

MYANMAR, 2014

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE
2ND ASEAN-UNITED STATES SUMMIT
13 NOVEMBER 2014**

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

1. The 2nd ASEAN-United States Summit was held on 13 November 2014 at the Myanmar Convention Centre-1, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Meeting was chaired by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency President U Thein Sein. The Meeting was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance at the 2nd ASEAN-United States Summit.

2. We, the Leaders of ASEAN and the United States, had productive discussions during the 2nd ASEAN-United States Summit, focusing on further strengthening the ASEAN-United States Dialogue Partnership. ASEAN welcomed the continued support of the United States for ASEAN Community building efforts as well as ASEAN Centrality and unity in the regional architecture. We acknowledged the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-United States Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity 2011-2015 and reaffirmed our commitment to fully and effectively implement this Plan of Action and to work towards a new plan of action for the next five years.

3. We acknowledged that the ASEAN-United States Summit has been instrumental in elevating the ASEAN-United States relations to a strategic level. We noted, with satisfaction, the status of the ASEAN-United States dialogue relations and looked forward to the continued deepening and broadening of our cooperation at both the strategic and functional levels, encompassing the areas of political-security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation. We were also aware of the need to follow up the recommendations of the ASEAN-United States Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and work out a roadmap for upgrading the dialogue relations to a strategic level.

4. We reaffirmed our commitment to working closely with the United States to further strengthen our partnership in promoting regional peace and stability through various ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as ASEAN Plus one, the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum. We encouraged efforts to strengthen coordination and create better synergies among ASEAN Member States and the United States through these mechanisms.

5. We underscored the importance of exchanging views on regional and international issues. We encouraged the United States to continue to support ASEAN's efforts to effectively address the challenges to peace, prosperity and stability of the region.

6. We are pleased to note the convening of exercises and workshops under the frameworks of the ARF and ADMM Plus, namely, the ARF Workshop on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response, the ARF Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Management and we expressed appreciation to the United States for their support to these events.

7. We reaffirmed our commitments to prevent and combat transnational crimes. In this respect, we welcomed the United States proposal for an ARF Workshop on Combating Wildlife Trafficking in Asia and an ARF Workshop on Security, Stability and International Migration in the ASEAN Region in ARF Senior Officials (ARF SOM) which was held on 9 June 2014. We decided to strengthen cooperation to combat international terrorism under the framework of the ASEAN-United States Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism and the United Nations Global Counter-terrorism Strategy. We underscored the importance of cyber security, and committed to cooperate in fighting cyber-crime through an ASEAN-United States Workshop on Cybercrime. We welcomed the workshop as a venue to share experiences and best practices in combating cyber crimes with ASEAN Member States.

8. We welcomed the deepening of ASEAN-United States cooperation on maritime issues, through promotion of capacity building, information sharing and technology cooperation across a variety of maritime fora.

9. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability, ensuring maritime security and safety, and freedom of navigation including in and over-flight above the South China Sea. We reaffirmed the principles contained in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea. While welcoming the agreement to work towards the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct (COC), we underscored the importance of all parties to achieve tangible progress on early harvest measures, as agreed to by ASEAN and China. In this regard, we urged all parties to fully and effectively implement the DOC in its entirety. However, we remained concerned over the situation in the South China Sea. We reaffirmed the collective commitments under the


DOC to ensuring the resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, without resorting to the threat or use of force and, while exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities.

10. ASEAN Leaders appreciate the efforts of the United States to promote positive maritime cooperation in the region including through capacity building efforts under the Expanded ASEAN Seafarer Training (EAST) programme jointly organised with the Philippines. We congratulated Indonesia and the United States for completing a successful three-year co-chairmanship of the ARF Maritime Security Inter-Sessional Meetings, and welcomed the Philippines and the United States' co-chairmanship of the Inter-Sessional Meetings on Maritime Security for the period of 2014-2017.

11. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the United States' support for programmes such as the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI), the ASEAN-United States Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (ASEAN-U.S. PROGRESS). We welcomed the United States to play a greater role in supporting ASEAN's efforts to enhance regional integration and narrow the development gap in the region through the promotion of trade and investment as well as people-to-people contacts. We recognised that regional economic integration is a gradual process and steps taken must take into account the overall welfare of the people of the region. As such, ASEAN endeavoured to continue its regional economic integration beyond 2015 and urged the United States to continue to support ASEAN in this effort.

