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ASEAN DOCUMENTS SERIES 2015

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Jakarta

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ASEAN Summit Documents

I. ASEAN SUMMIT DOCUMENTS

Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and Its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27 April 2015

WE, the Heads of States/Governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 26th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 27 April 2015;

RECALLING the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II of 7 October 2003, which seeks to build an ASEAN Community comprising of three mutually reinforcing and closely intertwined pillars, namely political-security community, economic community, and socio-cultural community;

RECALLING FURTHER the provisions of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II which seeks to consolidate and enhance the achievements of ASEAN as a dynamic, resilient and cohesive regional association and, through the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, to intensify cooperation in addressing problems associated with population growth, environmental degradation, trans-boundary pollution and disaster management in the region to enable individual Member States to fully realise their development potentials;

REAFFIRMING the spirit of the ASEAN Charter, which aims to accelerate the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015, as agreed in Cebu, Philippines, in 2007;

NOTING with satisfaction the accomplishments made in implementing the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015), which aims to, inter alia, build disaster resilient nations and safer communities and ensure environmental sustainability;

CONSCIOUS of the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision and its attendant documents that further empower peoples and institutions to become fully responsive, adaptive and prepared to address challenges of natural and human-induced disasters, impacts of climate change, and other economic and social shocks, to reduce poverty, vulnerabilities, and exposure to risks;

EMPHASISING our commitments to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, ASEAN Climate Change Initiative, ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change, ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability as well as agreements, action plans and work programmes of relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies;

MINDFUL of our commitments to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the outcome of the UN Climate Change Conference, which may result in a new international climate change treaty by 2015, the outcome of United Nations Summit on the post-2015 development agenda, notably a set of Sustainable Development Goals, and other related international instruments that ASEAN Member States are parties to, and of our pledge to play an active and responsible role on both the regional and international stage as we strive to attain the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision and its attendant documents and make tomorrow’s world a safer place;

RECOGNISING that exposure of ASEAN’s peoples and communities to various natural hazards is rapidly rising, vulnerability to extreme weather events and climate change is spiraling, and this “new normal” leads to growing frequency and severity of disasters, exacting a tremendous toll on economic, social, cultural, physical, and environmental capital of countries and communities, which in turn stifles our region’s sustainable development including our efforts towards poverty eradication;

REALISING the urgent need to enhance awareness among Member States and all ASEAN sectoral bodies and stakeholders to be able to simultaneously address the interlocking issues of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation

and sustainable development and to effectively reduce adverse impacts of natural and human-induced disasters and climate change on key development sectors;

EMPHASISING the imperative to promote development that is transformative, inclusive, adaptive and sustainable, where peoples and communities thrive in peace and prosperity as envisioned in the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision and its attendant documents and to build an ASEAN Community that is resilient to disasters and climate change, viewing resilience as a unifying but multifaceted process and outcome;

DO HEREBY:

1. Commit to forge a more resilient future by reducing existing disaster and climate-related risks, preventing the generation of new risks and adapting to a changing climate through the implementation of economic, social, cultural, physical, and environmental measures which address exposure and vulnerability, and thus strengthen resilience;
2. Underline the importance of producing coherence, consistency and alignment across the pillars and relevant sectors of ASEAN by systematically mainstreaming disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in relevant sectoral policies, strategies, plans, programmes, and projects as well as the need for cross-pillar and cross-sectoral collaboration on disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and sustainable development and related cross-cutting concerns;
3. Further institutionalise disaster risk management and climate change adaptation at the national and local levels by harmonising these with existing and new policy and legal frameworks, national development strategies and plans, and sectoral programmes and projects;
4. Encourage all stakeholders to participate in planning and implementation of the institutionalisation of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation at the local, national and regional levels and monitor the progress and outcomes in terms of reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change through multistakeholder means and mechanisms;
5. Accelerate investments in disaster risk prevention and reduction and climate change adaptation through cohesive and integrated structural and non-structural measures to enhance economic, social, physical and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets as well as the environment, focusing on key development sectors such as health, water management, ecosystems management, economic planning, agriculture, cultural heritage, education, infrastructure and construction, transport and telecommunication, and risk financing and risk transfer, in both public and private sectors and civil society, as these integrated interventions are more cost-effective than traditional reliance on post-disaster response and recovery, and thus also contribute to the sustainability of development;
6. Address underlying risk drivers and compounding factors, such as climate change and climate variability, uncontrolled urbanisation, ecosystem degradation, weak governance, limited risk management capacity especially at the local scale, poor management of urban and rural development, consequences of poverty and inequality, and conflict situations;
7. Foster the understanding of risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity and exposure as well as the hazard and climate change context to ensure that policies, plans and priorities for intervention are based on evidence and credible assessment of risk and climate change impact scenarios at the local, national and regional levels, taking into account the range of costs and benefits of effective risk management and adaptation for the most vulnerable groups;
8. Continue sharing and dissemination of risk and climate information to support ongoing and future efforts on research and development in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and widen the accessibility of users and stakeholders to such risk and climate information and knowledge to further support risk-informed policy development, decision-making and investment programming in both public and private sectors;
9. Strengthen the capacities of national and regional institutions to monitor and reduce risk as well as enhance their adaptive capacities through the promotion of education on climate

change and disaster risk management and exchange of innovative practices and learning experiences, among others;

10. Allocate resources to strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response and effectively support resilient recovery and rehabilitation, whether for extensive, small-scale and repeated shocks or disturbances or intensive, largescale catastrophic disasters, harnessing both ex-ante and ex-post financing measures, as well as to institutionalise pre-disaster recovery planning and adaptation programming at all scales to bounce forward and recover in a timely and efficient manner;
11. Agree to enhance cooperation and collaboration among ASEAN Member States to support the implementation of this Declaration and develop a cross-pillar and cross-sectoral collaborative ASEAN work programme for resilience building in the context of disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and sustainable development; and
12. Assign the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) as the focal point for cross-sectoral cooperation on resilience building at regional level, with the support of other relevant sectoral bodies.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the Twenty Seventh Day of April in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Langkawi on the Global Movement Declaration of Moderates

Langkawi, Malaysia, 27 April 2015

WE, the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 26th ASEAN Summit in Langkawi, Malaysia, on 27 April 2015;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the aims and purposes of ASEAN as set forth in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967 and contributing towards peace, progress and prosperity;

REAFFIRMING the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter;

RECALLING that during the 18th ASEAN Summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 8 May 2011, the Leaders welcomed the initiative to establish the Global Movement of Moderates as one of ASEAN's positive contributions in shaping global developments and to global peace and security, and subsequently adopted the ASEAN Concept Paper on the Global Movement of Moderates at the 20th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

NOTING that the Global Movement of Moderates is an initiative which promotes a culture of peace and complements other initiatives, including the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations;

APPRECIATING efforts at the community, national, regional and international levels in promoting cohesion of the multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural ASEAN Community whose diversity is a source of strength to promote moderation;

ACKNOWLEDGING that moderation, as a means to promote tolerance and mutual understanding, includes the importance of engaging in dialogues on political, economic and socio-cultural issues;

RECOGNISING that moderation guides action which emphasises tolerance, understanding, dialogue, mutual respect and inclusiveness and is a tool to bridge differences and resolve disputes;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that moderation is an all-encompassing approach not only in resolving differences and conflicts peacefully but also for ensuring sustainable and inclusive development and equitable growth as well as promoting social harmony and mutual understanding within the country and region;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that a commitment to democratic values, good governance, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, equitable and inclusive economic growth, tolerance and mutual respect, and adherence to social justice are

vital to countering terrorism, violent extremism and radicalism, which pose a challenge to ASEAN, and address their root causes;

RECOGNISING that moderation is a core value in the pursuit of long-lasting peace and a tool to diffuse tensions, negate radicalism and counter extremism in all its forms and manifestations;

MINDFUL that violent extremism should not be associated with any culture, civilisation or religion;

EMPHASISING that terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations should not be tolerated or condoned;

COMMENDING efforts and initiatives towards the sharing of best practices on counterradicalisation and tackling the root causes of extremism;

ENCOURAGED that the Global Movement of Moderates has received widespread support from the international community, academic institutions and civil society organisations.

DO HEREBY AGREE TO:

1. Strengthen ASEAN unity and solidarity and its central role in maintaining and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region;
2. Enhance ASEAN's common agenda for peace and prosperity, which promotes political and social stability, inclusive political processes, sustainable growth which provides opportunities for all and upholds dignity, and social justice with emphasis on mutual respect, balance and moderation;
3. Promote moderation as an ASEAN value that promotes peace, security and development;
4. Further promote the approach of moderation and uphold the rule of law in the conduct of relations among states, including in the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law;
5. Enhance cooperation within various ASEAN-led mechanisms aiming to drown out the voices of extremism;
6. Conduct activities which further promote moderation, including but not limited to the following:
 - (i) Organise outreach programmes, interfaith and cross-cultural dialogues in various formats at the national, regional and international levels, including through the convening of the Second International Conference on the Global Movement of Moderates, to be hosted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2015, and the Bali Democracy Forum in Indonesia;
 - (ii) Continue to build on initiatives to share best practices on counterradicalisation and tackle the roots of extremism such as the East Asia Summit Symposium on Religious Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration held in Singapore in April 2015;
 - (iii) Encourage more enhanced information-sharing on best practices on moderation among ASEAN Member States, including through the ASEAN Secretariat;
 - (iv) Provide the space, support and mechanisms to cultivate emerging leadership from various stakeholders, including women and youth that can help enhance ASEAN innovativeness and vitality to effectively address emerging global challenges including the rise of violent extremism;
 - (v) Encourage the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and the ASEAN Foundation to conduct seminars, workshops and training programmes in collaboration with the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation, among others, in promoting the voices of moderation;
 - (vi) Promote education as an effective means of instilling respect for life, for diversity and the values of moderation, tolerance, non-violence and mutual understanding towards preventing the spread of violent extremism and addressing its root causes;
 - (vii) Encourage academic discourse and exchanges to amplify voices of moderates;
 - (viii) Collaborate with dialogue partners, international organisations and other relevant stakeholders to conduct seminars and workshops for the sharing of best practices and successful case studies of engagement and integration policies that support the promotion of moderation; and

- (ix) Promote the observance of a Year of Moderation at the United Nations to underscore the importance of moderation.

ADOPTED in Langkawi, Malaysia, on the Twenty Seventh Day of April in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on a People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27 April 2015

WE, the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 26th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 27 April 2015;

UNDERLINING the ASEAN Charter as the basis of ASEAN's core principles and values to which we adhere;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN's establishment as a platform for common action to promote regional cooperation in Southeast Asia and the need to further strengthen the existing bonds of regional solidarity and cooperation;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration and Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision which reiterate our determination to create a people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN, and the Bali Concord III and its Plan of Action (2013-2017), which contribute to efforts thereto;

RECOGNISING the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals as well as the upcoming United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda, which place people and the planet at the centre of a new era of sustainable development;

MINDFUL of the progress achieved within the region and the need for managing change and transformation effectively at the regional and global levels as well as the need to confront challenges to promote peace, security and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

WE HEREBY AGREE TO:

Continue establishing a people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN Community where all people, stakeholders and sectors of society can contribute to and enjoy the benefits from a more integrated and connected Community encompassing enhanced cooperation in the political-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars for sustainable, equitable and inclusive development.

Political-Security

Continue to promote the principles of democracy, rule of law and good governance, social justice, as well as to promote and protect human rights and respect for fundamental freedoms;

Encourage the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights and other Sectoral Bodies related to human rights to continue to have meaningful and constructive engagement with relevant stakeholders, including accredited civil society organisations, in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration;

Further enhance judicial systems and legal infrastructure to maintain a peaceful and harmonious environment, as well as engagement between legislative and executive branches in the process of the establishment of a rules-based ASEAN Community;

Continue to preserve Southeast Asia as a peaceful and prosperous region, free of conflict, nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction;

Further promote and strengthen peace-oriented values and reconciliation in ASEAN through inclusive engagement with all relevant stakeholders as well as enhancing and supporting the work of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR); and Continue strengthening good governance and integrity in the public sector in ASEAN Member States.

Economic

Promote an integrated, stable, prosperous and highly cohesive regional economy which encompasses all sectors of society, as well as encourage the participation of women, the elderly and youth in building a competitive, innovative and dynamic ASEAN;

Promote the development of Small and Medium Enterprises as a driving force for the ASEAN Economic Community, including providing an enabling environment conducive to their business activities, access to the formal financial system and continue promoting public-private sector partnership;

Encourage more engagement and interaction between ASEAN and business leaders, including Small and Medium Enterprises, support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and its successor documents to narrow the development gaps among ASEAN Member States, as well as facilitate movement of business persons, skilled labour and talents;

Integrate the elements of health, climate change, environment, sustainable utilisation and management of natural resources, proactive disaster risk reduction and management strategies, and harmonious socio-cultural diversity in promoting connectivity, higher productivity, sustaining economic development and building resilience in the region;

Continue capacity building initiatives to enable all ASEAN economies to fully participate in the on-going integration efforts;

Realise the vision of a competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food, agriculture and forestry sector integrated with the global economy, based on a single-market and production base contributing to food and nutritional security and prosperity in the ASEAN Community; and Raise awareness, promote and develop social business in empowering communities to generate revenue and social returns to improve the well-being and livelihood of our people.

Socio-Cultural

Strengthen efforts to build a people-oriented, people-centred and socially responsible socio-

cultural community with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the ASEAN peoples by instilling a shared appreciation of cultural diversity as well as promoting the well-being and welfare of the peoples;

Promote and protect the rights of women, children, youth and elderly persons as well as those of migrant workers, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, people in vulnerable situations and marginalised groups, and promote their interests and welfare in ASEAN's future agenda including through the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision and its attendant documents;

Alleviate poverty and narrow the development gap by increasing access to basic needs and work towards achieving adequate standards of living in line with our global commitment on poverty eradication;

Ensure our people's access to clean water, clean air, basic healthcare and other social services so that they may lead healthy and productive lives and thereby contribute to the ASEAN Community;

Enhance people-to-people contacts and awareness of ASEAN identity among young people by increasing youth interaction and exchanges within ASEAN;

Promote sustainable cities in ASEAN with emphasis on robust economic activities, a safe and healthy living environment and eco-friendly and sustainable urban infrastructure;

Promote regional resilience by addressing socio-cultural and socio-economic issues that may result from climate change and other environmental impacts, including transboundary environmental pollution, as contained in the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, through the full and effective implementation of related ASEAN agreements;

Promote enhanced cooperation on disaster management and emergency response to strengthen disaster resilience at all levels and reduce vulnerabilities of affected populations;

Ensure ASEAN's rich biological diversity is conserved and sustainably managed toward

enhancing social, economic and environmental well-being;

Enhance cooperation in education by encouraging regional student exchanges, academic mobility and higher quality of education; and

Enhance cooperation among ASEAN Member States to create a high performing, dynamic and people-oriented, people-centred civil service to support a prosperous and resilient ASEAN Community.

External Cooperation

Enhance ASEAN cooperation with its dialogue partners and relevant external parties within the framework of ASEAN-led mechanisms in all three pillars of the ASEAN Community that would complement regional efforts to strengthen a people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN.

WE are committed to the above aspirations, which shall serve as guiding principles in promoting a people-oriented, people-centred, and rules-based ASEAN.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the Twenty Seventh Day of April in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Chairman's Statement of the 26th ASEAN Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi, Malaysia, 27 April 2015

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, gathered in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi, Malaysia for the 26th ASEAN Summit on 26-27 April 2015, had productive discussions under the theme 'Our People, Our Community, Our Vision' which reflects the overarching spirit of Malaysia's Chairmanship, namely to create a truly people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN comprising all areas of political and security cooperation, economic growth and socio-cultural development.
2. We expressed deep and heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Singapore on the demise of former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, a true Statesman who had made significant contributions to his country, to ASEAN and to regional community-building.
3. We fully supported the eight priorities for ASEAN outlined by Malaysia during her Chairmanship in 2015, namely to formally establish the ASEAN Community; to develop the ASEAN Community's post-2015 vision; to steer ASEAN closer to its peoples; to strengthen the development of SMEs in the region; to expand intra-ASEAN trade and investments; to strengthen ASEAN's institutions; to promote regional peace and security through moderation; and to enhance ASEAN's role as a global player.
4. We adopted the following documents as outcomes of the Summit:
 - Kuala Lumpur Declaration on a People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN;
 - Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates;
 - Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change.

ASEAN COMMUNITY BUILDING

5. We are pleased with the positive progress made since 2009 in implementing the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community comprising the ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprints, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) as well as the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, which have all contributed towards establishing an ASEAN Community by the end of 2015.
6. We agreed to further intensify our work to realise an ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible in order to take advantage of current and future opportunities, and effectively respond to regional and international challenges.

7. We expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the provisions of the ASEAN Charter in providing the legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN since its adoption in 2007. We urged ASEAN Member States to ratify all outstanding legal instruments under the ASEAN Charter in a timely manner.
8. We continued to encourage the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) and the ASEAN Community Councils, with the support of the relevant Senior Officials and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) to implement the recommendations of the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs within the stipulated timeframes.
9. We are pleased to welcome the progress made thus far in developing the ASEAN Community's Vision and the attendant documents for the three community pillars for the period of 2016-2025. We looked forward to the submission of the documents by the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) at the 27th ASEAN Summit.

ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY

10. We reaffirmed the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct governing inter-State relations in the region and a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. We agreed to deliberate on requests made by countries to accede to the TAC, in accordance with its revised guidelines for accession.
11. We reiterated our commitment to implementing the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) and its Plan of Action and called on the Nuclear Weapon States to consider signing the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty to further promote Southeast Asia as a region free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

12. We welcomed the significant contribution by AIPA to the ASEAN Community-building process and appreciated the interface with Representatives of AIPA. We are convinced

that AIPA Representatives are significant intermediaries in the realisation of a "People-Centred ASEAN" as it is well placed to reach out directly to the people of ASEAN and promote the importance of an ASEAN Community and its benefits. We looked forward to the convening of the 36th AIPA on 6-12 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.

Global Movement of Moderates

13. We welcomed the adoption of the 2015 Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates, which comprehensively outlines the philosophy of moderation, which is an established ASEAN value, in all its dimensions. We recognised that moderation is an all-encompassing approach not only in resolving differences and conflicts peacefully but also for ensuring sustainable and inclusive development and equitable growth as well as promoting social harmony and mutual understanding within countries and regions.

ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)

14. We recognised the important role of the ASEAN Defence Ministers towards the realisation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community and welcomed the commitment of the 9th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) which met in Langkawi, Malaysia, on 16 March 2015 in addressing common security challenges and its pledge to respond collectively to the threat of extremist organisation in the region.
15. We further noted the proposals made at the 9th ADMM to improve the region's response to non-traditional security challenges on the basis of flexible, voluntary and non-binding participation by ASEAN member states, including the adoption of the Concept Paper on ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and the Concept Paper on the Establishment of an ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine (ACMM).

Response to the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism

16. We welcomed the convening of the East Asia Summit Symposium on Religious Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration, held in Singapore on 16-17 April 2015 and

looked forward to the convening of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (SAMMRRVE) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as contributing to addressing the growing threat of radicalisation and violent extremism, and the real and present danger it poses to the ASEAN region.

Establishment of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters

17. We welcomed the decision of the ASEAN Ministers responsible for drug matters to institutionalise the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters which will provide political impetus to ASEAN cooperation on drug matters and strategic guidance to the Senior Officials on Drug Matters on a Drug-Free ASEAN.

ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights

18. We commended the work of AICHR in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of the peoples of ASEAN. We acknowledged on-going efforts by AICHR to streamline its programmes and activities throughout 2015. We looked forward to the finalisation of AICHR's second Five-Year Work Plan 2016-2020, to be adopted at the forthcoming ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in August 2015.

ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercises

19. We looked forward to the convening of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercises (ARF DiREx), to be held in Kedah and Perlis, Malaysia on 24-28 May 2015 which will contribute towards strengthening civilian-military coordination and support the effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) at the strategic and operational levels through a Table Top Exercise (TTX) and at the tactical level through the Field Training Exercise (FTX).

ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

20. We were satisfied that the ASEAN economy grew by 4.4 per cent in 2014 amid challenges in the global economy. Domestic demand in our economies has remained resilient, supported mainly by private consumption. There were robust inflows of investments to the region, which in 2014 stood at USD136.2 billion, reflecting a 15.7 per cent year-on-year growth. ASEAN's total trade was stable in 2014, amounting to USD2.53 trillion, a marginal increase of 0.8 per cent from the previous year.
21. The ASEAN economic growth is projected to improve in 2015 to 4.9 per cent, well above the latest global growth projections of 3.5 per cent. Investment is expected to further increase, as the ASEAN region remains an attractive investment destination with the establishment of the AEC and with continued focus on infrastructure development to improve connectivity.
22. We noted the continuing progress made in the implementation of the AEC Blueprint, and welcomed the full implementation to date of 458 measures of the AEC Scorecard targeted for ASEAN-wide implementation over the period 2008-2015. We commended the ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) identification of pending prioritised key deliverables with the highest trade impact and that can be implemented within the year. In the context of the fully implemented measures to date and the high-priority measures identified by the AEM for implementation within 2015, we noted that the current rate of implementation of the AEC Scorecard stands at 90.5 per cent out of 506 measures.
23. We are generally satisfied with the progress in the implementation of the AEC measures, which through the adoption of the frameworks of rules and various liberalisation and facilitation measures, is sending a strong signal that the region is moving forward as an economic community by 1 January 2016. Since the adoption of the AEC Blueprint in 2007, the implementation of AEC measures have delivered many benefits to ASEAN businesses and consumers, from significant

tariff liberalisation, efforts to improve trade facilitation measures through self-certification, harmonisation of technical regulations and standards, simplification of customs procedures, and the Mutual Recognition Arrangements on the movement of skilled professionals in the region. In fostering a business-enabling environment, ASEAN has also put in place legal structures on competition, consumer protection and intellectual property.

24. We welcomed the further elimination of tariffs by Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam on 1 January 2015. We welcomed progress in this area, with the elimination of duties on the remaining 7 per cent tariff lines by 2018, which will further contribute to the development of a more integrated regional market.
25. We further welcomed efforts taken towards developing a comprehensive action plan on trade facilitation and endorsed the reactivation of the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC), comprising the public and private sectors, with the latter's inclusion to promote a more proactive role in identifying specific issues as well as facilitate in ways to reduce or eliminate non-tariff barriers in the region.
26. We also welcomed the decision to improve on the ASEAN Consultation to Resolve Trade and Investment Issues (ACT), an internet-based mechanism intended as a network of government focal points between ASEAN Member States to address operational issues encountered in the implementation of economic agreements, and which will be re-launched by year's end.
27. We were encouraged by the signing of the Protocol on the Legal Framework to Implement the ASEAN Single Window (PLF-ASW), which would expedite the implementation of the ASW measures. We encouraged all Member States to participate in the implementation of ASW in December 2015. We were pleased with the entry into force of the ASEAN Agreement on Customs in November 2014, and welcomed the completion of the signing of Protocol 7 on Customs under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT). These developments

would support the free flow of goods across the region and enhance intra-ASEAN trade.

28. We noted with satisfaction that despite the challenges faced by Member States, good progress has been made in the liberalisation of services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS). We looked forward to the completion of the final AFAS package by end of 2015, as this would lead to substantial integration of the services sector, and to sustain and attract foreign direct investments into the region.
29. We welcomed the commencement of negotiations on the Ninth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under AFAS, which would further liberalise the air transport ancillary services in ASEAN and looked forward to its timely conclusion by end of 2015.
30. Investment regimes in ASEAN Member States continue to be enhanced through improvements and removal of restrictions under the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), as well as through various other initiatives such as the on-going Investment Policy Reviews of several AMS conducted by the OECD. We looked forward to its full implementation in order to increase intra-ASEAN investments and to enhance ASEAN's competitiveness in attracting investments into the region.

ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting

31. We welcomed the convening of the First Joint Meeting of the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 March 2015. We further welcomed the commitment to develop an implementation plan for a post-2015 ASEAN financial integration under the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN (RIA-fin).
32. We are pleased that the Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Financial Services Liberalisation under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services has been signed by all ASEAN Finance Ministers. The Protocol contains the enabling provision for the implementation of the ASEAN Banking

Integration Framework (ABIF) towards achieving greater financial and economic integration.

33. We noted the good progress made in the area of capital market integration through a number of initiatives such as the adoption of the Principles for Product Transparency and Disclosure on Cross-Border Trade Settlement.

Entrepreneurship

34. Recognising the contribution of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to the economic growth of the region, we looked forward to the announcement of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025), which will focus on access to finance, technology, enhancing management and marketing capability. Access to market information and strengthening microenterprises are important in enhancing SMEs' competitiveness and resilience.
35. We recognised the economic contribution of young entrepreneurs in the region and the need to establish a platform to foster networking and share best practices amongst them. In this regard, we commended Malaysia's efforts in organising the 1ASEAN Entrepreneurship Gathering, which was a prelude to the 1ASEAN Entrepreneurship Summit (1AES) to be held at the sidelines of the 27th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November 2015, aimed at facilitating people-to-people linkages and promoting economic development and growth within ASEAN.
36. We further welcomed the establishment of national chapters of the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Association (YEA), designed to promote the inclusion of youth in entrepreneurial activities in the region. We looked forward to the establishment of similar networks involving women entrepreneurs.

Tourism

37. We welcomed the launching of GOASEAN, an ASEAN-focused travel channel to promote ASEAN as a single tourism destination as well as to promote intra-ASEAN travel and appreciation of ASEAN culture and heritage.

Regional Growth Areas

38. We reiterated the importance of sub-regional growth areas, such as the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the Greater Mekong Sub-Region Economic Co-operation (GMS), the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Co-operation Strategy (ACMES), and the Cambodia-Lao PDR-Viet Nam (CLV) Development Triangle, the Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) cooperation, and other Mekong-subregional cooperation mechanisms, as important building blocks of the ASEAN Community 2015, and are committed to further strengthening strategic and institutional linkages as well as mobilising resources to improve coordination and bridge the development gap among these areas.

ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

39. We were pleased to adopt the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on a People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN, through which we outlined our desire to make ASEAN an even more effective vehicle in the realisation of our peoples' aspirations for good governance, transparency, higher standards of living, sustainable development focusing on climate change and 'the environment, the further empowerment of women as well as greater opportunities for all in ASEAN in a post-2015 era.
40. We took note of the views and proposals made by ASEAN Civil Society Representatives and also of the convening of the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN Peoples' Forum and commended their contribution to the ASEAN Community-building process. We encouraged their continued constructive engagement in the process towards achieving a people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community.
41. We welcomed the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Youth Representatives and took note of their desire for a peaceful and stable, economically resilient, socially and culturally responsible ASEAN Community. In a region where youth constitute 65 per cent of the

population, ASEAN's development strategy must include both men and women, and by extension its youth, if it is to succeed. We urged our youth to embrace innovation, critical thinking and problem solving skills in order to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

42. We welcomed the convening of the Forum for Spouses of ASEAN Heads of State/ Government, held on 27 April 2015 in conjunction with the 26th ASEAN Summit. The Forum "Empowerment through Social Business" focused on increasing awareness on social business and its development in the alleviation of poverty. We urge the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) and the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM) to consider the recommendations of the Forum and further develop the concept of social business in achieving a caring and sharing society within ASEAN.
43. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhance cooperation to address the needs and interests as well as provide equal access to opportunities and raise the quality of life and standard of living for women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. We noted with satisfaction the successful convening of the Regional Conference on Social Impact of Climate Change on Women and Children in Cambodia on 25-26 March 2015 as part of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan (2011-2015), and took note of the ASEAN Regional Workshop on Gender Issues in Climate Change and Its Adaptation, to be organised in Malaysia in June 2015.
44. We expressed our commitment to promote a healthy, active and productive environment for elderly persons in the ASEAN region, so that the elderly may continue to play a vital role in their families and in society. To this end, we welcomed on-going efforts to finalise the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN at the 11th SOMSWD, to be held in Malaysia in 2015.
45. We are resolved to move ASEAN forward, equipped with a higher level of knowledge and skills, to be inculcated through capacity building and knowledge management. ASEAN

institutions of higher education should further enhance their role in developing graduates with the necessary attributes and competencies, able to contribute to the development and well-being of the ASEAN Community in the post-2015 era.

46. We recognise the contribution of migrant workers to both the society and economy of ASEAN and reiterated the importance of creating a secure and prosperous ASEAN Community. We stressed the need to improve the quality of life of the people of ASEAN and to safeguard their human rights and fundamental freedoms including the rights of migrant workers. We tasked the ASEAN Labour Ministers to continue working on the finalization of an ASEAN Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.
47. We underlined the importance of enhancing cooperation in disaster management and emergency response to be better prepared to deal with natural disasters in our region. We welcomed the ASEAN Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and Its Communities and People to Disasters and Climate Change, which underscores the importance of building an ASEAN Community that is resilient to disaster and climate change, viewing resilience as a unifying, multi-faceted process and outcome. We were encouraged by the efforts made by relevant ASEAN bodies through the ASEAN Joint Task Force on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to improve synergies between the different platforms involved in the management of HADR to provide for more efficient outcomes and avoid duplication of work.
48. We noted that transboundary haze pollution remained a concern in the region. With the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) now having been ratified by all parties, we look forward to greater regional cooperation towards resolving the issue in a concerted manner. We noted the initiatives by the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution (MSC) countries to take the necessary actions in order to operationalise the ASEAN Sub-

Regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS). In the meantime, we encouraged MSC countries to share information on a Government-to-Government basis on hotspot areas that cause transboundary haze.

49. We noted with great concern that climate change is already having significant impact in the region, causing severe social and economic disruptions and damage throughout the region. We affirmed our commitment to address climate change at the national, regional and global levels. We called for a comprehensive 2015 agreement, based on science and the principles of equity, and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as the promotion of sustainable development for all in line with the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda.

INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION

50. We recognised that regional integration and narrowing the development gap are priorities in the ASEAN community-building process and in this regard welcomed the drawing up of the IAI Work Plan III (2016-2020) and a post-2015 IAI Agenda. We welcomed closer collaboration between ASEAN and Mekong sub-regional cooperation arrangement to further strengthen IAI cooperation towards achieving equitable economic development in the region. In this aspect, we encouraged AMS to participate in Phase II of the technical assistance from the World Bank, which would focus on the assessment at the national level of development gaps within and between AMS that could be further narrowed. Noting that IAI is cross-cutting in nature, we also called for closer collaboration among the various ASEAN sectoral bodies in ensuring full participation and realisation of regional commitments and initiatives.

ASEAN CONNECTIVITY

51. We welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) in promoting economic growth, narrowing development gaps and contributing to ASEAN integration and community-building. We stressed the importance of addressing the various

challenges in implementing MPAC initiatives, such as resource mobilisation as well as coordinating MPAC initiatives which are multi-sectoral in nature.

52. We emphasised the importance of ICT connectivity and tasked the Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT) Ministers to undertake initiatives to improve intra-ASEAN networks and security measures, while establishing platforms to deliver and distribute e-services and ASEAN-based content to our communities in order to ultimately drive e-entrepreneurship and innovation and encourage ASEAN citizens to participate in the Digital Economy, leading towards unlocking the digital potential in ASEAN, creating ASEAN Smart Communities and a safer ASEAN cyberspace.
53. We welcomed the on-going efforts by the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) to formulate a post-2015 Connectivity agenda, which should be bold, visionary and contain concrete and feasible measures which will contribute to a better-connected ASEAN region.

ASEAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

54. We expressed satisfaction with the development of ASEAN's relations with its external partners and look forward to further cooperation for the mutual benefit of ASEAN and its partners. We also expressed our appreciation for their continued support for ASEAN's Community-building efforts and for initiatives which contribute to the peace and stability of the region.
55. We reiterated ASEAN's central role in shaping the evolving regional architecture and reaffirmed our commitment to further enhance and strengthen our partnerships through various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One and Plus Three Mechanisms, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum.
56. We looked forward to the conclusion of the Upgrading of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) and the signing of the Protocol to incorporate the Trade in Services

and Investment Chapters under the ASEAN Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement. We also noted the good progress of the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA) negotiations.

Timor-Leste

57. We welcomed the progress made by the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group (ACCWG) in deliberating the ASEAN Membership Application by Timor-Leste and exploring the ASEAN activities that Timor-Leste could participate in. We are committed to provide assistance for Timor-Leste's capacity building process and looked forward to the outcome of the three independent studies on ASEAN Membership Application by Timor Leste and its implications on the APSC, AEC and ASCC building process, as mandated to the ACCWG Sub-Working Group.

Strengthening of the East Asia Summit

58. We acknowledged the need to continue efforts to create robust mechanisms to address issues related to deepening regional integration and maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the region. We recognised that these mechanisms must aim at promoting strategic trust through dialogue and transparent behaviour as well as adherence to rules and norms commonly agreed to. We further acknowledged the need to promote effectiveness, synergies and minimise duplication in ASEAN-led mechanisms. In this regard, we called for the strengthening of existing mechanisms, including the East Asia Summit.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

South China Sea

59. We share the serious concerns expressed by some Leaders on the land reclamation being undertaken in the South China Sea, which has eroded trust and confidence and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea.
60. In this regard, we instructed our Foreign Ministers to urgently address this matter constructively including under the various ASEAN frameworks such as ASEAN-China

relations, as well as the principle of peaceful co-existence.

61. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security and freedom of navigation in and over-flight over the South China Sea. We emphasised the need for all parties to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea in its entirety: to build, maintain and enhance mutual trust and confidence; exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities; to not to resort to threat or use of force; and for the parties concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with international law including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
62. While noting the progress made in the consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), we urged that consultations be intensified, to ensure the expeditious establishment of an effective COC.

Middle East

63. We reiterated ASEAN's support for the legitimate right of the Palestinian people for an independent state of Palestine and a two-state solution where Palestine and Israel live side-by-side in peace. We expressed concern at the seeming renunciation of the two-State solution as well as the expression of concern at Arab Israelis exercising their right of universal suffrage during the recent elections in Israel and called upon Israel and Palestine to constructively engage in peace negotiations. We reiterated our call for all parties to make every effort to remove obstacles related thereto, in particular the construction of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territories, in order to reach a final status agreement.
64. We expressed concern at the deteriorating situation in Yemen, resulting in deaths, destruction and large scale displacement of people, compelling us to evacuate hundreds of ASEAN Nationals from the country. We expressed support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 on the Situation in the Middle East (Yemen) and

called on all parties to exercise restraint, resolve their differences through peaceful dialogue and return to the country's roadmap for an inclusive democratic transition. We urged all parties to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance as well as the protection and evacuation of civilians.

