

**JOINT PRESS RELEASE
ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING WITH
THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL AND
THE PRESIDENT OF THE 71st SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 22 September 2016

ASEAN and the United Nations today reaffirmed commitment to strengthen their comprehensive partnership by effectively implementing the new five-year Plan of Action (2016-2020) between ASEAN and the UN, including the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This commitment was made at the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting held at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, and was attended by the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, the President of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Peter Thomson, the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN, Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh, and senior officials of ASEAN and the United Nations.

The Meeting welcomed the successful convening of the 8th ASEAN-United Nations Summit on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, Laos, where the Leaders emphasised the importance of strengthening ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership towards the common goals of peace, stability and sustainable development.

The Meeting also welcomed the progress of ASEAN-UN cooperation as reflected in the 2015-2016 Joint Report submitted by the Secretariats of ASEAN and the UN on the implementation of the Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations.

The United Nations reaffirmed its continued support to ASEAN Community building and integration as well as ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture. The Meeting also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concern. These included peacekeeping and conflict prevention as well as efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism in the region and globally. The Meeting noted the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism. Both sides also looked forward to the forthcoming ASEAN-UN Regional Dialogue on Conflict Prevention and Preventing Violent Extremism to be held in Indonesia.

The Meeting also agreed on the need for strengthened cooperation in combating transnational organised crime including drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, the irregular movement of persons, disaster management and risk reduction, food and

energy security, the promotion and protection of human rights, and global health issues. The Meeting also affirmed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes, including respect for legal and diplomatic processes, in conformity with international law, the UN Charter, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

The Meeting further recognised the importance of promoting the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in line with the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action, particularly in reducing poverty and hunger, tackling inequalities and promoting women's empowerment, fostering sustainable economic growth and equitable social development, including issues related to economic integration and connectivity, protecting the environment, sustainable management of resources, ensuring peoples' access to clean water and clean air, disaster risk reduction, minimising adverse impact of climate change and building effective institutions to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

The Meeting agreed on the importance of addressing climate change and welcomed the recent ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change adopted in 2015 by some ASEAN Member States along with other ASEAN Member States working towards ratification. The Meeting also welcomed the development of the ASEAN-UN Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change (2016-2020) following the adoption of the ASEAN Post 2015 Strategic Plan on Environment.

The Meeting welcomed the progress made in strengthening cooperation under the Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management (JSPADM), which forms an integral component of the five-year ASEAN-UN Plan of Action and aligns with ASEAN's Comprehensive Work Programme 2016-2020 on disaster management. The United Nations expressed appreciation for ASEAN's engagement in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), including the ASEAN Joint Statement for the World Humanitarian Summit and ASEAN's role in the launching of the Regional Organizations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN). The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to implement the Agenda for Humanity and the ASEAN 2025 Vision.

Both sides agreed to further intensify ASEAN-UN cooperation through the effective implementation of the new five-year Plan of Action (2016-2020) between ASEAN and *the* UN, including in enhancing coordination especially on cross-cutting issues and exploring stable funding sources. They agreed to strengthen concrete cooperation in each pillar of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership, including Secretariat-to-Secretariat cooperation and to explore new areas of engagement to further promote peace, stability and sustainable development. The meeting also

exchanged views on the importance of mainstreaming human rights and gender in future cooperation.

The Meeting looked forward to the Special Session of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting focusing on Sustainable Development and the Special Panel Discussion on Developing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on 24 September 2016. These sessions will further enhance ASEAN's value-added contribution to sustainable development efforts at both the national and global levels through developing concrete activities towards this end. Both sides agreed on the importance of working closely together to implement the sustainable development agenda with particular attention to the principle of 'no one left behind'.

The Meeting welcomed ASEAN's continuing efforts to engage with the UN and, in this connection, noted that candidatures from ASEAN Member States have been submitted to the UN bodies, reflecting ASEAN Member States' continuing interest to contribute positively to the work of these bodies and to multilateralism in general.

Ends.../