

ASEAN-CHINA JOINT STATEMENT ON COMPREHENSIVELY STRENGTHENING EFFECTIVE ANTI-CORRUPTION COOPERATION

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, gathered on 13 November 2017 in Manila, Philippines at the 20th ASEAN-China Summit;

Recalling the Joint Statement of the 19th ASEAN-China Summit to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations adopted on 7 September 2016 whereby the parties committed, among others, to strengthen dialogue and cooperation to address common security issues, including combating transnational threats and other non-traditional security challenges in pursuit of regional peace and stability;

Reaffirming that the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprints 2025 provide the fundamental principles and frameworks for ASEAN to instill the culture of integrity and anti-corruption and mainstream the principles thereof into policies and practices of the ASEAN Community; promote good governance, transparency, and responsive regulatory regimes through active engagement with the private sector, community-based organisations, and other stakeholders of ASEAN; as well as promote transparent economies and accountable, professional, efficient and effective civil service as the backbone of good governance;

Recognising the potential risk of transnational corruption brought by closer economic ties, greater flow of capital and broader people-to-people exchanges between ASEAN Member States and China;

Stressing that corruption, including bribery, embezzlement or misappropriation are common challenges, which, if left unaddressed, could undermine justice and the rule of law, and jeopardises socio-cultural and economic development;

Acknowledging the importance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) as a legally binding international instrument specifically targeted to fight the

scourge of corruption, that provides a framework for stronger cooperation between states in combating corruption;

Noting the anti-corruption efforts of all countries in the region and the positive results of joint actions, including the establishment of the South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC) in 2004 and its accreditation as an Entity Associated with ASEAN in 2017 and further noting the Anti-Corruption Workshop co-organised by China and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) held in Yunnan, China on 2 November 2016;

Endeavouring to include the fight against corruption as a part of our regional cooperation, which will help enrich the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership;

Respecting the diversity in cultures and, emphasizing the importance of strengthening effective ASEAN-China anti-corruption cooperation including in the implementation of our commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations with concrete actions and contribute to the sound social and economic development in the region;

Subject to the domestic laws and regulations, as well as existing international legal obligations of ASEAN Member States and China, and on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, have reached the following understanding:

1. Endeavour to intensify cooperation and assistance to combat corruption, including through enhancing law enforcement cooperation.
2. Strengthen cooperation and assistance in preventing and combating corruption as called for in our respective obligations under UNCAC which include extradition, mutual legal assistance and the recovery of assets and proceeds of corruption.
3. Promote the sharing of experiences, best practices and exchange of views on ethics, values, good governance and the culture of integrity to strengthen anti-

corruption activities in both the public and private sectors and implementation of domestic laws and regulations to prevent and combat corruption.

4. Encourage cooperation among financial intelligence/authorized units of ASEAN Member States and China in the areas of collection, analysis and sharing of information regarding potential corruption-related money laundering activities.
5. Intensify cooperation on capacity building for effective prevention and detection of corruption including corruption-related money laundering, developing a specific training programme on anti-corruption for officials in various areas, such as on providing technical assistance on operational activities and surveillance of the movement of corruption proceeds in accordance to the UNCAC provisions.
6. Enhance coordination and cooperation under relevant international instruments and multilateral mechanisms where appropriate such as the UNCAC, the Anti-Corruption Working Group of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), relevant bilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance subject to declarations and reservations in respect of these instruments and mechanisms including UNCAC for more pragmatic cooperation.
7. Recognise the important role of witnesses in the identification and effective prosecution of corrupt individuals by developing an effective protection system for witnesses in corruption cases, where appropriate.
8. Support SEA-PAC's efforts to enhance regional and national cooperation against corruption.
9. Encourage the active participation of relevant stakeholders such as the government, business sector, civil society, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community groups, media, research institutions and think-tanks, through joint collaborative efforts and robust measures in mainstreaming global anti-corruption campaign as an effort to tackle the destructive impact of massive corruption in the region and beyond.

10. Promote more anti-corruption workshops, dialogues and conferences to stimulate exchange of ideas on ways to effectively combat and eradicate corruption.

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