



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN-UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT**  
**7 September 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR**  
***Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community***

The 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit was held on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Thongloun SISOULITH, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to the UN Secretary-General for his efforts to promote peace, prosperity and human rights in the world in the last ten years. During his tenure, the ASEAN-UN partnership has been significantly strengthened.

2. We are pleased with the progress of the ASEAN-UN cooperation as demonstrated in the implementation of its Work Plan for 2015 period, and note with satisfaction the five-year plan of action (2016-2020) to implement the Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN, taking into account the key elements of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. We noted with satisfaction the on-going active engagement between ASEAN and the UN in all areas of cooperation at different levels, namely the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the UN Secretary-General and the UNGA President (AUMM), the ASEAN CPR-UN Interface and ASEAN – UN Secretariat – to – Secretariat Meetings, which took stock of current cooperation and explored new areas for future cooperation to further strengthen the partnership, including at the regional level in Bangkok and Jakarta.

4. We reaffirmed the role of the UN under its Charter in the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN Secretary-General expressed gratitude to the ASEAN Leaders for their significant contribution to global peace and security including through the deployment of military, police and civilian personnel from the region to engage in UN Peace Operations around the world. He also expressed appreciation for ASEAN's increasing engagement in disaster management both within and outside the ASEAN region. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the United

Nations' continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving rules-based regional architecture as well as efforts for peace and security in the region.

5. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN's contribution in enhancing ASEAN's capacity on conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and maintenance of peace and stability, as well as on humanitarian affairs, through the sharing of expertise and best practices as well as support for the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) including in the mainstreaming of gender. We reaffirmed our commitment to the implementation of relevant provisions of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and related United Nations resolutions on women, peace and security. In addition, the UN Secretary-General expressed appreciation to Lao PDR for agreeing to host the first UN 'Preventive Diplomacy and Peacemaking' Training Course in the Asia and the Pacific, which is scheduled to take place in late 2016.

6. We welcomed the Official Inauguration of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) Headquarters in Phnom Penh which was held on 25 May 2016. In this regard, the ASEAN Leaders looked forward to the technical assistance and support from the UN to the ARMAC, which serves as the regional centre of excellence in addressing the humanitarian aspects of the explosive remnants of war (ERW) for interested ASEAN Member States.

7. We condemned the heinous acts of violence and brutality committed by extremist organisations and radical groups who are posing an increasing threat to all regions of the world and agreed to step up cooperation to address international terrorism and violent extremism in a comprehensive manner. In furthering our regional cooperation, we agreed to fully take into consideration the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as well as the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. We expressed our support for UNSC Resolutions 2170 (2014), and 2178 (2014) which, among others, called on the international community to prevent and stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters. We reaffirmed our commitments to continue the finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as it will serve as one legal basis in countering international terrorism. Further, we looked forward to the convening of the next ASEAN-UN Workshop: 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Dialogue on Political-Security Cooperation (AURED III), which will focus on conflict prevention and the prevention of violent extremism, scheduled to take place in Indonesia in November 2016.

8. We recognised the importance of continued cooperation and collaboration between ASEAN and the UN in other areas of transnational crime including illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, trafficking in persons and drug trafficking. We emphasised the need to intensify cooperation in addressing the new trends and emerging crime and security challenges in this area by adhering consistently to and effectively implementing relevant legal instruments such as the United Nations

Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols, the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, and the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

9. We affirmed the importance of the promotion and protection of human rights at the national, regional and international levels and of the need to strengthen the collaboration between the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the UN in areas of mutual interest. We encouraged the AICHR and the UN to form a sustainable partnership in enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights, especially the rights of women, children, through exchanges of best practices and capacity building as well as promoting ASEAN's interest and welfare in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

10. We reiterated the importance to continue our cooperation on economic, social and environmental matters consistent with and in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote the well-being of our people. We recognized the importance of promoting complementarities between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its three Blueprints within the framework of ASEAN-UN cooperation. In this regard, we appreciated the leadership of Thailand as ASEAN Coordinator for Sustainable Development in coordinating with the UN in advancing cooperation between ASEAN and the UN on this important issue which has global and regional dimensions. The ASEAN Leaders also welcomed UN's support to ASEAN in pursuit of economic integration both within the region and in the global economy as well as efforts to promote complementarities and mutual benefit in such areas as trade, investment, energy, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) development, transport, ICT, and create effective operational and regulatory frameworks, where necessary, for a competitive ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

11. We acknowledged the importance of the cooperation of ASEAN and UN in the pursuit of continued competitiveness and decent work of ASEAN workforce. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the confirmation of the UN to support the implementation of the ASEAN Labour Ministers' (ALM') Work Programme 2016-2020. We looked forward to the development of joint initiatives between UN and ASEAN Senior Labour Officials to promote decent work in the region in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme 2016-2020.

12. We welcomed ASEAN-UN collaboration on promoting women empowerment and gender equality through the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action of the Elimination of Violence Against Women (RPA on EVAW), and full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). We looked forward to a more robust cooperation on sharing knowledge and expertise that would facilitate gender mainstreaming in the

three pillars of ASEAN Community, and enhance the capacities of ASEAN Secretariat on issues related to gender.

13. We welcomed ASEAN-UN collaboration on promoting the welfare of children through the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (RPA on EVAC), and UN's support to the implementation and monitoring of the Convention of the Rights of the Child by strengthening child protection systems in ASEAN Member States and child participation in decision making processes. We looked forward to a more programmatic approach in strengthening cooperation in this area.

14. We looked forward to closer cooperation on promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities in the region through the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and sharing knowledge and best practices that ensured inclusivity and accessibility.

15. We welcomed and noted the progress in the development of ASEAN-UN Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change (2016-2020), which is aligned with the Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Agenda. We are pleased with 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.

16. We encouraged ASEAN Member States to ratify and implement the Multilateral Environmental Agreements at the regional and international levels as part of shared efforts in addressing environmental issues, as well as cooperation in knowledge sharing with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and other relevant agencies.

17. We encouraged both sides to further promote collaboration on enhancing food security and safety, nutrition, rural development access to healthcare and promotion of healthy lifestyles, including for ageing populations, improving capabilities to control communicable diseases and manage natural resources, and building disaster-resilient nations and safer communities.

18. We reaffirmed our support to address drug issues in a comprehensive, holistic and balanced manner involving both demand and supply reduction measures. In this regard, we welcomed the participation of ASEAN Member States at the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2016 and at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem in April 2016.

19. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the UN's support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and encouraged enhanced cooperation in the implementation of the Work

Programme for the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which embodies the spirit of One ASEAN, One Response to collectively address the causes and consequences of disasters in the ASEAN region and outside the region. We welcomed the development of the third ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management covering the period of 2016-2020 and also the ASEAN Joint Statement for the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 which highlighted ASEAN's commitments and contribution to the Agenda for Humanity. We committed ourselves to continuing ASEAN's collective engagement in the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, and reaffirmed the commitments to the Agenda as articulated by ASEAN stakeholders at the World Humanitarian Summit.

20. We underlined the need for reinforcing regional and international cooperation to address the challenges associated with the irregular movement of persons, as well as trafficking in persons and people smuggling in a comprehensive and sustainable manner by addressing the root causes and other contributing factors in the spirit of cooperation, international burden sharing and shared responsibility. Towards this end, the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September provides a historic opportunity to the international community to devise a comprehensive response to large movements of refugees and migrants.

21. We emphasized the importance of sustaining our Comprehensive Partnership at the highest level and looked forward to the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UN Summit to be held in Philippines in 2017.

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