



Chairman Statement of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Session with New Zealand

10 September 2020, Viet Nam

1. The ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Session with New Zealand was held on 10 September 2020. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Mr Chris Seed, Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand.
2. The Meeting highlighted the importance of this year as it marks the 45th anniversary and 5th anniversary strategic partnership of ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of an ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders' Summit to commemorate the 45th anniversary of their dialogue relations in 2020 and adoption of a Joint ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders' Vision Statement on this occasion.
3. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the full implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Statement for ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership for the period of 2016-2020, and its two key strategies, namely the "People Strategy" and the "Prosperity Strategy" and adopted the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership for the period of 2021-2025 based on New Zealand's four partnership programmes namely Peace, Prosperity, People, and Planet, which would serve as a guideline for enhancing ASEAN-New Zealand cooperation for the next five years.
4. The Meeting reiterated its support for the priorities of ASEAN this year in advancing a "Cohesive and Responsive" ASEAN under Viet Nam's Chairmanship and welcomed the *ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN: Rising Above Challenges and Sustaining Growth*, adopted at the 36th ASEAN Summit on 26 June 2020. The Meetings underlined the need to strengthen regional solidarity and maintain ASEAN Centrality to respond effectively to current and future challenges as well as harness opportunities including those brought about by digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).
5. The Meeting recognised the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the region and the world and underscored the importance of enhanced international cooperation in addressing the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies. The Meeting also highlighted in particular the need for joint collaboration on scientific research and development of vaccines and medicine that are affordable and accessible to all, building and maintaining resilient, open and connected supply chains and supporting a

sustainable and climate-resilient economic recovery. Towards this end, ASEAN Ministers welcomed New Zealand's interest in the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, and encouraged New Zealand to consider contributing to the ASEAN Regional Reserves of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies once it is established. The Ministers encourage active collaboration and supports from New Zealand to ASEAN's efforts in recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and developing an ASEAN comprehensive recovery framework.

6. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct governing inter-State relations in the region, underscored its relevance to the wider region and recognised its contribution to promoting regional peace, stability and security.
7. The Meeting underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN centrality and unity in the evolving regional architecture and reiterated their commitment to supporting an ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based, built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms, strengthening the efficiency of and promoting complementarities between the ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). The Meeting underscored the importance of multilateralism, regionalism and international law in contributing to global and regional peace, stability and prosperity. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and encouraged New Zealand's support and cooperation with ASEAN, in accordance with the principles contained in the AOIP, in the four areas identified in the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, economic and other possible areas of cooperation, through practical projects to promote mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual benefit through ASEAN-led mechanisms, thereby contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. In this regard, New Zealand expressed its support and welcomed the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Importance of Maintaining Peace and Stability in Southeast Asia.
8. The Meeting welcomed the progress made towards the full conclusion of the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and looked forward to the signing of this modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial agreement by the end of this year to demonstrate the firm commitment of ASEAN and its partners, including New Zealand, to upholding an open, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system.
9. The Meeting reiterated their commitment to deepen political-security cooperation and commended New Zealand's active participation in ASEAN-led mechanism activities, particularly in co-chairing the ARF preventive diplomacy activities, as well as the ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group on Cyber Security (EWG on CS). The Meeting commended New Zealand's role in co-chairing with the Philippines the ADMM-Plus EWG on CS for the period of 2017-2020 cycle and the ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) for the period of 2019-2021 together with Malaysia and the EU.

10. The Meeting recognised the positive impact of the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) to economic growth in the region and welcomed the extension of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Work Programme until 31 December 2021 to further implement and benefit from AANZFTA. The Meeting noted the decision of AEM-CER Ministers to take forward the upgrade negotiations with urgency, to ensure that AANZFTA remains fit for purpose, and to provide a signal of AANZFTA Parties' commitment to regional integration. In enhancing trade and connectivity, the Meeting looked forward to the early conclusion of negotiation of the Air Services Agreement between the Governments of ASEAN Member States and New Zealand. The Meeting encouraged further cooperation in new and emerging areas, such as digital economy and e-commerce, smart cities development including through the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN), tourism and supply chain connectivity and resilience and greater cybersecurity cooperation.
11. The Meeting looked forward to working together in promotion of people-to-people exchange, capacity building and human capital development and building greater awareness of ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations, including through the ASEAN-New Zealand Prime Minister's Fellowship, the ASEAN Young Diplomats Study Tour, and the English Language Training for Officials (ELTO), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in ASEAN Member States, Short-term Training Scholarships, as well as annual scholarships for ASEAN students to study in New Zealand and for New Zealand students to study in ASEAN. The Meeting encouraged innovative and creative ways in maintaining people links and delivering capacity building in time of pandemic. The Meeting appreciated New Zealand's assistance to ASEAN students who are facing hardships during pandemic and request further assistance if the pandemic persists. The Meeting noted New Zealand's effort to deepen cooperation with ASEAN on disaster management and disaster relief especially its support in providing short-term training in disaster management in support of the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) programme. The Meeting also encouraged greater cooperation on biodiversity, management of land and forests and sustainable development and climate change through the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, renewable energy and combating marine plastic debris.
12. The Meeting discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which serious concerns were expressed by some Ministers over recent developments in the South China Sea, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions, and may undermine peace, security, and stability in the region. They reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation. They further reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. They emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the DOC that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.
13. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the

South China Sea. They further underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. The Meeting took note of efforts to bring forward the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) that is consistent with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, with due consideration to the legitimate rights and interests of third parties. The Ministers stressed the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence amongst parties. They reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS which serves as the basis for determining legitimate interests of littoral states and sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.