International Economic Slowdown

65. We acknowledged the importance of deeper, faster and better integration to mitigate the effects of uncertainties in the global economy, through ASEAN becoming more competitive, promote further FDI inflows and ultimately benefit our peoples. We acknowledged that falling oil prices could affect export earnings and government revenue for net oil-exporting economies in ASEAN and the risk posed by currency volatility, including possible capital flow reversals.
66. We acknowledged the continued resilience of ASEAN economies amidst the challenges in the global economy. We note that, notwithstanding net oil exporting economies, the declining oil prices have an overall positive impact on the region's economic growth. We are however mindful of external factors that could adversely impact our economies. We are confident the continued adoption of appropriate policy mix, the realisation of AEC and together with the continued focus on infrastructure development to improve connectivity will help sustain economic growth, maintain regional financial stability and enhance ASEAN's competitiveness.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

67. We welcomed the progress made in negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and urged all parties to intensify efforts with the aim of concluding negotiations by end-2015. Given RCEP's potential to further integrate ASEAN into the global economy and uphold ASEAN centrality, we tasked our Economic Ministers to identify approaches which are pragmatic, credible, and acceptable to all parties, taking into consideration the different levels of development among ASEAN Member States, plus additional flexibility for the least developed ASEAN Member States.

G20

68. We expressed appreciation to Turkey for inviting ASEAN participation at the G20 Summit in Antalya, Turkey in November 2015 as well as related G20 meetings throughout the year. ASEAN's continued participation in the G20 is an acknowledgement of its role as a constructive and successful regional organisation. We will continue to provide constructive input and highlight ASEAN's views and perspectives concerning the international financial infrastructure.

UNSC

69. We welcomed Malaysia's non-permanent membership on the United Nations Security Council for the term 2015-2016 and expressed support for ASEAN's future candidatures to the United Nations Security Council. This is in line with our shared vision for ASEAN to coordinate action on various global issues of common interest and concern, leading to ASEAN becoming a global player.

Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection

Vision: Uplift the quality of life of ASEAN peoples by 2025.

Goal : Enhance the well-being, welfare, and livelihood of the peoples throughout their life cycle.

Objectives :

- a) Reduce poverty, inequalities, vulnerability, and other risks.
- b) Enhance capacity of the poor and vulnerable groups.
- c) Achieve inclusion and enhance equitable access of the poor, at risk, and vulnerable groups including but not limited to persons with disabilities, older people, youth, women, children, undernourished, victims of disasters, migrant workers, to opportunities and social protection.

- d) Move towards the equitable and sustainable development of the target groups.

Principles¹ :

Strive to adhere to the following principles that are applied in accordance with the domestic laws and policies of respective ASEAN Member States, nationally-defined social protection and its national priorities, and adapted to the different contexts of ASEAN Member States:

1. Everyone, especially those who are poor, at risk, persons with disabilities, older people, out-of-school youth, children, migrant workers, and other vulnerable groups, is entitled to have equitable access to social protection that is a basic human right and on a rights-based/needs-based, life-cycle approach and covering essential services as needed;
2. Extending coverage, availability, quality, equitability and sustainability of social protection should be gradually promoted to ensure optimal benefits to the beneficiaries;
3. Social protection covers, but is not limited to, social welfare and development, social safety-nets, social insurance, social assistance, social services, in ASEAN Member States;
4. Implementation of social protection should be based on respect for fundamental freedoms, promotion and protection of human rights, promotion of social justice, social solidarity, non-discrimination, accessibility, reasonable accommodation, gender equality, social inclusiveness, coherence, and accountability;
5. Implementation of social protection towards progressive realisation in ASEAN Member States is the main responsibility of the respective governments based on national legislations, policies, programmes, strategies, standards and guidelines;
6. Social protection is a cross-cutting issue, hence its implementation requires coordinated and holistic approaches with the involvement of governments, private sectors, development partners, civil society, service providers, and other stakeholders, where appropriate;

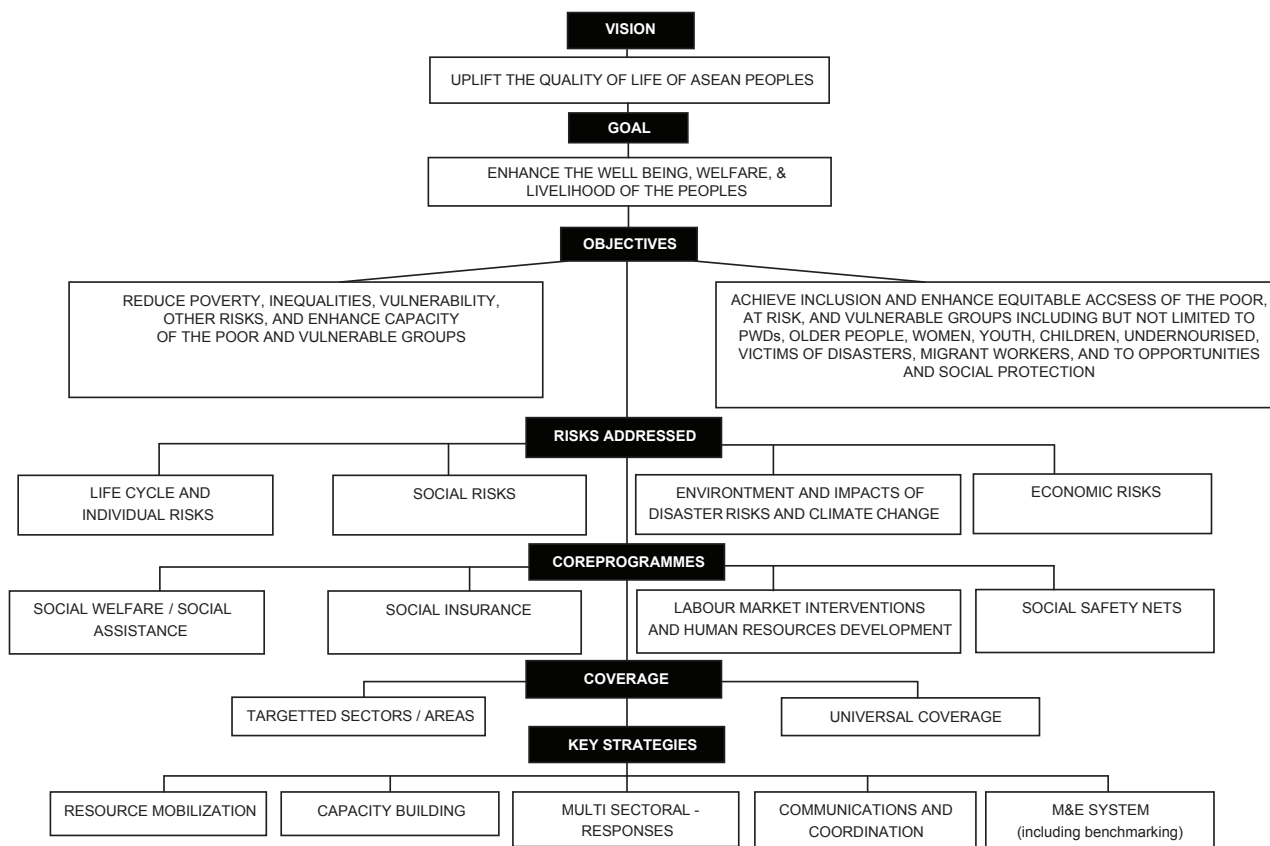
7. Family unit and the community are an important element in supporting and delivering social protection services and therefore should be strengthened and preserved;
8. Inclusive and participatory approach should be ensured in the planning, programming and budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of social protection at all levels in the region to realise the strengthening of institutional capacity, transparency and responsiveness to the needs of those concerned;
9. Social protection is an investment in people that should be supported by adequate resources in order to empower them to meet their basic needs;
10. Social protection shall be adaptive to the different risks such as lifestyle and individual risks, social risks, and emerging risks and vulnerabilities faced by the region such as, but not limited to, changes in the economy and labour markets and impacts of climate change, disasters and economic crises.

Definition of social protection:

Interventions that consist of policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty, inequalities, and vulnerability by assisting the poor, at risk, vulnerable groups such as but not limited to persons with disabilities, older people, youth, women, children, undernourished, victims of disasters, migrant workers, and as well as families and communities to enhance their capacities to better manage risks and enhance equal access to essential services and opportunities on a rights based/needs based approach. Definitions of migrant workers and applicability of social protection schemes shall be in accordance to the prevailing national laws, policies and regulations of ASEAN Member States.

¹ These principles are cited from the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection adopted by the Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in 2013.

Regional Framework of Social Protection



| ART | KEY RESULT AREAS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS | MAIN STRATEGY | ASEAN SECTORAL BODY | POTENTIAL PARTNER | CROSS PILLAR (Y/N) | COORDINATING MECHANISM | RESOURCES NEEDED | INDICATORS OF SUCCESS |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|---|--------------------|--|---|---|
| POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Support national policies, strategies and mechanisms to strengthen the implementation of social protection programme, as well as effective targeting systems to ensure social protection services would go to those most in need | | | | | | | |
| | a) Support national policies, strategies and mechanisms | | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-agency integration to implement social protection Support and link database among ASEAN Member States for equal standard on social protection such as social security | Capacity building | SOMSWD SLOM ACW ACWC ACDM SOMHD SOMRDPE SOM-AMAF Development Planning Agencies | UN Agencies Dialogue Partners Workers' organisations Employers' organisations World Bank ADB | Y | Intersectoral consultation through SOCCOM SOCA | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Number of interagency partnership/s to implement social protection programmes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social safety net in time of crisis/disaster | Capacity building | SOMSWD ACDM SOM-AMAF SLOM SOMHD | UN Agencies Dialogue Partners Workers' organisations Employers' organisations World Bank ADB | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Established social safety net for disaster/ crisis period (planned or on-going) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts to review and enhance policies, where necessary, on social insurance, social welfare/ assistance, social safety net and labour market intervention for vulnerable groups including but not limited to persons with disabilities, older people, victims of disaster and informal workers especially women including those in MSMEs, small farmers and fisher folks | Capacity building | SOMSWD SLOM SOMRDPE SOM-AMAF SOMHD | UN Agencies Help Age International | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Enhanced/ amended/ expanded policies on social insurance, social welfare/ assistance, social safety net and labour market interventions |

| ART | KEY RESULT AREAS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS | MAIN STRATEGY | ASEAN SECTORAL BODY | POTENTIAL PARTNER | CROSS PILLAR (Y/N) | COORDINATING MECHANISM | RESOURCES NEEDED | INDICATORS OF SUCCESS |
|-----|--|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review national Early-Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) policies, strategies, and programmes that focus on children of pre-primary school age in ASEAN Member states | Capacity building | SOMSWD SOMHD SOM-ED ACWC | UNICEF | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Documentation report |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the development of specific programmes that will link social protection with labour market inclusion i.e. vocational training for the vulnerable groups including occupational-based rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and skills development of older persons, job creation with the provision of loans or incentives, credits and public work programmes, and internships/apprenticeships for youth and poor women | Capacity building | SLOM SOMSWD SOM-ED ACWC | UN Agencies Workers' organisations Employers' organisations | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Number of Programmes linking social protection with labour market inclusion implemented |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote capacity building for the stakeholders on issues related to the extension of social protection at regional levels; | Capacity building | SOMSWD SLOM | UN Agencies Workers' organisations Employers' organisations Help Age International | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Number of Capacity building activities conducted |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage regular consultations and dialogue with social partners (civil societies, workers and employers group, all stakeholders) | Capacity building | SOMSWD SLOM | UN Agencies Workers' organisations Employers' organisations CSOs | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Number of consultations and dialogue with social partners conducted |

| ART | KEY RESULT AREAS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS | MAIN STRATEGY | ASEAN SECTORAL BODY | POTENTIAL PARTNER | CROSS PILLAR (Y/N) | COORDINATING MECHANISM | RESOURCES NEEDED | INDICATORS OF SUCCESS |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a comparative studies on welfare laws and Social welfare systems in ASEAN | Capacity building | SOMSWD SLOM | UN Agencies Workers' organisations Employers' organisations World Bank ADB | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Number of available/published case study/research |
| | b) Support effective targeting systems | Capacity building | SOMRDPE Development Planning Agency | UN Agencies Workers' organisations Employers' organisations World Bank ADB Help Age International | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | |
| 12 | Advocate strategies that promote coverage, availability, comprehensiveness, quality, equality, affordability and sustainability of various SP services including: | | | | | | | |
| | a) Social insurance for informal workers: Where appropriate and allowing for domestic policy consideration, provide for a mechanism so as to institute government subsidies/loans as an incentive for informal workers including but not limited to self-employed, micro entrepreneurs, small farmers, and fisher folks to contribute to the voluntary social insurance system; or explore the possibility of having a voluntary social insurance system if none was created | Communication and coordination | SLOM SOMRDPE SOM-AMAF | UN Agencies ADB | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Institutionalized government subsidy |
| | b) Social assistance programmes for persons with disabilities, elderly, children and other vulnerable groups to be able to access social services | Communication and coordination | SOMSWD ACWC | UN Agencies Help Age International | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | <p>Number of social assistance programmes implemented/enhanced/developed</p> <p>Number of vulnerable groups/beneficiaries provided with social assistance programmes</p> |

| ART | KEY RESULT AREAS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS | MAIN STRATEGY | ASEAN SECTORAL BODY | POTENTIAL PARTNER | CROSS PILLAR (Y/N) | COORDINATING MECHANISM | RESOURCES NEEDED | INDICATORS OF SUCCESS |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| | c) Explore measures to promote greater access to social protection programmes and services | Communication and coordination | SOMSWD SLOM ACW ACWC ACDM SOMHD SOMRDPE SOM-AMAF Development Planning Agencies | UN Agencies Dialogue Partners | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Number of GO-NGO providing social assistance Number of vulnerable groups/ beneficiaries provided with social assistance programmes Number of Policies in providing greater access to SP programmes/ services enacted Number of social marketing strategies initiated to popularize SP programmes and services |
| | d) Where appropriate, encourage the participation of workers' organizations and employers' organizations, and explore possible partnership with the civil society to raise awareness of and better reach the informal workers | Communication and coordination | SLOM SOM-AMAF | UN Agencies Workers' organisations Employers' organisations Civil society organisations | Y | Intersectoral consultation | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Number of workers and employers' organization participate in awareness raising Number of forged partnerships with the CSOs |
| 16 | Strengthen the capacity of government officials, communities, service providers, and other stakeholders for better responsiveness, coordination and effectiveness of social protection and delivery services at regional, national and local levels | | | | | | | |
| | a) Advocacy on social protection | | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster deeper understanding of the common framework on social protection that facilitates the establishment and/or strengthening of national social protection frameworks/ platforms/ mechanisms | Capacity building | SOMSWD | ACDM ACW ACWC SLOM SOM-AMAF SOMHD SOMRDPE Development Planning Agencies | Y (with AEC, APSC) | SOCA SOCCOM | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Adoption of the social protection framework and action plan by the ASEAN Leaders |

| ART | KEY RESULT AREAS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS | MAIN STRATEGY | ASEAN SECTORAL BODY | POTENTIAL PARTNER | CROSS PILLAR (Y/N) | COORDINATING MECHANISM | RESOURCES NEEDED | INDICATORS OF SUCCESS |
|-----------|---|--|--|---|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of the target beneficiaries on social protection measures and its accessibility | | | | | | | |
| | b) Integrate gender perspectives in communication and capacity building activities at the regional level | Capacity building | SOMSWD ACW ACWC | UN Agencies | Y (with AEC, APSC) | SOCA AMMSWD | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Presence/ use of gender mainstreaming tools in social protection capacity building |
| | c) Study the portability of social insurance for documented migrant workers and their immigrant families, specifically the feasibility of its transferability across ASEAN Member States | Capacity building | SLOM SOMSWD SOMHD | UN agencies Workers' Organisations Employers' Organisations | Y (with AEC, APSC) | SOCA | Expertise Technical assistance Financial assistance | Presence of the study and recommendations to include areas of portability |
| | d) Recommend minimum standards and training needs for certain professions, e.g. medical professionals, nurses, social workers, etc. | Capacity building | SLOM SOMSWD SOMHD | UN Agencies | Y | SOCA | Research Expertise and technical assistance Tools of analysis | Agreed minimum standard |
| 17 | Collectively accelerate the progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in all ASEAN Member States by strengthening capacity to assess and manage health systems to support UHC through sharing of experiences, information and experts | | | | | | | |
| | Enhance the National Policy/Legislation for Universal Health Coverage in ASEAN Member States: | | | | | | | |
| | a) Advocacy | | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation and Sharing information of UHC in AMS, which could include baseline study | Capacity building Capacity building | SOMHD through the ASEAN Plus Three UHC Network SLOM SOMSWD | UN Agencies World Bank Asian Development Bank | Y (with AEC, APSC) | SOC-COM SOCA ASEAN Plus 3 UHC Professional associations | Financial resources | Agreed country-based minimum standards of parameter to measure Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for relevant levels of the health system Legislation/ policy that includes UHC |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder assessment: Map and link ASEAN Platform/Bodies working for the UHC and Social Protection | | | | | | Technical assistance Gather relevant data Resource persons e.g. technical assistance from CAP UHC Media participation | |