12. We also expressed our appreciation for the United States' continued support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and United States' initiatives on connectivity, including in the areas of transport and English language training under the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI). We suggested that the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the United States work closely to strengthen connectivity cooperation. ASEAN Leaders encouraged the United States' private sector to engage in the implementation of MPAC. We further suggested that ASEAN and the United States explore ways to mobilize private sector resources for connectivity-related projects by promoting public-private partnerships, as well as innovating financing platforms.

13. We recognised the cross-border challenges that come with greater connectivity including drug trafficking, illegal immigration/ human trafficking, international terrorism, cyber-crime, environmental degradation and emerging infectious diseases as well as epidemic diseases such as the spread of the Ebola. In order to reconcile freedom and security, compensatory measures are needed to be explored and developed as necessary. These involve improving cooperation and coordination among countries, as well as the development of a region-wide integrated border management system. In this respect we called for further collaboration and encouraged the United States to share its best practices on border security management.



14. Recognising that education plays an important role in the development of ASEAN region, we welcomed initiatives to promote people-to-people links through the on-going youth exchange and education programmes, particularly the Young Southeast Asia Leaders Initiatives (YSEALI), the Fulbright Scholarship Programme, and the Brunei-U.S. English Language Enrichment Programme. We welcomed the new Connecting the Mekong through Education and Training (COMET) project that will address skilled labour challenges in the Lower Mekong sub-region in order to narrow the development gap. In direct consultation with business, the project will support job forecasting and customizing curriculum for education providers in science, technology, engineering, accounting and tourism. Moreover, the ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to President Obama's interest to promote regional education sector by providing additional short and long-term Scholarship Programmes such as the 2015 Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Visiting Scholar Program. We welcomed new initiatives from both sides to enhance the people-to-people contacts between the United States and ASEAN including renewed commitment of United States support to the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Program (AYVP).

15. We acknowledged the progress of the cooperation activities in the field of science and technology, such as the ASEAN-United States S&T Fellows Pilot Program, ASEAN-United States Science Prize for Women. We encouraged further collaboration under the framework of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology-United States Consultation.

16. We noted the efforts to further enhance economic engagements by expanding trade and investment relations, increase awareness of commercial opportunities, and support capacity building programmes. We appreciated the support from the United States in providing technical assistance programmes under the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiative including the establishment of the ASEAN Single Window, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and in regulatory standards. We noted the United States proposal on Best Practices in Transparency and Good Regulatory Practice. We believed that the steps taken by the United States to cooperate with ASEAN will provide opportunities to further enhance trade and investment and lay the groundwork to prepare ASEAN Member States towards a more comprehensive trade-related agreement. We looked forward to potentially expanding our engagements in areas such as finance, trade logistics development, productivity enhancement, and trade related capacity development programmes, including enhancement of capacity for ASEAN services.

17. We were satisfied with the progress in strengthening business-to-business linkages. We noted the progress of economic cooperation negotiations in the region, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP), as well as the ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which aims to promote stronger economic ties throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. We acknowledged that the Regional Comprehensive Economic

Partnership (RCEP) is an ASEAN's initiative to strengthen trade and investment supply chain as well as to harmonise rules and regulations between ASEAN and its FTA Partners.

18. We welcomed the successful convening of the 2nd ASEAN-United States Business Summit at the margins of the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting in August 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw. We acknowledged that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are instrumental to economic development and that SME development should be promoted as a key engine to increase growth, reduce poverty and improve equitable outcomes. Towards the end, we endeavoured to continue to promote business-to-business linkages at all levels of enterprises between ASEAN and the United States.

19. We noted the successful convening of the 30th Air Transport Working Group Meeting held in Yangon on 22-26 September 2014, during which ASEAN held a consultation with the United States on best practices of economic regulations of air transport. We welcomed ASEAN Leaders' interest in collaborating further with the United States in aviation matters.

