Co-Chairs’ Statement of the 13th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue
Makati City, Philippines
15-16 June 2016

1. The 13th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue was held on 15-16 June 2016 in Makati City, Philippines. It was co-chaired by H.E. Enrique A. Manalo, Undersecretary for Policy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) Leader of the Philippines, and H.E. Susan Gregson, Assistant Deputy Minister for Asia-Pacific, Global Affairs Canada. The Meeting was attended by SOM Leaders and representatives from all ASEAN Member States, and officials from Canada and the ASEAN Secretariat.

2. The Meeting was the first ASEAN-Canada Dialogue held since the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2016-2020) in Kuala Lumpur, August 2015 and the first under the Country Coordinatorship of the Philippines.

3. The Meeting agreed that the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations in 2017 presents an opportunity for both sides to elevate their partnership to new heights by strengthening high-level engagement, deepening the expanding economic partnership, and identifying new areas of cooperation to launch new initiatives.

4. ASEAN and Canada welcomed the solid progress in their cooperative partnership, particularly in the areas of human rights, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) development, education, public health, connectivity and disaster management. Ongoing Canadian support for regional programs in ASEAN now amounts to almost CAD 76 million.

5. ASEAN welcomed the appointment of H.E. Marie-Louise Hannan as Canada’s first dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN, and the expansion of Canada’s Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta, which tripled in size over the last year. This will strengthen Canada’s engagement with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) in Jakarta and ASEAN sectoral bodies. ASEAN also welcomed the establishment of Canadian Offices in Lao PDR and Cambodia, thus ensuring Canadian representation in all ten ASEAN Member States. This is a clear indication of Canada’s desire to elevate its engagement and cooperation with all ASEAN Member States. Both sides encouraged the CPR and the Canadian Ambassador to ASEAN to continue working together to identify and implement Canada’s initiatives with ASEAN and other regional programs. In this respect, ASEAN noted Canada’s improving coordination with ASEAN and encouraged Canada to channel more of its regional support through ASEAN institutions and sectoral bodies.

6. ASEAN noted Canada’s desire to expand its engagement with ASEAN and Canada’s interest in joining the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) at the earliest opportunity. ASEAN
agreed to give due consideration to this request. Canada emphasized that its participation in the EAS would be a further demonstration of its support for ASEAN centrality and would contribute to continued peace, stability and growing prosperity in Asia.

7. Both sides noted new and ongoing initiatives to support the implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment. These include Canada’s contribution of CAD 4.5 million to the “Grow Asia” Program supporting private sector development in the agricultural sector, and the CAD 2 million Toronto Center Program on Financial Sector Supervision and Regulation. ASEAN welcomed Canada’s ongoing CAD 4.5 million contribution to the “Supporting Regional Project Development for ASEAN Connectivity” program and both sides committed to supporting linkages between public-private partnerships (PPP) units in ASEAN. ASEAN and Canada looked forward to the upcoming ASEAN-Canada Senior Economic Officials’ consultation in Lao PDR (30 June 2016) as well as the 3rd Canada-ASEAN Business Forum on 7-8 September 2016, in Jakarta, Indonesia, as a venue to strengthen public-private sector engagement.

8. The Meeting recognised the serious threats posed by terrorism, violent extremism, and transnational crime. Both sides discussed Canada’s robust support for security cooperation, including CAD 14 million for capacity-building of ASEAN counter-terrorism and cybersecurity units, tracking of foreign fighters active in conflict areas, and improved border controls to counter the illicit movement of proliferation related goods, drugs and precursor chemicals, and migrants. The Meeting welcomed Canada’s consistent commitment to supporting the promotion and protection of human rights in the ASEAN region, particularly the rights of women and migrant workers. Both sides agreed to explore new phases of cooperation on human rights, including women’s and migrant workers’ rights. This is particularly important given that ASEAN is endeavouring to finalise the draft ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers by September 2016 or at the latest April 2017, as agreed by the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting.

9. Both sides noted the challenges posed by climate change and agreed that a coordinated, global way forward will be necessary to achieve the ambitious goals set out at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-21) in Paris. The meeting welcomed expanding cooperation in supporting ASEAN’s resiliency, particularly the CAD 10 million “Integrated Disaster Risk Management Fund” (IDRM) and the CAD 6.7 million “Mitigation of Biological Threats in ASEAN.” Under the IDRM, Canada announced at the 3rd ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Partnership Conference in April 2016 that it will support new projects focused on supporting the ASEAN Secretariat in designing an AADMER program to “Build Safe Infrastructures and Essential Services” and providing capacity building for ASEAN disaster management experts on urban resilience and planning.

10. The Meeting had an extensive exchange of views on regional and international issues. Both sides underlined the importance of maintaining peace,
security and stability, and freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea. They agreed that disputes should be resolved peacefully, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes and without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with universally-recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

11. The Meeting noted the current challenging global economic environment, and agreed that the global economic growth agenda should be focused on inclusive investment as well as fiscal and structural policies that yield broadly-shared growth benefits, and may include investments in high—return areas such as public infrastructure.

12. In preparation for the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations in 2017, both sides agreed that the ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee (ASEAN-Canada JCC) mechanism would be utilized to develop a program of Commemorative Activities that will significantly enhance ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations.


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