| ART | KEY RESULT AREAS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS | MAIN STRATEGY | ASEAN SECTORAL BODY | POTENTIAL PARTNER | CROSS PILLAR (Y/N) | COORDINATING MECHANISM | RESOURCES NEEDED | INDICATORS OF SUCCESS |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| CAPACITY BUILDING | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Strengthen the capacity of government officials, communities, service providers, and other stakeholders for better responsiveness, coordination and effectiveness of social protection and delivery services at regional, national and local levels | | | | | | | |
| | a) Build capacity and capability of service providers | Capacity Building | SOMSWD | UN agencies World Bank Asian Development Bank Help Age International | Y (with AEC, APSC) | SOCA SOC-COM | Expertise and human resources | Presence of baseline information |
| | b) Facilitate learning from each other's experiences and best practices | | SOMHD through the ASEAN Plus Three Network | | | ASEAN Plus Three UHC Network | Technical assistance | Common standards of service providers |
| | c) Ensure availability of technical assistance and expertise that strongly consider and are sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups | | Other sectoral bodies | | | Professional associations/private sector | Financial assistance | |
| | d) Strengthen coordination and enlist the support of United Nations Agencies, regional and inter-regional cooperation mechanisms to improve the capacity of government agencies and other stakeholders on social protection throughout technical assistance programs, capacity building and pilot projects in accordance with the level of development and interests of the member states | | | | | | | |
| MONITORING & EVALUATION | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Promote results-based and evidence-based national assessments and benchmarking of social protection delivery services in ASEAN Member States that would contribute to the progressive implementation, effective monitoring and evaluation, as well as optimum impact of social protection; | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Explore and develop assessment tools and regional statistical indicators where appropriate to measure the impact of social protection to the holistic development of vulnerable groups for future planning towards available accurate baseline data collection; | | | | | | | |

| ART | KEY RESULT AREAS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS | MAIN STRATEGY | ASEAN SECTORAL BODY | POTENTIAL PARTNER | CROSS PILLAR (Y/N) | COORDINATING MECHANISM | RESOURCES NEEDED | INDICATORS OF SUCCESS |
|--|---|--|--|---|--------------------|---|--|--|
| | a) Explore the development of regional baseline information and assessment of social protection policies, programmes and strategies in AMS (disaggregated based on sectors, target groups, age, and sex) where appropriate, and allowing for domestic policy considerations | Monitoring and evaluation Capacity building | SOMSWD (lead body) SLOM ACW ACWC ACDM SOMHD SOMRDPE SOM-AMAF Development Planning Agencies ACSS | UN Agencies World Bank ADB Help Age International INGOs Workers' organisations Employers' organisations Academia | Y | SOMSWD as the coordinating body | Inputs from relevant national and regional surveys and studies | Baseline report on social protection |
| | b) Explore compiling relevant global and national indicators on social protection to facilitate the development of ASEAN statistical indicators on social protection where appropriate, and allowing for domestic policy considerations | Monitoring and evaluation Capacity building | SOMSWD (lead body) SLOM ACW ACDM SOMHD SOMRDPE SOM-AMAF Development Planning Agencies ACSS | UN Agencies World Bank ADB INGOs Workers' organisations Employers' organisations Academia | Y | SOMSWD or SOCA as the coordinating body | Adopted global indicators of SDGs | Compilation of indicators |
| | c) Explore the development of ASEAN statistical indicators on social protection in line with the MDG indicators and regularly update the database where appropriate, and allowing for domestic policy considerations | Monitoring and evaluation Capacity building | SOMSWD (lead body) SLOM ACW ACDM SOMHD SOMRDPE SOM-AMAF Development Planning Agencies ACSS | UN Agencies World Bank ADB INGOs Workers' organisations Employers' organisations Academia | Y | SOMSWD (data generation from sectoral bodies) | ASEAN Dialogue Partners' support | Adopted ASEAN statistical indicators Established ASEAN database of social protection |
| INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Allocate adequate financial resources for social protection in line with national targets and subject to the capacity of each Government | | | | | | | |
| | a) Share good practices and strategies among AMS to advocate for improving national financial resources for social protection | Resource mobilisation Capacity building | SOMSWD | Finance ministries Development Planning Agency Help Age International | Y AEC | SOMSWD | Advocacy tools | Inclusion of budgetary items for social protection in the national budget plans of relevant agencies |
| | b) Include in the benchmarking (Art. 13 above) data on the percentage and size of government budgets for social protection (disaggregated based on programme) | | | | | | | |

| ART | KEY RESULT AREAS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS | MAIN STRATEGY | ASEAN SECTORAL BODY | POTENTIAL PARTNER | CROSS PILLAR (Y/N) | COORDINATING MECHANISM | RESOURCES NEEDED | INDICATORS OF SUCCESS |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 16 | Strengthen the capacity of government officials, communities, service providers, and other stakeholders for better responsiveness, coordination and effectiveness of social protection and delivery services at regional, national and local levels; | | | | | | | |
| | a) Promote the active participation of other relevant sectors | Communication and coordination | SOMSWD | All relevant sectoral bodies | Y AEC APSC | SOCA SOCCOM | Financial resource | Agreement/ contribution on areas of collaboration subject to capacity of the sectors |

List of ASEAN Sectoral Bodies:

- SOMSWD : ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development
- SLOM : ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting
- SOMRDPE : ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
- SOMHD : ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health and Development
- ACW : ASEAN Committee on Women
- ACDM : ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
- SOM-AMAF : Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF)
- ACSS : ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee
- ACWC : ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
- SOM-ED : ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education

**Joint Statement of the 11th
Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-
Malaysia-Philippines East
ASEAN Growth Area Summit**

**Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia,
28 April 2015**

1. We, the Leaders of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines gathered in Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia on 28 April 2015 for the 11th BIMP-EAGA Summit. We reaffirm BIMP-EAGA's importance as a building block towards the realisation of ASEAN Community 2015 and reiterate our commitment to further promote equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth and development in the sub-region.
2. We are pleased with the steady progress under the four strategic pillars in the BIMP-EAGA Implementation Blueprint (IB) 2012-2016. We also noted the satisfactory economic performance of BIMP-EAGA over the last five years since 2009. The value of trade has increased by more than 70% to USD166 billion in 2013. Total investment almost tripled to USD14.8 billion in the same period. While we recognise there are still challenges that need to be addressed to achieve our targets, we are encouraged by the collective resolve of our relevant agencies to address cross-cutting issues. This reflects a more cohesive and multi-sectoral response to emerging issues and challenges.
3. We are satisfied with the implementation of the Priority Infrastructure Projects (PIPs) consisting of the improvement of roads and expansion of sea ports and airports. These projects underpin the sustained development of land, maritime and air connectivity, particularly within BIMP-EAGA's economic corridors. We commend our Ministers and Senior Officials for initiating the identification of second generation PIPs, thus ensuring the advancement of BIMP-EAGA's connectivity agenda beyond 2016.
4. We acknowledge the efforts to sustain transport facilitation initiatives in BIMP-EAGA.
5. We welcome the conduct of the joint ASEAN, BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Land Transport Facilitation Consultation Meeting held on 24 April 2015 in Surabaya, Indonesia, as this supports synergistic and better coordination with the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. We urge our Ministers and Senior Officials to explore the conduct of similar joint consultations in the other areas of cooperation.
6. We acknowledge the outcome of the Borneo-Mindanao Power Interconnection Study. We welcome the conduct of the pre-feasibility study of the Priority BIMP-EAGA Enclave Power Connections and Interconnections that will further identify viable, secure and reliable energy supply and power interconnection in the sub-region.
7. We welcome the publication of the BIMP-EAGA Statistical Leaflet on Trade, Investment and Tourism which is important to assess our progress and enable us to chart our future direction. We call on our Ministers and our respective National Statistics Offices to continue supporting the development of a BIMP-EAGA database that will provide useful information to stakeholders and development partners.
8. We note the success of the 2nd BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Trade Fair and Business Leaders' Conference on 23-26 October 2014 in Davao City, Philippines. We are pleased to note that majority of the participants were from the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which generated over USD200 million business deals. We urge greater engagement with MSMEs be pursued. We welcome Indonesia's hosting of the 3rd BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Trade Fair and Conference in October 2016 in Makassar, South Sulawesi.
9. We reaffirm the importance of the agriculture and fisheries sectors in narrowing the development gaps in the sub-region. We encourage agriculture and fisheries agencies to further institute programmes and projects to improve sub-regional value chains, and encourage trade on the basis of mutual benefits and interests in line with the BIMP-EAGA Food Basket Strategy.

9. We note that foreign tourist arrivals since 2009 have grown by almost 60% to 5.1 million in 2013. We recognise the need for sustainable intra-EAGA air services that is crucial to the further development of the tourism industry. We continue to encourage the transport and tourism sectors to strengthen their collaboration and collective resolve to address the issues.
10. We reaffirm our determination to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change in the BIMP-EAGA sub-region. We express our full support for the development and implementation of a capacity building program for local governments and communities on climate change mitigation and adaptation of best practices.
11. We welcome the formalisation of Socio-Cultural and Education as an additional strategic pillar of the BIMP-EAGA cooperation. This new pillar will contribute in realising a sub-region that is people-centred and socially responsible. We look forward to more multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder programmes that promote educational, social, sports and cultural exchanges within the member countries that also involve students and the youth.
12. We welcome the initiative to commence the preparation of a post-2016 agenda focused on further strengthening integration in the sub-region and accelerating further the implementation of priority projects under the strategic pillars of connectivity, food basket, tourism, environment, and socio-cultural and education with stronger engagement from all stakeholders.
13. We welcome the initiative to strengthen collaboration among the media officials in BIMP-EAGA. We encourage the media to regularly disseminate developments on the BIMP-EAGA cooperation initiatives as well as generate views and opinions of the stakeholders including from local governments, local communities and industry and business leaders.
14. We encourage the private sector under the leadership of the BIMP-EAGA Business Council (BEBC) to continue to be supportive of BIMP-EAGA initiatives and to be proactive in attracting private sector individuals, groups and industry associations to enhance their investment in the sub-region. On this note, we commend the private sector for the progress in the implementation of the BIMP-EAGA Submarine Terrestrial Cable project that can enhance the development of e-Commerce within the sub-region.
15. We look forward to the finalisation of the institutional arrangements of the establishment of the BIMP-EAGA Facilitation Centre and to the signing of the agreement at the BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting this year.
16. We thank our Regional Development Advisor, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), for its continued support to the IB 2012-2016 by developing infrastructure projects and providing technical assistance in energy, transport, economic corridors, climate change, database development and capacity building. We urge ADB to continue its support in the delivery of projects.
17. We encourage stronger collaboration among the sub-regional groupings as well as with ASEAN sectoral bodies in creating greater synergy and convergence in our areas of cooperation. We strongly urge the ASEAN Secretariat to assist in mobilising knowledge, technical and financial resources for BIMP-EAGA's priority projects from its dialogue partners.
18. We value our cooperation with the People's Republic of China and look forward to similar collaboration with other prospective development partners.
19. We express our gratitude to the Government of Malaysia for the warm hospitality and the excellent meeting arrangements.

Joint Statement of the 9th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Summit (9th IMT-GT Summit)

**Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia,
28 April 2015**

1. We, the leaders of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Kingdom of Thailand, meet today in Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia on the occasion of the 9th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth-Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit to review progress made towards regional cooperation and integration in IMT-GT. We recognise the challenges posed by a rapidly transforming world in the coming decade, and the need to strengthen our concerted effort in moving IMT-GT forward.
2. We note with satisfaction the progress achieved in the Implementation Blueprint 2012-2016, but also recognise that more efforts are needed to further promote inclusive growth and narrow development gaps in IMT-GT. We encourage our Ministers, in close collaboration with the local governments and the private sector, to adopt stronger measures to ensure the accelerated implementation and timely delivery of priority projects within the remaining term of the Implementation Blueprint.
3. In our efforts to promote sustainable economic development, we also recognise that we must be mindful of the adverse environmental impacts caused by burgeoning economic activities. We applaud the initiative of the Chief Ministers and Governors Forum (CMGF) on the Green Cities Action Plan (GCAP) currently being implemented in Melaka and Songkhla, and soon to be implemented in Medan and Batam. We emphasise the need for continued individual and collective actions to mitigate environmental impacts, including the increasing risks posed by climate change. We call on our Ministers to scale up successful GCAP models, and work towards developing a sustainable urban development framework for IMT-GT cities. The implementation of the action plans under this subregional framework could open new investment opportunities, with green, liveable IMT-GT cities providing strong sources of growth in the subregion.
4. We confirm our shared determination to develop special border economic zones (SBEZ) in IMT-GT. In this regard, we commend Ministers for the completion of the SBEZ scoping study at the Malaysia-Thailand border, and note with appreciation that suitable location(s) for piloting this important initiative are being finalised. We urge our Ministers to expedite a comprehensive study on the identified priority areas in SBEZ to promote private sector investments, cross-border trade and transport facilitation.
5. We recognise the importance of connectivity in the economic integration of IMT-GT. To promote the cross-border movement of freight and passengers in all modes of transport, we task our Ministers with adopting measures to promote subregional transport facilitation, taking into consideration relevant national rules and regulations. Efforts should be undertaken to support the implementation of ASEAN transport agreements within IMT-GT. We welcome the completion of the study on Belawan-Penang-Trang Roll on/Roll off (RoRo) services, and call on our Ministers to provide the necessary policy measures to enhance the commercial viability of maritime connectivity. We also welcome the preparatory works to introduce a RoRo ferry service for the Dumai-Melaka route, and look forward to its launching.
6. We acknowledge the need to accelerate cooperation in trade and investment to enable business enterprises to take full advantage of the opportunities arising from ASEAN economic integration. We note the ongoing initiative to simplify customs, immigration and quarantine rules, regulations and procedures, and urge our Ministers to enhance collaboration with the private sector in this area. We support the establishment of a statistics database in IMT-GT to more effectively monitor the progress of subregional integration and development.
7. We reiterate the important role of agriculture in the social and economic development of IMT-GT, and reaffirm our commitment to

- strengthen cooperation in the sector. We urge our Ministers, in consultation with the private sector and local governments, to identify a wider range of commodities that could benefit from technological development, as well as knowledge sharing and exchanges. We also urge the Ministers to initiate measures to further ease and promote trade in agriculture. We note the proposal of the Joint Business Council to establish an IMT-GT Rubber Corridor. We task the Centre for IMT-GT Subregional Cooperation (CIMT) with conducting a study on rubber value chain linkages with Sumatra under the rubber corridor approach.
8. We recognise the importance of provincial and state governments in promoting inclusive growth, and in ensuring that the local people and communities directly benefit from IMT-GT cooperation. We therefore encourage the CMGF to play a more active role in the formulation and implementation of IMT-GT projects. We also urge the CMGF to more actively engage the business community through the IMT-GT Joint Business Council in the project formulation process, and in addressing impediments to doing business in the subregion. We welcome Thailand's initiative to establish its own CMGF Secretariat hosted by the Prince of Songkla University.
 9. With the 2015 ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) ushering in a new economic landscape, we recognise the need to review IMT-GT strategic directions. For the IMT-GT cooperation programme to remain relevant, future strategies and actions should focus on promoting the competitiveness of the subregion, while responding more effectively to the aspirations of IMT-GT stakeholders. We task the CIMT with more extensively engaging local governments and business communities in the identification of future strategic directions and projects.
 10. We are pleased to note the continued institutional and organizational strengthening of the CIMT. We remain confident that CIMT will effectively and efficiently fulfil its mandate as the central secretariat and key facilitator and coordinator of IMT-GT cooperation programmes and projects.
 11. We appreciate the important role of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as our key development advisor and strategic partner, and its continued commitment to assist in the growth and prosperity of the IMT-GT. We welcome the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between CIMT and ADB in Banda Aceh, Indonesia on 14 September 2014 which provides a solid platform for enhancing the strategic partnership between ADB and IMT-GT. We urge ADB to continue its technical assistance to IMT-GT in the areas of corridor development, trade and transport facilitation, and capacity building, as well as in strengthening operational and institutional linkages with ASEAN.
 12. We reaffirm IMT-GT's important role in translating the broad goals of ASEAN economic integration and community-building into specific projects that directly address the development needs of the subregion. In this context, we commend the successful convening of the joint ASEAN, BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Land Transport Facilitation Consultation Meeting held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 24 April 2015, organized by ADB and the ASEAN Secretariat. We urge our Ministers to explore similar joint consultations in other areas of cooperation to ensure that IMT-GT remains a strategic building block towards the ASEAN Community. We strongly urge the ASEAN Secretariat to collaborate with CIMT to assist in mobilising knowledge, technical and financial resources for IMT-GT's priority projects from its dialogue partners.
 13. We express our gratitude to the Government of Malaysia for the excellent arrangements for the 9th IMT-GT Summit and the warm hospitality that has been extended, and to the Government of Indonesia as the chair of this Summit.

