



**Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC)  
10+1 Session with the United States of America**

*10 September 2020, Viet Nam*

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1. The ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Session with the United States of America was held on 10 September 2020. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), and the Honourable Michael Pompeo, Secretary of State of the United States of America.
2. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the full implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership (2016-2020). Noting that the current Plan of Action is due to be completed this year, the Meeting adopted the new Plan of Action (2021-2025) that will guide both sides in further strengthening the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations in the next five years, based on the objectives and principles of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and in line with the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy. The Meeting also welcomed the signing of the Regional Development Cooperation Agreement (RDCA) between ASEAN and the USAID, which encompasses all ongoing USAID's programmes, including the ASEAN-U.S. Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade and E-Commerce (IGNITE) and the ASEAN-U.S. Partnership for Regional Optimization within the Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Communities (PROSPECT), and to create potentials for new areas of cooperation.
3. The Ministers welcomed the launch of the Mekong-U.S. Partnership, affirmed the important role of the Mekong sub-region in ASEAN Community-building. The Partnership builds on eleven years of successful cooperation under the Lower Mekong Initiative and provides a broader, more responsive, and more strategic platform where Mekong partner countries and the United States can work together to address challenges and shared interests.
4. The Meeting reiterated 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 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 26 June 2020. The Meeting 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 the digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

5. The Meeting recognised the unprecedented challenges posed by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in the region and the world and underscored the importance of enhanced international cooperation in addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies. The Meeting also highlighted, in particular, the need for joint collaboration on ensuring the development of medical products that are affordable and accessible to all. This involves maintaining resilient and connected supply chains and supporting a sustained economic recovery of the region.
6. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of ASEAN-U.S. cooperation in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and welcomed the successful convening of the ASEAN-United States High-level Interagency Video Conference on Public Health Emergencies, Special ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 as well as the Special Videoconference of ASEAN-U.S. Health Ministers, which took place on 1 April 2020, 23 April and 30 April 2020, respectively. The Meeting further welcomed the U.S.' expression of support to help ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat to develop region-wide disease control structures that could strengthen the resilience and capacity of public health systems across ASEAN. The Meeting noted that ASEAN and the U.S. have stepped up their collaboration on this front, including through the announcement of the U.S.-ASEAN Health Futures Alumni Network. The Meeting welcomed the U.S.' establishment of the U.S.-ASEAN Health Futures initiative, including plans to support ASEAN's development of the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System as well as to expand its official engagement in the health sector.
7. The Meeting also noted the possibility of cooperation to prevent future zoonotic disease outbreaks, including between environment, animal and public health sectors encouraging further progress using a One Health approach.
8. The Meeting also reaffirmed the importance of cooperation in addressing socio economic impact of COVID-19 including to ensure the sustainability of supply chain and international connectivity, strengthen resilience, particularly to vulnerable economic sectors and businesses, working towards an approach to easing travel restrictions taking into account public health safety, and deepening collaboration in the post-pandemic recovery.
9. ASEAN Ministers requested U.S.' support to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, and the ASEAN Regional Reserves of Medical Supplies once it is established. The ASEAN Ministers also encouraged support from the U.S. in ASEAN's recovery from impacts of COVID-19 and development of comprehensive recovery framework.
10. 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.
11. The Meeting underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN centrality and unity in the evolving regional architecture and reiterated its 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 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 Meetings underscored the importance of strengthening multilateralism, regionalism and international law in contributing to global and regional peace, stability and prosperity. The meeting reaffirm the importance of continuing building strategic trust and mutual confidence among countries through continued dialogue, win-win cooperation and practical confidence building measures to create a peaceful environment conducive for sustainable growth. The Meetings reaffirmed the importance of the AOIP and encouraged the U.S. to support and undertake o with ASEAN, in accordance with the principles contained in the AOIP, in the four key identified areas, 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.

12. The Meeting noted that non-traditional security challenges such as public health emergencies, cyber security, water security, food security, energy security, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing climate change, natural disasters including extreme weather, terrorism, illegal drugs trafficking, wildlife trafficking, environmental pollution were threatening the regional stability and prosperity, and pledged to continue to promote cooperation in addressing those areas.
13. The Meeting welcomed the successful conduct of the first ASEAN-U.S. Maritime Exercise in September 2019 in the international waters of Southeast Asia and noted continued commitment to fostering practical cooperation in defence in the seven priority areas of the ADMM-Plus. The Meeting underlined the importance of cooperation to combat transnational crimes and terrorism which continues to be pursued through the regular SOMTC+ U.S. Consultations, and noted that its Work Plan has been extended from 2019 to 2021. ASEAN also looked forward to the U.S.' continued support in strengthening cybersecurity capacity in the region, including through initiatives such as the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership and the US-ASEAN Connect Digital Economic Series as well as the ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue, which took place for the first time in October 2019. The Meeting welcomed opportunities to strengthen cooperation with the U.S. on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda with a view to promoting women's meaningful participation in peace and security in the region, including through USAID's work on helping ASEAN develop a regional workplan on WPS.
14. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to deepening ASEAN-U.S. economic ties, including through the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (ASEAN-U.S. TIFA). The Meeting welcomed the participation of all ASEAN Member States in live operation of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) at the end of 2019 supported by and also welcomed the U.S.' support under the ASEAN-U.S. IGNITE programme for the expansion of the ASW. The Meeting noted the U.S.' Asia Enhancing Development and Growth

through Energy (ASIA EDGE) initiative that seeks to strengthen energy cooperation in the region.

15. The Meeting welcomed the continued U.S. support for enhanced regional connectivity and ASEAN's digital transformation through the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the US' continued engagement of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) through activities under the US-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership (USASCP) initiative. The Meeting looked forward to further activities under the USASCP, including workshops, sharing of best practices, development of pilot projects, private sector engagements, among others, in support of smart city development in ASEAN.
16. The Meeting appreciated the U.S.' support in building a more people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community through various capacity building and development programmes. The Meeting highlighted that initiatives such as the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme, the U.S.-ASEAN Internship Programme, the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women and the Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Scholar Program remain essential in contributing towards human capital development in the region and in enhancing people-to-people connectivity. The Meeting also looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Statement on Human Capital Development at the 8th ASEAN-U.S. Summit later this year. Likewise, the Meeting encouraged the U.S. to partner with ASEAN in the newly established ASEAN Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council.
17. The Meeting stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue amongst all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. The Meeting urged all concerned parties to resume peaceful dialogue and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration, the Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the Joint Statement by the US and DPRK leaders. The Meeting reiterated their commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting reiterated the role of ASEAN-led platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue amongst the concerned parties.
18. The Meeting discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which serious concerns were expressed over recent developments in the South China Sea. The Meeting underscored the importance of promoting and maintaining peace and stability, a rules-based order, freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea and ensuring other lawful uses of the sea, as well as unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea. The Meeting emphasised the importance of non-militarisation of disputed features, self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability as well as pursuing the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for diplomatic and legal processes, without resorting to the threat or use

of force in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, which is the basis for determining maritime entitlements, and sovereign rights, jurisdiction and legitimate interests within maritime zones, and the 1982 UNCLOS sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. The Meeting encouraged all parties concerned to continue engage in constructive discussions and work towards preserving regional peace and stability. The Meeting underscored the importance of full and effective implementation of the 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. Concerns were also expressed over illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, environmental degradation and marine debris in the region which necessitates the importance for enhanced cooperation in addressing these issues.

19. The Meeting looked forward to the rescheduling of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit to mark the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN-U.S Strategic Partnership when physical conditions allow.

