ASEAN and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, in which a majority of ASEAN Member States are participants.

13. We noted that the total two-way trade between ASEAN and the United States in 2016 was USD 211.8 billion and the United States is ASEAN's third largest source of FDI with a total inflow amounting to USD 11.65 billion in 2016. We were pleased to note that U.S. exports to ASEAN have supported more than 550,000 jobs in the U.S., and almost 42,000 U.S. companies export more than USD100 billion in goods and services to ASEAN every year. U.S. companies invest more in ASEAN than in any other area in Asia. We committed to continue strengthening ASEAN-U.S. economic ties by increasing two-way trade and investment.

14. We highlighted the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) as a crucial platform for dialogue on two-way trade and investment between ASEAN and the United States. We noted with satisfaction the deepening of ASEAN-U.S. economic ties, including through the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3). We lauded the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI) program as a major success in joint cooperation.

15. We looked forward to having concrete projects under the U.S.-ASEAN Connect as an important framework for economic engagement, rallying public sector cooperation and private sector partnership in its four focus areas of Business, Policy, Energy, and Innovation. We expressed support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, including strengthening the participation of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the digital economy. We highlighted the importance of capacity building initiatives and programmes involving MSMEs, youth and digital entrepreneurs to increase competitiveness.

16. We expressed continued support for the Lower Mekong Initiative, which assists ASEAN in advancing sustainable development, narrowing development gaps and promoting regional connectivity and, in this connection, underscored the importance of promoting cooperation in sustainable development.

17. We noted the adoption of the Terms of Reference for ASEAN-U.S. Aviation Cooperation and looked forward to both sides further strengthening cooperation on civil aviation covering aviation safety, efficiency, harmonisation, security, as well as economic regulation.

18. We expressed appreciation for U.S. initiatives that enhance people-to-people connections, empower women and youth, through among others, the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Programme (AYVP), Fulbright U.S.–ASEAN Visiting Scholar Initiative, the ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Fellowship, the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), the Women’s Leadership Academy for YSEALI and the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women. Over 1,000 youth have had the opportunity to travel to the United States through the YSEALI, and 100,000 more are building an ASEAN identity through an online community. Two-way exchanges between the peoples of ASEAN and the United States include over 15,000 Fulbright students and scholar participants dating back to 1948, with over 3,000 participants in just the past five years, strengthening practical cooperation and promoting understanding.

19. We noted the commitment of both sides to strengthen cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, cybersecurity, fisheries and marine conservation, and sustainable development. We encouraged the U.S. to support efforts to enhance ASEAN cybersecurity cooperation including the feasibility study on the proposed ASEAN Cybersecurity Hub.

20. We welcomed the adoption of the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-U.S. Commemorative Summit on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations as a reaffirmation of key areas of the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership and its future direction.

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