Putrajaya Joint Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Priorities Towards an ASEAN Citizen- Centric Civil Service

**Cyberjaya, Malaysia,
17 November 2015**

WE, the Heads of Civil Service of Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”) on the occasion of the ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Retreat in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, on 17 November 2015;

RECALLING the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision, adopted at the 23rd ASEAN Summit on 9-10 October 2013, on the importance of realising a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN as central elements of ASEAN Post-2015 Vision of the ASEAN Community;

FURTHER RECALLING the Nay Phi Taw Declaration adopted at the 25th ASEAN Summit on 12 November 2014 which describe the central elements of the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision including the promotion of adherence to shared values and norms including good governance and anti-corruption;

RECALLING the decision in the ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Meeting of the 17th ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) held in Yangon, Myanmar, on 26 September 2014 to heighten cooperation on civil service matters and good governance to support the ASEAN Community;

RECALLING the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on A People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN adopted at the 26th ASEAN Summit on 27-28 April 2015 which describes a high performing and dynamic civil service to support the establishment of a people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN Community where all people, stakeholders and sector of society can contribute to and enjoy the benefits from a more integrated and connected Community;

RECOGNISING the need for civil service reform and greater engagement of the peoples to meet their needs and expectations; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of good governance in promoting sustainable development in ASEAN;

hereby agree to endeavour:

- (i) to continue strengthening good governance, integrity and cooperation in the civil service through regular engagements and consultations for the mutual benefit of ASEAN Member States;
- (ii) to promote effective cooperation and mutual assistance in civil service capacity building that narrows the development gap among ASEAN Member States;
- (iii) to foster technical cooperation in the field of civil service among ASEAN Member States particularly in the areas of capacity building, service delivery, and public sector reform;
- (iv) to continue to make Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) a priority in the delivery of public policies across ASEAN by having rules that are coherent and convergent across the economic community, and strengthening evidence-based decision making, stakeholder engagement and coordination inside of government in order to achieve greater connectivity, better public service delivery, inclusiveness and sustainable growth;
- (v) to promote the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN through the highest standards of professionalism, efficiency, effectiveness, participatory approach, responsiveness, transparency and accountability in the civil service;
- (vi) to build and strengthen networking and partnerships within and among ASEAN Member States as well as with Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies, civil society, private sector, development partners and other stakeholders in supporting effective implementation of the commitments reflected in this Declaration; and
- (vii) to task the ACCSM, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat to implement this Declaration through the ACCSM Work Plan 2016-2020, as well as to monitor and report its progress on a regular basis.

We are committed to the above aspirations which should serve as the guiding principles for the

ACCSM in promoting a people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN that support the central elements contained in the ASEAN Vision 2025.

SIGNED in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, on this Seventeenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy, in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
H.E. YAHYA IDRIS
Permanent Secretary
Prime Minister's Office

For Kingdom of Cambodia:
H.E. PECH BUNTHIN
Minister of Civil Service / Chairman of Public Administrative Reform Committee

For Republic of Indonesia:
H.E. BIMA HARIA WIBISANA
Head of National Civil Service Agency

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
H.E. KHAMMOUNE VIPHONGXAY
Vice Minister of Home Affairs

For Malaysia:
H.E. TAN SRI DR ALI HAMSA
Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia

For the Republic of the Union Myanmar:
H.E. U KYAW THU
Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board

For the Republic of the Philippines:
H.E. ALICIA dela ROSA-BALA
Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission

For the Republic of Singapore:
H.E. YONG YING-I
Permanent Secretary (Public Service Division)
Prime Minister's Office

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
H.E. VISOOT PRASITSIRIWONGSE
Secretary General
The Office of the Civil Service Commission

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
H.E. TRAN THI HA
Vice Minister of Home Affairs

Chairman's Statement of the 27th ASEAN Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015**

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, gathered for the 27th ASEAN Summit, held under Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN with the theme "Our People, Our Community, Our Vision", in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 November 2015.
2. We had productive and extensive deliberations reflective of the spirit of Malaysia's Chairmanship, namely to create a truly people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community comprising all areas of political and security cooperation, economic growth and socio-cultural development.
3. We welcomed the progress of community building driven by the eight priorities for ASEAN outlined by Malaysia during her Chairmanship in 2015, namely to formally establish the ASEAN Community; to develop the ASEAN Community's post-2015 vision; to steer ASEAN closer to its peoples; to strengthen the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the region; to expand intra-ASEAN trade and investments; to strengthen ASEAN's institutions; to promote regional peace and security through moderation; and to enhance ASEAN's role as a global player.
4. We signed/adopted the following documents as the outcomes of the Summit:
 - 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community
 - Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together
 - ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
 - Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN
 - ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change 2015

- Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection
- Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Higher Education
- Regional Plan of Actions on Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Regional Plan of Actions on Elimination of Violence Against Children
- Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Agenda.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASEAN COMMUNITY

5. We welcomed the formal establishment of the ASEAN Community 2015 on 31 December 2015 comprising the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), which is a culmination of a five-decade long effort of community building since the signing of the Bangkok Declaration in 1967.
6. Following the commitment made by ASEAN Leaders on the establishment of the ASEAN Community in the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015), we were pleased with the successful implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015 comprising the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprints, as well as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. These documents have guided our efforts to realise the establishment of the ASEAN Community 2015.
7. Recognising that ASEAN Community building is an on-going process, we agreed to further consolidate ASEAN as a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community for the wellbeing of our peoples. We reiterated our resolve and commitment to promote our peoples' participation in the community building process so that they can benefit fully from ASEAN integration.

8. We reaffirmed our commitment and adherence to the ASEAN Charter, which confers legal personality on ASEAN and provides the institutional framework for ASEAN to function as a rules-based regional organisation to advance ASEAN's goal of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth and shared prosperity and social progress. We urged ASEAN Member States to ratify all outstanding legal instruments under the ASEAN Charter in a timely manner. We also reaffirmed our commitment to promote rule of law, good governance and anticorruption, as part of a rules-based Community.

9. Recognising the need for greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs, inter alia, to address cross-cutting issues and for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities, we underscored the importance of strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Organs and Bodies and tasked the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to continue implementing the recommendations made by the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs within the stipulated timeframes.

ASEAN 2025: FORGING AHEAD TOGETHER

10. We were pleased to adopt ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, comprising the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Political-Security Blueprint Community 2025, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025. We also looked forward to the adoption of the IAI Work Plan III and the ASEAN Connectivity 2025 in 2016, which will be an integral part of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together. In this context, we commended the work of the High Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision.
11. We were gratified that ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together charts a forward looking course for ASEAN in the coming decade building upon and deepening the integration process to bring about a truly rules-based, peopleoriented and people-centred ASEAN

Community. We pledged to realise the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 through the full implementation of the three Blueprints.

12. We were committed to elevate our political-security cooperation to realise a rules-based, inclusive and resilient community in which our peoples enjoy human rights, fundamental freedoms and social justice, embrace the values of tolerance and moderation and uphold ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms as well as live in a safe and secure environment with enhanced capacity to respond comprehensively and effectively to existing and emerging challenges. This will serve us well as we progress in a dynamic region where ASEAN enhances its unity and centrality in the evolving regional architecture and plays a constructive role globally.
13. We were committed to intensify our economic cooperation to create a deeply integrated and highly cohesive regional economy as well as a competitive, innovative and dynamic community that sustains high economic growth and robust productivity while enhancing connectivity and sectoral cooperation. We were determined to achieve a more resilient and inclusive community that engenders equitable development and inclusive growth as well as a global ASEAN that fosters a more systematic and coherent approach in our external economic relations.
14. We were committed to enhance our socio-cultural cooperation to realise a community that engages and benefits the peoples of ASEAN and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic in which our peoples participate in ASEAN processes, enjoy higher quality of life and equitable access to opportunities, live in a sustainable environment, with enhanced capacity to adapt and respond to threats and challenges, as well as innovate and proactively contribute to the global community.
15. In realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, we underlined the urgency to strengthen ASEAN institutional capacity and increase ASEAN institutional presence at the national, regional and international levels. We tasked all ASEAN Organs and ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to implement ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.

ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY

16. We noted with satisfaction the achievement in implementing the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint (2009-2015), which has deepened and expanded political and security cooperation as well as paved the way for the establishment of the ASEAN Community by end of this year.
17. We reaffirmed the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct governing inter-state relations in the region and a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. We resolved to further promote the purpose and principles contained in the TAC and agreed to further deliberate on the applications for accession to the TAC in accordance with its revised guidelines.
18. We reiterated our commitment to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) and the ASEAN Charter. We agreed to intensify ongoing efforts of the state parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty and the Nuclear Weapon States to resolve all outstanding issues, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol to that Treaty at the earliest to support its full and effective implementation including through the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty 2013-2017. We welcomed the adoption of the 70th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on the SEANWFZ Treaty. We also welcomed the designation of ASEAN Network of Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (ASEANTOM) as an ASEAN Sectoral Body under the APSC Pillar in Annex 1 of the ASEAN Charter.

ASEAN in the Evolving Regional Architecture

19. In light of the changing regional strategic landscape, we reiterated our commitment to maintain and enhance ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and in our engagement with external parties as stated in the "Maintaining and Enhancing ASEAN

Centrality: Revised Work Plan” adopted by our Foreign Ministers in New York in September 2015. We highlighted the need to further develop a rules-based regional architecture, by promoting the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, as well as in other instruments and declarations, such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ), the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (EAS Bali Principles), in order to preserve and enhance peace, stability, security and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Global Movement of Moderates

20. We reaffirmed the importance of moderation as an established ASEAN value which emphasises tolerance, mutual understanding, dialogue, respect for diversity and inclusiveness towards achieving peace, security and harmony in the region, in line with the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates adopted at the 26th ASEAN Summit, held in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi, Malaysia on 27 April 2015. We were also encouraged by activities initiated by relevant stakeholders and civil society actors including the Global Movements of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) in moving forward the philosophy of moderation in ASEAN as an all-encompassing approach not only in resolving differences and conflicts peacefully but also for ensuring sustainable and inclusive development and equitable growth as well as promoting social harmony and mutual understanding amongst countries and regions.

ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

21. We noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Five-year Work Plan 2010-2015 to support the full implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD. We commended the on-going efforts by AICHR to promote

awareness of the AHRD and the role of AICHR as the overarching human rights institution in ASEAN for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people in the region. Recognising the cross-cutting nature of human rights, we called on AICHR to effectively implement its new Five-year Work Plan (2016-2020) including through close collaboration with other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and stakeholders, as provided for in the Terms of Reference of AICHR in order to mainstream human rights principles in the 3 pillars of ASEAN.

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

22. We appreciated the contribution by ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) to the ASEAN community-building process and welcomed the outcome of the 36th AIPA from 6-12 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. We recognised the important role of AIPA to reach out to their respective constituencies with the view to enhance the awareness on the significance of the establishment of ASEAN Community and the benefits of integration. We also encouraged further contribution of AIPA to promoting a rules-based ASEAN Community.

ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)

23. We recognised the significant role of the ASEAN Defence Ministers in the realisation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community. We commended the progress of defence cooperation among ASEAN Member States as well as with external partners through the ADMM-Plus' six Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) covering humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, counter-terrorism, maritime security, military medicine, humanitarian mine action, and peacekeeping operations. We looked forward to maintaining the strong commitment for practical cooperation through the four field training exercises that would be conducted in 2016. We noted the establishment of the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine (ACMM). We welcomed the outcomes of the ADMM Retreat and the Third ADMM Plus held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 2-5 November 2015 during which the Defence Ministers had fruitful discussions and proposed new proposals to better enable the ADMM and ADMM-Plus to deal with complex security challenges.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)

24. We reaffirmed our commitment to combating transnational crimes and noted the outcomes of the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (10th AMMTC) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 28 September - 1 October 2015. We welcomed the decision to convene the AMMTC annually, beginning 2017 and the inclusion of illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber and people smuggling as the new areas of cooperation under the purview of AMMTC.
25. In addressing the growing threat of radicalisation and violent extremism to the ASEAN region, we noted the outcomes of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2 October 2015. We reiterated the need to strengthen cooperation to mitigate the spread of radicalisation and extremism in a holistic manner.
26. We signed the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) in combating trafficking in persons in the region. We also looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA) in a holistic manner and the deepening of cross-sectoral cooperation in addressing trafficking in persons.
27. Recognising the urgency of addressing the increasing challenges posed by the irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia, we underscored the outcomes of the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) Concerning Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia held in Kuala Lumpur on 2 July 2015 and the Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean held in Bangkok on 29 May 2015 to address this issue. We looked forward to the convening of the 2nd Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean in Bangkok on 3 December 2015. We noted the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast

Asia at the 10th AMMTC. We further encouraged the AMMTC to expedite the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the trust fund to support the humanitarian and relief efforts to deal with challenges resulting from irregular movement of persons in the region.

28. As deeper regional integration and enhanced connectivity can be misused to promote illegal cross-border activities, we agreed to enhance cooperation on border management including through strengthening information sharing and intelligence exchange in order to safeguard our region from transnational crimes and cross-border challenges.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD)

29. Recognising the threat of drugs to the ASEAN region, we welcomed the outcomes of the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) held in Langkawi, Malaysia on 28-29 October 2015, which adopted an ASEAN Position Statement reiterating our commitment to a zero tolerance approach to realise the regional vision of a Drug Free ASEAN. We agreed to the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced approach in addressing the drug problem involving both demand and supply reduction measures as well as strengthening the areas of enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, research and alternative development. The Position Statement also reaffirms the sovereign right and responsibility of each country to decide on the best approach to address its drug problem, taking into consideration the contexts and norms of its society. We agreed to the delivery of an ASEAN Statement at the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2016 and at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem in April 2016. We also look forward to Singapore hosting the 5th AMMD in 2016. We also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Narcotics Coordination Cooperation Centre (ASEANNARCO) in Bangkok to strengthen ASEAN cooperation, especially on information sharing and intelligence exchange among drug control and law enforcement agencies in the region.

ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM)

30. We noted the progress made by the ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) in developing and establishing programmes for mutual support and assistance among ASEAN Member States in the development of strategies for strengthening the rule of law, judicial systems and legal infrastructure. In this regard, we welcomed the outcomes of the 9th ALAWMM held in Bali, Indonesia on 22 October 2015 which, among others, reiterated ASEAN Member States commitment to work towards elevating the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) into an ASEAN instrument and noted with satisfaction that ASEAN Member States shall endeavour to make extradition mechanisms available between them, taking into consideration the principles set out in the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty where appropriate, the possibility for a legally binding ASEAN Extradition Treaty.

ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

31. We emphasised the importance of promoting conflict resolution and conflict management to enhance peace, security and stability in the region. We noted the progress in the work of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) and encouraged its Governing Council and Advisory Board to fully operationalise the Institute. We noted the convening of AIPR Workshop on Women's Participation in Peace Processes and Conflict Resolution in Cebu City, Philippines on 18 and 19 March 2015 and looked forward to the convening of AIPR Workshop on the Plight of Women and Children in Conflict Situation in Taygaytay, Philippines from 7-9 December 2015.

ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC)

32. We noted the successful outcomes of the Second Regional Seminar on the Establishment of ARMAC: Collaboration towards Operationalization, on 14-15 August 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. We took note of the completion of the nomination by all ASEAN Member States of their representatives to the Steering Committee of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC).

ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF)

33. We welcomed cooperation and constructive dialogues and consultations on maritime issues of common interest and concern including on maritime security, marine environment and conservation, search and rescue, maritime connectivity, maritime surveillance, port security, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, and sustainable management of maritime resources. We noted the outcomes of the 6th ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and the 4th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) in Manado, Indonesia on 9 and 10 September 2015.

ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

34. The economic performance of ASEAN remains relatively stable despite the volatile global economic environment such as, the impact of the drop in global oil prices, the depreciation of regional currencies against the US dollar and the slowing growth in China. We expressed our confidence that the forecasted real GDP growth rate of 4.4 per cent will be realised this year. With the anticipated improvements in the global economic environment the region's GDP is projected to grow by 4.9 per cent in 2016.
35. Despite the challenging economic environment, we remain firmly committed to further our regional integration efforts. The continued broadening and deepening of economic integration will be critical for ASEAN to attract the much needed foreign direct investments (FDI) as well as private investment to fund infrastructure development in the region.
36. We were pleased with the achievements of the regional economic integration efforts as demonstrated by the near completion of implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2015, and were also pleased to formally announce the establishment of the AEC. We also note that outstanding measures will be implemented as a priority under the AEC post-2015 agenda for completion in 2016. In this context, we welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Integration Report 2015 and AEC 2015: Progress and Key Achievements, which provides a comprehensive analysis of the progress and impact of the implementation

of the AEC Blueprint and a reader-friendly reference on the AEC, respectively.