20. We acknowledged the on-going implementation of the ASEAN-United States Energy Cooperation Work Plan (2012-2014) and welcomed the progress of the implementation of the United States-Asia Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership (USACEP) Initiative, including the launch of the Asia-Pacific Clean Energy Programme at the United States Embassy in Bangkok. The Programme will leverage USACEP resources to catalyze the United States private investment in the Asia-Pacific region by offering a range of tools, such as financing, insurance, project preparation, and technical assistance support, while enhancing the United States-Asia business partnerships.

21. We acknowledged the United States' continuous support to ASEAN in enhancing food security and promoting sustainable development of fisheries in the ASEAN region through the implementation of the Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade (MARKET) programme.

22. We adopted the ASEAN-United States Joint Statement on Climate Change, which reiterated our commitment to jointly tackle climate change issues. We expressed our commitment to work closely together towards the adoption of a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all Parties at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris in 2015. To this end, ASEAN Member States and the United States intend to communicate Intended Nationally Determined Contributions well in advance of the Paris Conference (by the first quarter of 2015 by those Parties ready to do so) as reflected in the decision 1/CP.19. These Intended Nationally Determined Contributions will reflect our efforts to address climate change based on our respective national circumstances.

23. Recognizing the threat to wildlife and reduction of biodiversity causing negative impacts to current and future generations, we decided to work together to preserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystems and protect wildlife and natural habitats in the region. In this regard, we are committed to take measures to strengthen cooperation through the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and engage with partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to strengthen laws and enforcement capacity to fight wildlife trafficking. We welcomed the adoption of the EAS Declaration on Combating Wildlife Trafficking to further address wildlife trafficking challenges around the world. Furthermore, we encouraged information sharing among countries to facilitate and implement innovative and effective methods to combat wildlife trafficking on the ground.

24. We welcomed ASEAN-United States consultation with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in 2014 and looked forward to expanding cooperation in the implementation of AICHR's Work Plan. We also welcomed United States engagement with the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, and the ASEAN Committee on Women in 2014 and cooperation on activities, such as developing and ASEAN Network of Social Service Agencies and support to the ASEAN Women's Entrepreneurs Network.

25. We recognised the importance of disaster preparedness, disaster management and response efforts in promoting a sense of ASEAN Community and relevance among its populations. We noted with satisfaction the continued cooperation between ASEAN and the United States on the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2010-2015). We decided to strengthen cooperation on disaster management, which will also contribute to building a disaster-resilient ASEAN Community. We expressed our appreciation to the United States' continued support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) through ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM).

26. We support the United States in promotion of sub-regional cooperation through the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI), particularly in the areas of environmental protection and sustainable water management, health, education, agriculture and food security, energy security and connectivity. We supported the convening of ministerial meetings between the United States and Lower Mekong Basin countries on an annual basis. We welcomed the implementation of activities under the LMI Plan of Action (2011-2015) and its priorities and a subsequent subset of actions in each pillar.

27. We acknowledged the importance of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty as an ASEAN instrument to promote regional peace, security and stability and welcomed the implementation of the revised Plan of Action (2013-2017) to strengthen the SEANWFZ Treaty. We encouraged the enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and IAEA. We looked forward to strengthening more cooperation between regional



countries on nuclear safety and security in the South East Asia region. We welcomed the commitment of the United States to non-proliferation and disarmament. Moreover, we recognized the grave risks posed by proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons materials and their means of delivery, and we stressed the necessity for all Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Parties to continue to fulfill their respective obligations under the NPT while implementing the action plan adopted by the May 2010 Review Conference (RevCon) of the NPT. We reaffirmed our commitment to the NPT, and look forward to working toward a successful RevCon in 2015.

28. We reaffirmed our shared interests on the importance of regional peace and stability. We strongly condemn the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in Eastern Ukraine in July. We reiterated our support for comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

29. We expressed our appreciation to the United States Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta, the ASEAN Secretariat and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) for their efforts in and contribution to strengthening ASEAN-United States cooperation across a wide range of areas, including enhancing ASEAN's capacity to address regional challenges.

30. We emphasized the importance of sustaining dialogues between ASEAN and the United States at the highest level and looked forward to the 3rd ASEAN-United States Summit to be held in Malaysia in 2015.

