

**JOINT STATEMENT OF ASEAN AND CHINA  
TRANSPORT MINISTERS  
ON ENSURING SMOOTH TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS  
TO COMBAT COVID-19 AND REACTIVATE THE ECONOMY**

**16 July 2020**

WE, the Transport Ministers of ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China, have convened the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Special Meeting on COVID-19 on 16 July 2020 through Video Conference.

**Recognizing that** the global COVID-19 pandemic poses unprecedented threats and challenges to the whole world, including the severe disruption to economies and the devastating impact on the livelihoods of people,

**Expressing** our profound condolences to those families whose lives have been tragically affected by this pandemic,

**Noting** that, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its impacts, various immediate and necessary measures have been taken by States, including restricting travel, closing borders, and

limiting the frequencies of inbound and outbound flights and vessel sailings,

**Recognizing** that the adverse impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the economy, particularly including but not limited to the travel and tourism, manufacturing, retail, transport, and other services sectors as well as the disruption of supply chains and the financial markets,

**Also recognizing** our interconnectedness and vulnerabilities in the face of COVID-19, and emphasizing the critical importance of a coherent, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder approach in ensuring ASEAN Member States' and China's timely and effective response to the pandemic based on public health and economic consideration by ASEAN Member States and China,

**Recalling** the Chairman's Statement of the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit to welcome the holding of Ministerial meetings with Dialogue Partners to exchange views and explore cooperation to mitigate, control and respond to the impact of COVID-19, and **reaffirming** the commitments of our leaders in ASEAN Vision Leaders' Statement on a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN to further intensify cooperation with ASEAN's partners, other regional and global entities, as well as the Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Joint Statement of the

Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 to enhance collective response to public health emergencies, mitigating socio economic impact of COVID-19 and future pandemics,

**Realizing that** about 90% of the necessities in the global trade supply chain such as energy and raw materials rely on global transport,

**Reiterating** our commitment to fostering a seamless and efficient transport and logistics system since the jointly launched ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Meeting in 2002, which has greatly boosted cooperation between ASEAN and China in this field and enhanced fundamental infrastructure and facilitation for trade flows,

**Recognizing in particular** that transport and logistics play an important role and continue to be at the forefront of global response to COVID-19 pandemic in terms of ensuring the smooth and timely supply of essential goods and services,

**We hereby agree to strengthen our collective response to COVID-19 based on sustained cooperation and solidarity by:**

(a) STRENGTHENING cooperation in the field of transport and logistics in response to the pandemic, with a view to ensuring

unimpeded passage for cross-border movement of essential goods, including food, vital medicines and medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other vital goods and services;

(b) COMMITTING to actively taking measures to ensure the transport of essential materials and supplies, including the necessary facilitation for entry, departure and transit of these materials and supplies to avoid any disruptions;

(c) ENHANCING cooperation and coordination with multilateral organizations through the framework of the United Nations, including the World Health Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, as well as other related international fora such as the World Trade Organization, while emphasizing the adherence to agreed international standards for the release of goods and transport facilitation, and avoid unnecessary traffic restrictions, and in particular ensuring the openness of seaports for the smooth operation of international logistics;

(d) ENCOURAGING the relevant competent authorities to continue extending the validity period of ship and crew certificates as well as exchange relevant information while remaining mindful of the importance of navigational safety to ensure smooth and efficient supply chains;

(e) **STEPPING UP** exchanges of information, knowledge and best practices, to jointly enhance the capability of pandemic control at land border crossings, seaports and airports, strengthen pandemic-related training and protection of field workers in transport networks, prevent cross-border transmission of the virus, and reduce the risk of imported cases;

(f) **LOOKING FORWARD** to the continued engagement between ASEAN and China through existing networks and platforms under the ASEAN Transport Sector, exploring the possibilities to facilitate travel arrangements in accordance with national circumstances, in the gradual lifting of travel restrictions while respecting health precautions, and seeking policy synergy where possible, so as to better serve and support the development of transport connectivity and logistics system, and ensure the stability of global supply chain, industrial chain and value chain;

(g) **UNDERTAKING** to consider this topic into the agenda of highest level conferences, as appropriate.