37. The establishment of the AEC has contributed significantly to the reduction in poverty rate, improvements in the overall well-being of the peoples of ASEAN, narrowing of development gap, strengthened economic development and the expansion of extra and intra ASEAN trade and investment. ASEAN's global trade reached a new record level of US\$2.53 trillion in 2014 as compared with US\$1.61 trillion in 2007. FDI inflows into the region have been steadily growing over the years to reach US\$136.2 billion in 2014.
38. We were pleased to note that intra-ASEAN trade and investments are gaining strong growth momentum. Intra-ASEAN trade reached US\$608.3 billion in 2014 or 24.1 per cent of the total trade of the region, making ASEAN the region's largest market by partner. At US\$24.4 billion, intra-ASEAN investment accounted for 17.9 per cent of the total FDI inflows to the region, the second largest by source. We expect that ASEAN's trade and investment in 2015 will maintain its momentum as in the past years. The combined GDP of the region reached US\$2.57 trillion in 2014, and average GDP per capita US\$4,135, a near doubling of the 2007 figures.
39. We reaffirmed our strong commitment to continue the process of deepening economic integration over the next 10 years under the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025. This is an ambitious successor document outlining the strategic measures that will be implemented by the region over the next 10 years to achieve an AEC in 2025 with the following main characteristics: (i) A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy; (ii) A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN; (iii) Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation; (iv) A Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centred ASEAN; and (v) A Global ASEAN.
40. We welcomed the adoption and launch of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2025 (SAP SMED 2025). The SAP SMED 2025 will focus on promoting productivity, technology and innovation, increasing access to finance, enhancing market access and internationalisation, enhancing policy and regulatory environment as well as promoting entrepreneurship and human capital development. The Plan aims to strengthen microenterprises by enhancing their competitiveness and resilience. Effective implementation of the SAP SMED 2025 will require the support of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region. Collectively MSMEs can advance ASEAN integration and benefit from regional supply chain integration under ASEAN's free trade agreements.
41. We also reaffirmed our commitment to strategically adopt and implement innovation to drive growth and development in the region. ASEAN's efforts in creating an innovative, competitive, vibrant, sustainable and economically integrated region will be supported by the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science Technology and Innovation (APASTI 2016-2025). Given the critical role of technology adaptation and diffusion and innovation in ASEAN's productivity growth and long-term competitiveness, we acknowledged the need for a concerted effort to improve innovation and technological capabilities.
42. We also welcomed the completion of various other AEC-related sectoral plans to operationalise the strategic measures envisioned in the AEC Blueprint 2025, and looked forward to the completion of the remaining AEC-related post-2015 sectoral plans.
43. We agreed that ASEAN will continue to accord high priority to trade facilitation initiatives, especially on the efforts towards developing a comprehensive action plan on trade facilitation through the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC). The ATF-JCC will comprise the public and private sector, with the latter's inclusion to promote a more proactive role in identifying specific issues as well as to facilitate ways to reduce or eliminate non-tariff barriers in the region. In this context, we also welcomed the ratification of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement by Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

44. We also welcomed other on-going efforts in enhancing trade facilitation through various initiatives, which include the ASEAN Self-Certification Scheme to enable certified economic operators to self-certify the origin of the goods for preferential tariff concession under ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, the establishment of ASEAN Trade Repository System, and the establishment of the ASEAN Single Window. These initiatives encapsulated ASEAN's efforts in enhancing transparency and access to information on the regulatory environment of each ASEAN Member States, and greatly facilitate doing business in the region.
45. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade (ASSIST), which is a consultative, internet-based facility and a non-binding mechanism for an expedited and effective resolution of operational problems encountered by businesses and enterprises operating in the region or related to the implementation of ASEAN economic agreements. This will provide a much needed avenue for the private sector to raise their concerns on doing business in the region through a more systematic, timely and cost-effective manner.
46. Noting the need to continuously enhance the competitiveness of the region and to minimise barriers to trade, ASEAN remains firmly committed to the removal of non-tariff barriers. In this context, we welcomed the on-going efforts by the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality to accelerate the harmonisation of standards and technical requirements mutual recognition arrangements and harmonisation of regulatory regimes to facilitate greater free flow of goods in the region.
47. We recognised that the services sector contributes substantially to both output and employment in ASEAN economies, and that the services sector is expected to provide the growth momentum to the region. The liberalisation of the services sector remains a priority. We welcomed the progress made in the finalization of the Protocol to implement the 10th ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) Package, which incorporates the timeline and staging plan for 2015-2017.
48. We also acknowledged the completion of eight (8) Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) for Engineering Services, Nursing Services, Architectural Services, Accounting Services, Dental Practitioners, Medical Practitioners, Surveying and Tourism Professionals, which contributed to facilitating free flow of services through temporary movement of professionals and skilled workers. Recognising that MRAs are essential in the growth of services sector, we also looked forward to the creation of new MRAs or mutual recognition of qualifications for professionals and skilled workers, where applicable, to further enhance ongoing mechanisms, in the context of temporary movement of workers, toward achieving the ultimate goal of services sector liberalisation.
49. We welcomed the completion of the revision of the reservations lists of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar under the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement, which contributes towards further improvements in their respective investment regimes. We also welcomed the ongoing efforts by ASEAN Member States to further improve their investment regimes through economic reforms and other investment facilitation measures. In this context, we welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Investment Report 2015.
50. We noted that 8 ASEAN Member States have enacted competition laws in line with the objective of fostering a culture of fair competition, institutions and laws. We were pleased with this progress and the ASEAN activities to strengthen the legal environment for competition and core competencies in enforcement. We welcomed the ASEAN Competition Plan 2016-2025 towards more effective competition regimes, a more competition-aware region and greater regional cooperation and harmonisation.
51. We recognised that the ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan 2011-2015 is a key component designed to transform ASEAN into an innovative and competitive region through the use of intellectual property and noted the good progress made in its implementation. We were pleased with the adoption of the successor ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan 2016-2025, which

promotes modern business models and practices that enable provision of efficient and effective “world class” services and enhanced regional mechanisms to support the IP eco-systems as well as IP asset creation and commercialisation.

52. We recognised consumer protection as an integral part of a modern, efficient, effective and fair market place, and noted that 9 ASEAN Member States have put in place consumer protection laws. Moving forward, we were pleased to note that the Strategic ASEAN Action Plan for Consumer Protection 2016-2025 will further allow ASEAN to work towards a common consumer protection framework, promote confidence among ASEAN citizens in the AEC, integrate consumer concerns into other ASEAN policies and maximise the benefits of the AEC for consumers and businesses.
53. We noted the progress of the ASEAN Pathfinder Project, which aims to address the challenges faced by businesses through facilitated direct engagement between companies and governments. This project will enable ASEAN companies to not only expand into each other’s market but also allow companies to form strategic alliances and joint ventures. This could be the start of a series of Pathfinder clinics.
54. We recognised the need to establish a platform to foster networking and share best practices amongst young entrepreneurs in the region to promote youth’s participation in entrepreneurial activities. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Network (AYEN) which is designed to promote the inclusion of youth in the AEC through the ASEAN Business Advisory Council’s flagship programmes.

ASEAN Business Advisory Council

55. We welcomed the enhanced role of the ASEAN-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) in the regional integration efforts, including engaging and promoting the AEC to various stakeholders in the region and engaging with foreign business councils to promote the AEC. We welcomed the valuable

contribution and inputs provided to further deepen economic integration under the AEC Blueprint 2025. We congratulated the Council for successfully hosting the 2015 ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and the ASEAN Business Awards, which will spur domestic companies, especially MSMEs to be more innovative and competitive. We expressed hope that the Council will continue to assume a more proactive role in working closely with the governments in the region to enhance ASEAN’s economic competitiveness.

External Economic Relations

56. We welcomed the progress made in advancing our ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including the signing of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement and the implementation of the First Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA. We noted the substantial progress made in the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement. We commended the RCEP Economic Ministers for their timely guidance through two ministerial level Meetings held in Kuala Lumpur in July and August 2015 to finalise the modalities for the core areas of negotiations covering trade in goods, trade in services and investment. Following this breakthrough, substantive negotiations in the core areas, as well as text-based negotiations, have intensified. We tasked our Ministers and negotiators to further intensify their efforts and we looked forward to the early conclusion of the RCEP negotiations.

ASEAN Global Leaders Dialogue

57. We noted that the vast majority of the infrastructure investments in the region have been led by governments with limited involvement of institutional investors. We acknowledged that the projected infrastructure needs of the region cannot be solely funded by governments and other alternatives ways have to be explored. In this context, we were pleased with the dialogue with global investors aimed at garnering private investors to fund ASEAN infrastructure development projects.

ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM)

58. We welcomed the first joint meeting of the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (AFMGM) held in March 2015, and endorsed its establishment as a permanent mechanism to further enhance cooperation on regional macroeconomic policy and financial integration, where appropriate. We were pleased to note the AFMGM's significant progress in achieving the goals of the AEC in 2015, including the conclusion of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF) and operationalisation of the ASEAN Framework for Crossborder Offerings of Collective Investment Schemes (CIS). We welcomed the AFMGM's continued commitment to developing plans for post-2015 ASEAN financial integration, particularly on the further liberalisation of the insurance sector and the development of a five-year Action Plan to enhance regional capital market connectivity. We also welcomed the AFMGM's decision to include financial inclusion as a policy priority in ASEAN finance cooperation.

ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)

59. We noted with satisfaction the achievements made in ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry, particularly the adoption of a number of ASEAN standards, guidelines and good practices by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) to ensure safe and good quality agriculture produce and to facilitate ASEAN trade of these produce. We welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025, with the vision to realise "competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food, agriculture, and forestry (FAF) sectors integrated with the global economy, based on a single market and production base contributing to food and nutrition security, and prosperity in the ASEAN Community". We also welcomed the Statement of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry on Food Security and Nutrition which sets out the key strategies for action at both the national and regional levels to effectively address the present and emerging threats to food security and to meet adequate nutrition for all populations in ASEAN.

ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM)

60. We were pleased with the adoption of the first phase of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC 2016-2025) covering the period of 2016-2020, which shall be the blueprint for enhancing ASEAN energy security cooperation and for moving towards greater regional connectivity and integration. We recognised that the new APAEC builds on the achievements of past APAECs by sharpening and deepening cooperation on seven strategic areas, namely (i) the ASEAN Power Grid by initiating multilateral electricity trade in at least one ASEAN sub-region; (ii) the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline by enhancing connectivity via pipelines and regasification terminals; (iii) coal and clean coal technologies; (iv) energy efficiency and conservation by reducing energy intensity in ASEAN; (v) renewable energy by increasing its share in the ASEAN energy mix; (vi) regional policy and planning; and (vii) civilian nuclear energy by building capabilities on nuclear energy and safety. We noted the draft Operationalisation Manual for the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA)-Coordinated Emergency Response Measures (CERM) to address emergencies or possible disruptions in oil and gas supplies in the region, expected to be completed prior to the Special Senior Officials' Meeting on Energy (SOME) in January 2016.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin)

61. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP)-III (2016-2025), Phase 1 (2016-2020) which will further enhance ASEAN mineral sector dynamism with revitalised strategies towards boosting trade and investment in minerals, promoting environmentally and socially sustainable mineral development, strengthening institutional and human capabilities in the ASEAN Minerals Sector and maintaining an efficient and up-to-date ASEAN Minerals Database. We also noted the adoption of the Rules and Procedures for the ASEAN Minerals Trust Fund (AMTF) to support the implementation of the ASEAN mineral cooperation programme.

ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)

62. We were pleased with the signing of the Protocol to Implement the Ninth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services and the endorsement of the ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and the ASEAN Regional Road Safety Strategy. The ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan serves as a guiding regional policy document towards greater connectivity, efficiency, integration, safety and sustainability of ASEAN transport. We welcomed the entry into force of Protocol 2 of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement on the Fifth Freedom Traffic Rights on 8 September 2015, which will further liberalise the air services regime between ASEAN and China. We looked forward to the ratification of the ASEAN open skies agreements by the remaining ASEAN Member States by 2015 in support of the AEC, and to deepening aviation cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

ASEAN Telecommunications & Information Technology Ministers Meeting (TELMIN)

63. We were pleased with the successful completion of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 and its contribution to the creation of an empowering and transformational ICT for an inclusive, vibrant and integrated ASEAN. We looked forward to the adoption of the new ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 by the end of the year which will guide ASEAN ICT cooperation from 2016-2020 towards a digitally-enabled economy, which is innovative, transformative and secure; and to enable a sustainable, inclusive and integrated ASEAN Community. Regional Growth Area.
64. We noted the increased cooperation between ASEAN and the various subregional cooperation mechanisms at the secretariat level in the effort to align subregional initiatives with regional commitments. Recognising the important role that sub-regional growth areas play in realising the ASEAN Community and narrowing of development gap, we looked forward to a strategic approach in the strengthening of institutional linkages and improved coordination in the new Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan.

ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

65. We acknowledged the report of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council to the 27th ASEAN Summit and noted the successful implementation of the ASCC Blueprint (2009-2015) which aimed to enhance the wellbeing, livelihood and welfare of the peoples in the Southeast Asia region.
66. We welcomed the convening of the 14th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (14th ASCC Council), which was held on 7 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and noted with appreciation the adoption of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025. We strongly believed that the elements and strategic measures contained in the new ASCC Blueprint would pave way for a better living environment for the peoples of ASEAN.

ASEAN Peoples' Award

67. We acknowledged the achievements of the 10 National Recipients for the ASEAN Peoples' Award who have made excellent and inspiring contributions within the broader context of ASEAN's community building effort, including, among others, in the areas of political, social and cultural development, economic integration, women and children, youth and livelihood, education, volunteerism, community development and empowerment of peoples.

ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMMRDPE)

68. We reiterated our commitment towards community empowerment for sustainable livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN. We noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015), which has guided the efforts by ASEAN Member States to support sustainable development of rural areas and contributed to the eradication of rural poverty and food insecurity in the ASEAN region. We were pleased with the outcome of the 9th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication that was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 13-17 October 2015 and encouraged the ASEAN Member States to focus attention on the rural poor in terms of enhancing productivity and raising incomes,

providing social services and social protection, improving access to and quality of important rural infrastructure, providing incentives and expanding remunerative employment for farmers and fisher folks. We also noted with appreciation the adoption in principle of the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2016-2020).

69. We noted the Report of the ASEAN Regional Assessment on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Achievement and Post-2015 Development Priorities which highlights the progress across ASEAN Member States and targets in achieving the MDGs, and key challenges and opportunities to be seized in sustaining development in the region in post-2015 era.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)

70. We underlined the importance of effective cooperation on the environment and climate change at the national, regional and global levels. We noted with satisfaction the outcome of the 13th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Environment that was held in Ha Noi, Vietnam from 26-30 October 2015. We also adopted the Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Agenda that reiterates ASEAN's commitment to addressing existing and emerging environment and climate change challenges.
71. We adopted the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change and looked forward to a successful outcome of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris in December 2015 reflecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances and in support of sustainable development.
72. We discussed the recent haze affecting several ASEAN Member States. We reiterated our commitment to the objectives and principles of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP). We noted the outcome of the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the AATHP on 29 October 2015 in Hanoi, Vietnam. We agreed to share information, subject to respective national laws and policies, and in accordance with AATHP. We looked forward to the early establishment of and operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control in Indonesia. We also noted the initiatives by the Sub-regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution (MSC) countries and encouraged them to take the necessary actions in order to operationalise the ASEAN Sub-regional Haze Monitoring System.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD)

73. We adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN, which underscored our commitment to promote a healthy, active and productive environment for older persons in the ASEAN region. We noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development 2011-15 and finalisation of the Strategic Framework 2016-2020.
74. We also adopted three regional frameworks to materialise the leaders' commitment: the Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the 2013 ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, which envisioned the uplifting of the quality of life of ASEAN peoples by 2025, the Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Women and the Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Children, which are to implement the 2013 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children in ASEAN.
75. We tasked the Ministers to work towards the strengthening of social protection and enhancing cooperation to address the needs and interests as well as provide equal access to opportunities and raise the quality of life and standard of living for women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities in the ASEAN Community.

ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

76. We adopted the Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Women (RPA-EVAW) and the Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Children (RPA-EVAC) that reflect the zero tolerance of ASEAN on all forms of violence against women and children. We tasked the ACWC and other relevant ASEAN Bodies across the three pillars to take actions to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and children in their respective sectors. We noted the annual public campaign on anti-violence against women and girls by the ACWC to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November.

ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM)

77. Noting the importance of good governance in promoting sustainable development, we recognised the need for civil service reform and greater engagement with the peoples of ASEAN, we were pleased that the Putrajaya Joint Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Priorities - Towards an ASEAN Citizen-Centric Civil Service was signed during the inaugural ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Retreat on 17 November 2015. The Putrajaya Joint Declaration demonstrated the mission of the Civil Service of ASEAN Member States towards a citizen-centric civil service to support the ASEAN Community beyond 2015. We applauded the ACCSM for the completion of the ACCSM Work Plan 2008-2015 and ACCSM+3 Work Plan 2012-2015, and updating the themes of the six ASEAN Resource Centres (ARCs) to ensure responsiveness to the capacity building needs of ASEAN Member States.
78. We were also pleased to note that in conjunction with the Retreat, two (2) other events were also held concurrently, namely the ASEAN Civil Service Innovation Conference (ACSIC) on 18 and 19 November 2015 and the first ASEAN Civil Service Games (ACS-Games) from 16-19 November 2015. These events were successful in forging closer

ties and bonding among the Civil Service of ASEAN Member States, through sports and the sharing of best practices and innovations.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)

79. We were pleased with the outcome of the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW) that was held in Manila, the Philippines on 23 October 2015 and reaffirmed our commitment to take concrete steps in addressing gender inequalities in the political-security, economic and socio-cultural spheres by mainstreaming gender perspective. We noted the successful implementation of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan for 2011-2015 and adoption by AMMW of the ACW Work Plan for 2016-2020 to guide future efforts in sustaining the gains and overcoming the persistent and emerging challenges in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women.
80. We noted with appreciation the convening of the Forum on Voices of ASEAN Women: Exploring Business Opportunity for Rural Women for the Spouses of Heads of States/Government during the 27th ASEAN Summit to promote economic empowerment of rural women as the driving force of the Small and Medium Enterprises in ASEAN region. We encouraged the ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication and the ASEAN Economic Ministers to consider the recommendations submitted by the Forum to further promote economic empowerment of rural women in the region.
81. We also noted with appreciation the convening of the ASEAN Conference on Women In Politics: Promoting Representation Through Connectivity and Innovation held in Kuala Lumpur on 17 October 2015. We acknowledged the need to build a political network for ASEAN women who are involved in politics as well as the need for greater participation of women in decision making positions and in the electoral processes, through connectivity and innovation.
- ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY)**
82. We recognised the important role of youth in the realisation of a prosperous ASEAN

Community and were pleased with the outcome of the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) that was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 4 June 2015. We encouraged AMMY to ensure that the youth sector will contribute to the ASEAN Community beyond 2015 and undertake continued assessment on the outcome and effectiveness of youth-related initiatives through, among others, the establishment of the ASEAN Youth Development Index (AYDI).

