



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 20TH ASEAN-CHINA SUMMIT
13 November 2017, Manila, Philippines

"Partnering for Change, Engaging the World"

1. The 20th ASEAN-China Summit 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. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We were pleased to note that ASEAN-China relations have been strong, stable and mutually-beneficial. Over the years, the strategic partnership has grown rapidly to become one of ASEAN's most substantive Dialogue Partners. ASEAN Leaders thanked China for its continued support for ASEAN since the establishment of the ASEAN-China dialogue partnership in 1991. China congratulated ASEAN on its 50th Founding Anniversary and reaffirmed its support to its integration and community-building efforts, narrowing the development gap and enhancing ASEAN Connectivity, as well as maintaining ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture.
3. We noted with satisfaction that ASEAN and China continue to strengthen their strategic partnership in a wide range of political-security, economic, and socio-cultural areas through the effective implementation of the 2016-2020 Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership. As strategic partners, ASEAN and China continue to further deepen cooperation in all areas identified under the Plan of Action and through the various ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the EAS, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ADMM Plus.
4. We agreed to further increase high-level exchanges and dialogues across the three pillars of cooperation to further solidify ASEAN-China strategic partnership and promote mutual understanding.
5. We expressed confidence that economic ties will continue to grow, supported by the further deepening of economic linkages. ASEAN Leaders noted with satisfaction that in 2016 China remained as ASEAN's largest trading partner with total merchandise trade reached USD 368 billion, and continued to be ASEAN's fourth largest external source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) valued at USD 9.8 billion.

6. We welcomed the entry into force of the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation and Certain Agreements thereunder between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China (ACFTA Upgrade Protocol) and looked forward to the early ratification of the Protocol by the remaining Parties and the completion of the negotiations for trade facilitating Product Specific Rules (PSR) under Trade in Goods as soon as possible. These will help support the twin goals to reach two-way trade and investment of US\$ 1 trillion, and US\$150 billion, respectively by 2020. We also encouraged concerned Parties to continue to endeavor to resolve pending issues under the ACFTA, in order to ensure greater economic and trade cooperation, and to address with urgency the long-standing issue concerning iron and steel.

7. We welcomed the continued success of the ASEAN-China Expo, which brings peoples from ASEAN and China together and create new opportunities for trade and businesses. ASEAN Leaders thereafter looked forward to China's continued support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of ASEAN Member States, including their participation in regional and global value chains.

8. We noted the progress made by our joint efforts in advancing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. In view of the large potential of the RCEP to promote global trade and growth, we urged RCEP Participating Countries to exercise their best endeavor to swiftly and successfully achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually-beneficial RCEP agreement.

9. ASEAN Leaders noted China's support to the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. We also noted ongoing efforts to explore synergies between ASEAN's MPAC 2025, China's Belt and Road Initiative, including through deepening the cooperation of infrastructure connectivity, and connectivity initiatives under the Greater Mekong Sub-region, and the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. We further noted such cooperation should be implemented in a mutually beneficial manner particularly for promoting respective domestic production. The Joint Statement between ASEAN and China on Further Deepening the Cooperation on Infrastructure Connectivity that we issued is a positive step in this direction. ASEAN Leaders looked forward to greater cooperation with China through the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Silk Road Fund to enhance regional infrastructure projects.

10. We welcomed the continued cooperation in narrowing the development gap within ASEAN, including through China's contribution of grant assistance for the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) to support the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III.

11. ASEAN Leaders reiterated their commitment to further intensify cooperation in narrowing the development gap between and among ASEAN Member States. In this connection, they looked forward to China's continued support towards the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III (2016-2020) and Cambodia's hosting of the 2nd Mekong-Lancang

Cooperation Leaders' Meeting under the theme "Our River of Peace and Sustainable Development", which will be held on 10-11 January 2018 in Phnom Penh.

12. We welcomed the positive developments in the South China Sea (SCS) since the last ASEAN-China Summit. We noted that the Framework of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) adopted by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States and China in August 2017 was an important step toward the conclusion of an effective COC. We announced that as a next step, ASEAN Member States and China will officially commence substantive negotiations on the text of the COC and tasked the Joint Working Group and the Senior Officials' Meeting on the DOC as the bodies responsible for drafting the COC. We looked forward to the subsequent convening of the 23rd ASEAN-China Joint Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC in Viet Nam in early 2018.

13. We agreed to cooperate in maintaining peace, security, stability, safety and freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the SCS, in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

14. We reiterated our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety, including through confidence building measures and through practical maritime cooperation. We adopted the Leaders' Declaration on a Decade of Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection in the South China Sea, which is reflective of our shared commitment to implement the (DOC) and desire to transform the SCS into a sea of peace, stability, and prosperity.

15. We recalled that at the ASEAN-China Summit last year, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang suggested the target of 30 million two-way tourist arrivals by 2020. We noted that both sides have exceeded this target in less than a year. In 2016, 19.8 million Chinese tourists visited Southeast Asian countries while 10.3 million Southeast Asians visited China. In 2016, 19.8 million Chinese tourists visited Southeast Asian countries while 10.3 million Southeast Asians visited China.

16. We welcomed the various activities held in ASEAN Member States and in China this year to celebrate the ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation to promote people-to-people exchanges, mutual trust and understanding. We welcomed the significant growth in tourism figures in two-way tourist arrivals. We also noted that the ASEAN-China Year of Tourism Cooperation coincides with the Visit ASEAN@50 campaign, which seeks to promote ASEAN as a single unified travel destination. These mutually reinforcing events will further promote tourism cooperation between the two sides. We issued the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Tourism Cooperation, which reflected the strong interest of ASEAN and China for further collaboration.

17. We underscored the important role and contribution of the ASEAN-China Centre in Beijing to promoting trade, investment, tourism, educational and cultural cooperation between ASEAN and China for mutual benefit. In this regard, we noted the signing of the revised Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing the ASEAN-China Centre.

18. We welcomed efforts to strengthen anti-corruption cooperation, which complement domestic efforts to promote good governance and rule of law. We were pleased to note that the meeting issued the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Comprehensively Strengthening Anti-Corruption Cooperation.

19. We looked forward to the commemoration of the 15th Anniversary on the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in 2018, and welcomed China's proposal to issue an ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030 at the 21st ASEAN-China Summit next year.

20. We agreed to designate the Year 2018 as the ASEAN-China Year of Innovation and welcome cooperation in areas such as technological innovation and the digital economy.

21. We looked forward to Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2018 and the Philippines' assumption of the Coordinatorship of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations in August 2018. We noted that Singapore Chairmanship's theme of Resilience and Innovation and the "ASEAN-China Year of Innovation" in 2018 are complementary.