83. We commended Malaysia's efforts to promote meaningful youth involvement towards ASEAN Community building through the successful convening of the ASEAN Young Leaders Summit that was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 18-20 November 2015 which has provided a platform for young leaders from ASEAN as well as ASEAN Dialogue Partner countries to meet and discuss pertinent issues, whilst advocating solutions in the true spirit of an ASEAN regional community.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)

84. We reaffirmed our commitment to build on the collective strength of ASEAN Member States to effectively and efficiently reduce disaster risks and respond to disaster, while promoting disaster resilience among all stakeholders. We reiterated support towards the enhancement of the role of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in coordinating and complementing the work of ASEAN Member States in disaster management. We commended the work of the ASEAN Joint Task Force on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to develop coherence in terms of planning and capacity building among the relevant ASEAN Bodies. We encouraged efforts towards Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through sustainable development and climate change adaptation. We welcomed the institutionalisation of the annual convening of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and looked forward to further discussions on building ASEAN's capacity to effectively respond to regional disasters at the 3rd AMMDM and Related Meetings which will be

held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 14-18 December 2015.

ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI)

85. We agreed that the strengthening of media cooperation and responsible use of social media will contribute towards the greater promotion of ASEAN awareness, increased understanding of the benefits of ASEAN's integration as well as solidarity among the peoples of ASEAN. We encouraged ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) to further strengthen cooperation in the field of information and media by leveraging on all forms of media.

ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA)

86. We recognised that the rich cultural diversity in ASEAN is an important enabler towards building a people-centred ASEAN Community. We tasked the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) to further strengthen culture and arts cooperation with the view to further promote ASEAN identity. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Cultural Centre in Bangkok, which is the first ASEAN Cultural Centre in Southeast Asia, in line with one of the strategic objectives of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint (2009-2015) to promote the conservation and preservation of ASEAN cultural heritage to ensure its continuity to enhance awareness and understanding of the peoples of ASEAN.

ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM)

87. We reiterated our resolve to realise the vision of a "A Healthy, Caring, and Sustainable ASEAN Community" and noted the achievements in the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development 2010-2015. We noted the importance of strengthening primary health care in order to achieve universal health coverage in the ASEAN Member States and expressed support towards the attainment of the goals within the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening cooperation on regional pandemic preparedness and building

resilient health systems in response to all hazards and emerging threats to health.

88. We recognised the establishment of the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC) in Malaysia as an important landmark in the application of an integrated risk assessment mechanism to provide independent scientific input by pooling and utilizing scientific expertise across ASEAN in developing evidencebased common food safety measures in ASEAN. This would contribute towards safe and quality food in the ASEAN Community as well as in facilitating food trade within ASEAN.

ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM)

89. We underscored the importance of competitive and productive labour force for the fulfilment of economic and social objectives of ASEAN. We lauded the achievement in implementing the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme 2010-2015 and the finalisation of the ALM' Work Programme 2016-2020. We encouraged the promotion of labour-related corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in the region. We stressed the need to improve the decent work condition through the promotion of, among others, labour inspection and occupational safety and health, promote employment and skills development, and ensure quality migration management in the region. We supported the efforts by the ASEAN Labour Ministers to continue working on the finalisation of the ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers.

ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED)

90. We adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Higher Education, which acknowledges the critical importance of higher education as one of the catalysts in accelerating ASEAN force for the socio-economic fulfilment. We expressed our commitment to the aspirations and guiding principles in promoting a peopleoriented and people-centred ASEAN through cooperation in higher education.
91. We noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of the ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Education (2011-2015) that has

strengthened collaborative efforts among ASEAN Member States. We tasked ASEAN Education Ministers to further enhance cooperation with the view to implementing the next ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Education (2016-2020) as the basis reference to strengthen, deepen, and widen educational cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other regional platforms for education. We were pleased with efforts made to strengthen the ASEAN University Network (AUN) through the revision of the AUN Charter in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of AUN.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS)

92. We noted the progress made under the ASEAN cooperation in sports in fostering social inclusion of ASEAN citizens and mutual understanding among them. We further encouraged the AMMS to have greater interaction and dialogue with other ASEAN Sectoral bodies, regional and international, educational organisations, Dialogue Partners, and other parties with interest in sports to ensure synergy, minimise any overlapping areas of cooperation, and maximise efficiency in the allocation of resources.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST)

93. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025. We recognised the urgency in applying science-based innovation towards achieving sustainable economic growth and in addressing difficult challenges such as food and energy security, clean environment, sustaining a disaster resilient and more inclusive ASEAN. In this regard, we expressed our strong commitment to support science, technology and innovation to meet these ends. In this connection, specific plans and programmes, in particular in enhancing talent mobility and fostering entrepreneurship for our young generation, should be implemented not only to meet the goals of APASTI but also to contribute significantly to achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION

94. We underscored the importance of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) in narrowing the development gap and towards achieving equitable economic development in the region. We welcomed efforts to expedite the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II for the remaining period and noted efforts to draw up an IAI Work Plan III (2016-2025). We looked forward to the development of a post-2015 IAI Agenda which would outline a strategic framework for moving ASEAN integration forward for the next 10 years.
95. Noting that the IAI is cross-cutting in nature, we encouraged the various ASEAN Sectoral bodies to fully participate in the realisation of regional commitments and initiatives. We welcomed closer collaboration between ASEAN, and sub-regional cooperation frameworks including Greater Mekong sub-regional cooperation as well as the support by ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and external partners in the implementation of ASEAN regional initiatives.

ASEAN CONNECTIVITY

96. To ensure a competitive and resilient ASEAN Community, we underscored the importance of strengthening connectivity among ASEAN Member States. The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) plays a key role in achieving the seamless movement of people, goods and services, bringing the peoples of ASEAN closer together in line with ASEAN's aspiration of creating a people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN. Mindful that ASEAN Connectivity initiatives are cross-cutting in nature, we underlined the importance of closer collaboration and strengthened coordination in ensuring effective and timely implementation of MPAC initiatives.
97. We welcomed the convening of the 6th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 16 October 2015 with the theme The Connectivity Agenda for an Integrated ASEAN Community, which provided a platform for discussions and exchange of views in identifying the best framework in preparing a post-2015 ASEAN Connectivity Agenda. We acknowledged on-going efforts in formulating

a post-2015 Agenda for ASEAN Connectivity and looked forward to its adoption in 2016 and subsequent implementation.

ASEAN Foundation

98. We noted that the ASEAN Foundation in 2015 worked with strategic partners to develop programmes that build the sense of an ASEAN identity. The programmes are the ASEAN Foundation's Model ASEAN Meeting, the ASEAN Puppetry Exchange (APEX), and the Reporting ASEAN: 2015 and Beyond, that involve different stakeholders - students, artists and journalists to help ASEAN people recognise and understand ASEAN through its cultures, stories, languages with the intention of encouraging collaboration and sharing. This was in line with Malaysia's Chairmanship theme of Our People, Our Community, Our Vision.

ASEAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

99. We noted with great satisfaction the progress of ASEAN's relations with Dialogue Partners thus far, with the adoption of new Plans of Action and implementation in strengthening cooperation and enhancing understanding between both sides.
100. We welcomed the elevation of our partnerships with New Zealand and the United States to the strategic level. We hoped to see our Strategic Partners contribute significantly to realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, reinforcing the ASEAN-centred regional architecture and supporting enhanced regional connectivity, for the peace and prosperity of the region.
101. We welcomed the decision of the 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (48th AMM) held on 4 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to confer Norway the Sectoral Dialogue Partner status. We expressed confidence that this will pave the way for closer cooperation between ASEAN and Norway in the years to come.
102. We looked forward to the completion of the three independent studies on ASEAN Membership Application by Timor-Leste and its implications on the APSC, AEC and ASCC community building. We reiterated our commitment to provide assistance for Timor-Leste's capacity building process, including through their

participation in ASEAN activities, subject to the elements agreed by the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group (ACCWG) on Timor-Leste's ASEAN Membership Application.

103. We recognised the external parties' growing interests to establish a formal partnership with ASEAN. Therefore, we resolved to consider such requests in accordance with the Guidelines for ASEAN's External Relations, including on the basis of mutual interest and benefit to support ASEAN Community building and taking into account the importance of a holistic perspective based on geostrategic considerations.
104. We reiterated ASEAN's central role in shaping the evolving regional architecture and reaffirmed our commitment to further enhance and strengthen our partnerships through various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One and Plus Three Mechanisms, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, EAMF and the ADMM Plus.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Terrorism and Extremism

105. We expressed sadness and extended our condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims of the senseless terrorist attacks in Paris recently and in other parts of the world. We believed that every single act of terror is an act of cowardice and should be strongly condemned. These acts of terror served as a stark reminder on the need for us to remain vigilant and resolute in our fight against terrorism. We therefore agreed to coordinate more closely in stamping out terrorism and violent extremism.

South China Sea

106. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security and upholding freedom of navigation in and over-flight over the South China Sea.
107. We shared the concerns expressed by some Leaders on the increased presence of military assets and the possibility of further militarisation of outposts in the South China Sea. We urged all parties to ensure the maintenance of peace, security and stability.

108. We urged all parties to maintain and enhance mutual trust and confidence, to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities, to avoid actions that would escalate tension, and to not resort to threat or use of force.

109. We underscored the commitment of all parties to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. We urged that consultations be intensified to ensure the expeditious establishment of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

110. We emphasised the importance for the states concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with international law including 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Middle East.

111. We expressed grave concern over the violence that is spreading rapidly across the entire West Bank due to the on-going clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces. We urged both sides to demonstrate restraint and take urgent action to stop any further escalation. We stressed that reconciliation and tolerance is the way forward to ensure a sustainable peace dialogue to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We reiterated ASEAN's support for the legitimate right of the Palestinian people for an independent and viable state of Palestine, based on a two-state solution where Palestine and Israel live side-by-side in peace.

112. We reaffirmed that there is no alternative to a negotiated two state solution. The regional context, including the ongoing radicalization and spread of terrorism, makes it even more urgent to end the conflict. The viability of the two state solution is constantly being eroded by new facts on the ground. We urged both parties to demonstrate their stated commitment to the two-state solution through concrete actions. We believed that compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law by states and non-state actors, including accountability, is a cornerstone for peace and security in the region.

70th Anniversary of the United Nations

113. In commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, we were encouraged by the achievements of the UN over the past seven decades and reaffirmed our commitment to work with other UN member states in realizing the aspirations contained in the Charter of the United Nations. We welcomed the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) as a new, universal set of goals, targets, and indicators, which we would like to achieve by 2030. We underlined the complementarity of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with ASEAN community building efforts to uplift the standards of living of our people. In this connection, we reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen the existing, multifaceted partnership between ASEAN and the UN for the benefits of the ASEAN people. We expressed our commitment to contribute positively to the work of the United Nations through ASEAN candidatures and welcomed the ASEAN Ministerial Statement on the Occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations of 29 September 2015.

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 27th ASEAN Summit in Malaysia;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to build an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic;

GUIDED BY the ASEAN Charter which sets out the purposes of ASEAN in particular to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice;

MINDFUL that the ASEAN population for those aged 60 years and over is projected to increase from 59.5 million in 2015 to 127 million in 2035, which will present immense opportunities and challenges resulting in profound implications in our society;

RECALLING the two World Assemblies on Ageing in 1982 and 2002, World Health Assemblies 58.16 on Strengthening Active and Healthy Ageing (2005), as well as the regional meetings reaffirming the adoption of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing (1982), the UN Principles for Older Persons (1991), the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific (1999), the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), the Shanghai Regional Implementation Strategy on Ageing (2002); ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention 1958 (No.111); and Termination of Employment Recommendation, 1982 (No.166);

RECALLING FURTHER the collective commitments of ASEAN in, among others, the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in A Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III, 2011); Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly (2010); Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community (2011); the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (2012); Proclamation of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020: Towards Inclusive Society (2011); Joint Declaration and ASEAN Roadmap on the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in ASEAN (2009); ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2013); as well as the work programmes of relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies;

ACKNOWLEDGING the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and other related

international instruments that ASEAN Member States are parties to;

RECOGNIZING that an increase in the proportion of older population will require adaptation of health care and social support systems to meet this emerging challenge;

COGNISANT that the promotion of healthy, active and productive ageing in an enabling and supportive environment is key to the well-being of older persons as valuable members of the family, community and society with roles and responsibilities towards the self, others and the nations;

WE DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

FOSTER the following concrete actions towards the empowerment of older persons subject to each ASEAN Member States national laws, policies, and programmes:

1. Promote a shared responsibility approach in preparation for healthy, active and productive ageing by supporting families, care givers/ care workers and strengthening communities in delivering care for older persons;
2. Promote intergenerational solidarity towards a society for all ages by raising public awareness on the rights, issues and challenges of old age and ageing;
3. Promote rights-based/needs-based and life-cycle approach and eliminate all forms of maltreatment on the basis of old age and gender through equitable access of older persons to public services, income generation, health care services, and essential information, as well as preventive measures, legal protection, and effective support system;
4. Mainstream population ageing issues into public policies and national development plans, and programmes, which may include flexible retirement age and employment policies;
5. Promote the development of human capital and expertise in gerontology, geriatrics and other related professional and para-professional manpower including care workers to meet the current and future demands for health and social services for older persons;
6. Promote the development of reliable information, evidence-based and gender-disaggregated data on ageing, including improved capacity to bridge the gaps in policy, research and practice;
7. Strengthen the capacity of government agencies, corporate bodies, civil society organizations, including voluntary welfare organisations, communities, and relevant stakeholders, for better coordination and effectiveness in the delivery of quality services for older persons at local, national and regional levels;
8. Encourage the development of older people's associations or other forms of networking including elderly clubs and volunteers networks in each ASEAN Member States by strengthening their capacity, and providing them with multi-sectoral platforms of dialogue with the government on ageing issues;
9. Promote age-friendly communities/cities in the region through sustainable and accessible infrastructure;
10. Build and strengthen the networking and partnerships within and among ASEAN Member States as well as with Dialogue Partners and Development Partners including UN Agencies, civil society organisations, private sector, and relevant stakeholders in supporting and providing adequate resources and effective implementation of the commitments reflected in this Declaration.

ASSIGN the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD), with the support of Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to coordinate and collaborate with relevant sectors for inter-sectoral cooperation on the empowerment of older persons and to develop a regional action plan on ageing to implement this Declaration.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty First Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.

Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Agenda

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015

WE, the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on the occasion of the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 21 November 2015;

WELCOMING the successful convening of the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (AMME) held in Ha Noi, Vietnam on 28 October 2015; the ASEAN Environment Year (AEY) 2015 celebration with the theme "Empowering the Youth for a Green ASEAN Community" and the 2nd ASEAN Eco-schools Award Presentation Ceremony on 29-30 July 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar; and presentation ceremony of the 3rd ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Award and 2nd Certificates of Recognition for Clean Air, Clean Water and Clean Land at the 15th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (IAMME) on 30 October 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR;

TAKING cognizance of the growing need to address global and transboundary environmental concerns and ASEAN's obligations to its people in ensuring environmental sustainability for our region and to achieve sustainable development;

AFFIRMING our commitment to strengthen international cooperation to move the sustainable development agenda forward through the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); also affirming a commitment to support global efforts to address climate change at the UNFCCC and biodiversity conservation at the CBD, in particular to achieve the strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

RECALLING our commitment made in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on a People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN (2015); the Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change (2015); the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on Realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015 (2014); the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision (2013); the Phnom Penh Agenda for ASEAN Community Building (2012); the Bali Declaration on an ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) (2011); the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability (2007); and the ASEAN Declaration on Heritage Parks (2003);

FURTHER RECALLING the regional commitments demonstrated in the Joint Communiqué of the 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (2015); the Bangkok Resolution on ASEAN Environmental Cooperation (2012); the Singapore Resolution on Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change (2009); the Cebu Resolution on Sustainable Development (2006); and the Yangon Resolution on Sustainable Development (2003);

WELCOMING FURTHER the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 21st Session of the COP to the UNFCCC (2015);

NOTING improving environmental quality, and the adverse impact of climate change on socio-economic development, health and the environment in our region;

NOTING ALSO that, rapid economic development, while contributing to sustainable development and poverty eradication in the region, poses challenges in dealing with unsustainable consumption and production patterns, regional food and energy security concerns; and that growing urbanization increases the need for sustainable environmental management;

RECOGNIZING the need to take an integrated and holistic framework for strategic decision-making in the face of global change to effectively address the challenges of environmental issues in this region including global warming, transboundary pollution, limited safe water supply, biodiversity loss, chemicals and waste, and coastal environmental degradation;

EMPHASIZING the importance of concerted efforts to strengthen regional and international cooperation on the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, the stemming of the loss of biodiversity, the management and control of water-related disasters as well as the enhancement of environmental education and public awareness on these issues;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significance of ASEAN's role in addressing environmental sustainability challenges such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, water resources management, sustainable cities, chemical safety, and transboundary pollution;

WELCOMING the omnibus decision adopted by the ASEAN Member States to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) and the Alert Levels, Trigger Points and Actions on Fire Suppression to complement and enhance the existing Standard Operating Procedure for Monitoring, Assessment and Joint Emergency Response under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution; and recognizing the need for further concrete measures in this regard;

WELCOMING ALSO the initiatives by the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution (MSC) for countries to take the necessary actions in order to solve the transboundary haze pollution issues in a concerted manner through the operationalization of the ASEAN Sub-Regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS). We encourage MSC countries to share information on a Government-to-Government basis on hotspot areas that cause transboundary haze.

COMMENDING the successful conclusion of the ASEAN Project on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in South East Asia (2009-2014) and the Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia Project (2010-2015) which contributed to the implementation of ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy; and the endorsement of successor ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (2014-2020) at the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution in 2013;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the ASEAN State of Environment Report and process as a framework to promote environmental sustainability and to

support decision-making for the relevant sectoral bodies, Governments and other stakeholders and, in that regard, lauding efforts to prepare the Fourth ASEAN State of Environment Report (2009) and welcoming the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme and other development partners in that process,

EXPRESSING appreciation for the efforts and support of ASEAN Member States and all partners to promote environmental management for sustainable development in ASEAN;

EMPHASIZING the important role that the ASEAN Member States can play in carrying out collective action to address these challenges for mutual benefit and the common good.

DO HEREBY DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO:

1. Implement decisions by the ASEAN Summit and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment to ensure the coherence, transparency, continuity and effectiveness of the representation of ASEAN Member States where a common position exists, in the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC, Convention on Biological Diversity, and the chemicals-related international conventions such as the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, subject to where applicable that have been ratified by Parties, as well as an internationally agreed-upon system such as the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) thereto;
2. Continue our efforts to establish a balance among economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability as well as to strengthen ASEAN's commitments for the realization of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
3. Continue to implement the action lines on environmental sustainability in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint in an effective and timely manner towards a clean and green ASEAN Community, while streamlining our efforts to ensure the achievement of the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision and ASCC Blueprint goals, key results areas, and

corresponding strategic measures through the adoption and implementation of sub-sectoral action plans;

4. Accelerate the development and implementation of the ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (2014-2020) to eliminate transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region by further intensifying regional and international cooperation on preventing land and forest fires and reducing the impact of transboundary air pollution through joint efforts in continuously monitoring weather and ground conditions, implementing preventive activities including those under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), and promoting efforts among ASEAN Member States to ensure that companies adopt zero burning techniques in land clearing;
5. Agree to explore means of further enhancing regional cooperation efforts for delivering demonstrable improvements in achieving a vision of haze-free ASEAN by 2020 through development of an ASEAN Haze-Free Roadmap which is a clear and time-bound roadmap for a haze-free environment as called for under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution and the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control;
6. Encourage ASEAN Member States to address climate change through the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures in line with their respective country policies and priority as well as expertise, technical ,technology and financial support; and to strengthen regional cooperation efforts in this regard, including through the implementation of the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change;
7. Encourage innovative financing options to promote investment in research and development of climate-friendly technologies for deployment in the ASEAN countries, in line with their respective national priorities; and mainstreaming of sustainable development at all levels and integrate sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns into our national policies which is fundamental in addressing all aspects of environmental sustainability;
8. Intensify efforts to effectively implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of support from the Global Environment Facility and other possible sources of funding for the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs);
9. Take steps forward to complete the ratification of the Establishment Agreement of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and contribute to the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund;
10. Promote programmes on protected areas in the ASEAN region and ASEAN Heritage Parks as exemplary networks for effective protected area management;
11. Strengthen cooperation on sustainable forest and peatland ecosystem management in ASEAN to reduce deforestation and land degradation;
12. Achieve, by 2020, the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks and agreements, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment in the ASEAN region;
13. Promote sustainable water resources management through Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) and transboundary water cooperation initiatives within ASEAN by enhancing efforts to implement the new ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on Water Resources Management to be developed in line with the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision;
14. Carry out individual and collective actions, in a broad range of sectors, to address water-related disasters in the Southeast Asia region by strengthening cooperation among ASEAN Member States and our partners in the prevention of flood and drought and the relief and rehabilitation of its impacts, including through the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER);

15. Enhance coordination and collaboration among ASEAN Member States and partner organizations to provide continuous support for creating opportunities to share and exchange information and knowledge on sustainable urban issues to further establish and scaling up environmentally sustainable cities (ESC) in ASEAN region; and to promote environmentally sustainable practices through presentation of the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Awards and Certificates of Recognition;
16. Improve capacity to promote conservation and sustainable management and utilization of marine and coastal ecosystems;
17. Incorporate environmental education (EE) and education for sustainable development (ESD) in the curricula, materials and resources; and the promotion of public awareness on the importance of sustainable development and environmentally sustainable practices;
18. Strengthen implementation of the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2014-2018 to enhance public awareness on environmental management for sustainable development and accelerate the development and advancement of environmental education as a key integrating component for achieving sustainable development in the region;
19. Mobilize financial support and cooperating to build capacity for ASEAN Member States in achieving environmental sustainability and climate resilience; and to develop a sustainable plan to streamline funding and maximize contributions towards effectively addressing the environment and climate change issues at both national and regional levels;
20. Encourage the exchange of scientific and technical expertise in partnership with regional and global experts, and enhance cooperation towards joint research and development of appropriate measures to minimize the impact of environmental degradation and climate change; and pool our experiences, expertise and technology in areas such as urban planning including green cities, climate change and water-related disaster resilience, water resources management, biodiversity conservation, chemicals and waste management, and transboundary pollution control;
21. Continue to work closely with Dialogue Partners, within the frameworks of ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three and East Asia Summit including through the mechanisms of ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers' Meeting and EAS Environment Ministers' Meeting to address both existing and emerging global environmental issues;
22. Support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and sub-regional cooperation such as the Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Cooperation (GMS), the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECES), the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and the Heart of Borneo Initiatives (HOB) between Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Indonesia, which are relevant to natural resources and environmental aspects, without prejudice to any ongoing territorial claims.

DONE in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty First Day of November in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Higher Education

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015**

WE, the Heads of States or Governments representing ASEAN, consisting of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 27th ASEAN Summit 2015 in Kuala Lumpur:

REAFFIRMING the Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation on Education to Achieve an ASEAN Caring and Sharing Community, adopted at Cha-Am Hua Hin, Thailand on 24th October 2009;

ACKNOWLEDGING the principles adopted at the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) in Bali, Indonesia on 7th October 2003 to establish the ASEAN Community by 2020;

RECALLING the four priority areas and 20 specific programmes for implementation under the ASEAN Five Year Work Plan on Education 2011-2015;

RECALLING the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment, adopted at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 22nd May 2013;

RECALLING the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision;

RECALLING the Eight Key Elements on Education Adopted at the 8th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED) in Lao PDR, September 2014;

WELCOMING the progress made in implementing the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) as well as other measures and commitment set out in various ASEAN declarations and plans of action;

COMMENDING the on-going efforts in developing the ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Education 2016-2020;

STRESSING the importance of cooperation among ASEAN Member States towards formation of the ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible; and

MINDFUL of the changes in societies, challenges in building shared peace, security and prosperity across communities in Southeast Asia, and the need for transformation at regional and global levels,

hereby agree to:

- i. acknowledge higher education as one of the catalysts in accelerating ASEAN's economic, political and sociocultural development agenda;
- ii. uphold quality in the provision of higher education across all member states;
- iii. enhance academic contribution of ASEAN higher education within the global academic community;

- iv. embrace diversity and solidarity of the ASEAN Community through enhanced intra-ASEAN mobility of students and scholars;
- v. contribute to the promotion of peace, prosperity, resilience, and vibrancy of ASEAN through synergised collaboration between the academia, industry, government and community;
- vi. foster sustainable local community development through participation of youth, professionals and volunteers in entrepreneurial endeavours;
- vii. build an innovation-driven ASEAN Community with critical thinking capability and skill through capacity building offered by higher education institutions within ASEAN, such as opportunities for lifelong learning, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), online and blended learning, postgraduate education, transnational education and other flexible learning options;
- viii. contribute to sustainable development through academic programmes, research, community development and stakeholder engagement;
- ix. increase visibility of ASEAN globally through increased thought leadership in various disciplines of higher education at regional and international levels;

WE are committed on the above aspirations and this document serves as the guiding principles in promoting a people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN together with the elements contained in the integral ASEAN Community's Post-2015 document.

WE task the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Education (ASED) to implement this Declaration, guided by the Framework for Implementation of ASEAN Declaration on Higher Education, and report to us regularly through the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council on the progress of the implementation.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the Twenty First Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015

Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”)- Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, hereinafter referred to individually as “the Party” and collectively as “the Parties”.

RECOGNISING that trafficking in persons constitutes a violation of human rights and an offence to the dignity of human beings;

RECALLING the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (“ASEAN Charter”), the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and where applicable, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and other international agreements and resolutions of the United Nations on the eradication of trafficking in persons, in the promotion and protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms, fair treatment, rule of law and due process;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the ASEAN Charter with a view to responding effectively, in accordance with the principle of comprehensive security, to all forms of transnational crimes and transboundary challenges;

REAFFIRMING also our commitment to the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children adopted in 2004; the Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons: Ending Impunity for Traffickers and Securing Justice for Victims in 2007 (“ASEAN Practitioner Guidelines”); the ASEAN Leaders’ Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in South

East Asia in 2011; and ASEAN’s efforts in promoting human rights, including the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration adopted in 2012;

REAFFIRMING further our commitment to a stronger and more effective regional and international cooperation against trafficking in persons where the offence is transnational in nature, including but not limited to crimes committed by organised criminal groups;

RECOGNISING that cooperation is imperative to the successful investigation, prosecution and elimination of safe havens for the perpetrators and accomplices of trafficking in persons and for the effective protection of, and assistance to, victims of trafficking;

RECOGNISING that trafficking in persons is caused by a combination of factors, including government corruption, poverty, economic instability, inefficient legal systems, organised crimes, and the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking, which must be effectively addressed;

REALISING that all ASEAN Member States, regardless of whether they are countries of origin, transit or destination, have a shared responsibility and a common goal to prevent trafficking in persons, prosecute and punish offenders of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons;

TAKING INTO consideration the proximity and connecting borders of ASEAN Member States and in the spirit of regionalism;

REALISING the need to establish a regional instrument that deals especially with trafficking in persons as a legal framework for regional action in preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including the protection of, and assistance to, victims of trafficking in persons;

RECOGNISING the importance of having in place a regional instrument against trafficking in persons that is legally binding and that would assist ASEAN Member States, as countries of origin, transit or destination, to deal with their diverse national challenges, priorities and strategies in the fight against trafficking in persons.

Have agreed as follows:

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1 Objectives

1. The objectives of this regional legal instrument are to effectively:
 - a. Prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially against women and children, and to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers;
 - b. Protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons, with full respect for their human rights; and
 - c. Promote cooperation among the Parties in order to meet these objectives.
2. The Parties agree that the measures set forth in this Convention must be construed and applied in a manner that is consistent with internationally and regionally recognised principle of non-discrimination, especially to those persons on the ground that they are victims of trafficking in persons.

Article 2 Use of Terms

For the purposes of this Convention:

- a. "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;
- b. The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in Paragraph (a) of this Article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in Paragraph (a) have been used;
- c. The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in Paragraph (a) of this Article;
- d. "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen (18) years of age;
- e. "Victim" shall mean any natural person who is subject to an act of trafficking in persons as defined in this Convention;
- f. "Organised criminal group" shall mean a structured group of three or more persons existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences established in accordance with this Convention, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit;
- g. "Serious crime", as stated in Paragraph (f) of this Article, shall mean conduct constituting an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years or a more serious penalty;
- h. "Transnational Crime" shall mean an offence that is transnational in nature. An offence is transnational in nature if:
 - (i) It is committed in more than one State;
 - (ii) It is committed in one State but a substantial part of its preparation, planning, direction or control takes place in another State;
 - (iii) It is committed in one State but involves an organised criminal group that engages in criminal activities in more than one State; or
 - (iv) It is committed in one State but has substantial effects in another State.
- i. "Public official" shall mean:
 - (i) Any person holding a legislative, executive, administrative or judicial office of a Party, whether appointed or elected, whether permanent or temporary, whether paid or unpaid, irrespective of that person's seniority;

- (ii) Any other person who performs a public function, including for a public agency or public enterprise, or provides a public service, as defined in the domestic laws of the Party and as applied in the pertinent area of law of that Party;
 - (iii) Any other person defined as a “public official” in the domestic laws of that Party.
- j. “Property” shall mean assets of every kind, whether corporeal or incorporeal, movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, and legal documents or instruments evidencing title to, or interest in, such assets;
- k. “Proceeds of crime” shall mean any property derived from or obtained, directly or indirectly, through the commission of an offence;
- l. “Freezing” or “seizure” shall mean temporarily prohibiting the transfer, conversion, disposition or movement of property or temporarily assuming custody or control of property on the basis of an order issued by a court or other competent authority;
- m. “Confiscation”, which includes forfeiture where applicable, shall mean the permanent deprivation of property by order of a court or other competent authority;
- n. “Predicate offence” shall mean any offence as a result of which proceeds have been generated that may become the subject of an offence as defined in Article 7 of this Convention.

Article 3

Scope of Application

This Convention shall apply to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of the offences established in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention, where the offences are transnational in nature, including those committed by organised criminal groups, as well as to the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons.

Article 4

Protection of Sovereignty

1. The Parties shall carry out their obligations under this Convention in a manner consistent

with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.

2. Nothing in this Convention entitles a Party to undertake in the territory of another Party the exercise of jurisdiction and performance of functions that are reserved exclusively for the authorities of that other Party by its domestic laws.

Chapter II

Criminalisation

Article 5

Criminalisation of Trafficking in Persons

1. Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences the conduct set forth in Article 2 of this Convention, when committed intentionally.
2. Each Party shall also adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences:
 - a. Subject to the basic concepts of its legal systems, attempting to commit an offence established in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article;
 - b. Participating as an accomplice in an offence established in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article;
 - c. Organising or directing other persons to commit an offence established in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article.
3. Each Party shall adopt such legislative or other measures as may be appropriate so that offenders are liable to higher penalties than usual if any of the following aggravating circumstances are present:
 - a. Where the offence involves serious injury or death of the victim or another person, including death as a result of suicide;
 - b. Where the offence involves a victim who is particularly vulnerable such as a child or a person who is unable to fully take care of or protect himself or herself because of a physical or mental disability or condition;

- c. Where the offence exposed the victim to a life threatening illness, including HIV/AIDS;
- d. Where the offence involves more than one victim;
- e. Where the crime was committed as part of the activity of an organised criminal group;
- f. Where the offender has been previously convicted for the same or similar offences;
- g. Where the offence was committed by a public official in the performance of his or her public duties.

Article 6
Criminalisation of Participation in
an Organised Criminal Group

1. Each Party shall, in relation to offences covered by this Convention as provided in Article 3, adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences, when trafficking in persons is committed intentionally:
 - a. Either or both of the following as criminal offences distinct from those involving the attempt or completion of the criminal activity:
 - (i) Agreeing with one or more other persons to commit a serious crime for a purpose relating directly or indirectly to the obtaining of a financial or other material benefit and, where required by domestic law, involving an act undertaken by one of the participants in furtherance of the agreement or involving an organised criminal group;
 - (ii) Conduct by a person who, with knowledge of either the aim and general criminal activity of an organised criminal group or its intention to commit the crimes in question, takes an active part in:
 - (a) Criminal activities of the organised criminal group;
 - (b) Other activities of the organised criminal group in the knowledge that his or her participation will

contribute to the achievement of the above-described criminal aim;

- b. Organising, directing, aiding, abetting, facilitating or counselling the commission of serious crime involving an organised criminal group.
2. The knowledge, intent, aim, purpose or agreement referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article may be inferred from objective factual circumstances.

Article 7
Criminalisation of the Laundering of
Proceeds of Crime

Each Party shall, in relation to offences covered by this Convention as provided in Article 3, adopt, in accordance with fundamental principles of its domestic law, such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences, when committed intentionally:

- a.
 - (i) The conversion or transfer of property, knowing that such property is the proceeds of crime, for the purpose of concealing or disguising the illicit origin of the property or of helping any person who is involved in the commission of the predicate offence to evade the legal consequences of his or her action;
 - (ii) The concealment or disguise of the true nature, source, location, disposition, movement or ownership of or rights with respect to property, knowing that such property is the proceeds of crime;
- b. Subject to the basic concepts of its legal system:
 - (iii) The acquisition, possession or use of property, knowing, at the time of receipt, that such property is the proceeds of crime;
 - (iv) Participation in, association with or conspiracy to commit, attempts to commit and aiding, abetting, facilitating and counselling the commission of any of the offences established in accordance with this Article.

Article 8 Criminalisation of Corruption

1. Each Party shall, in relation to offences covered by this Convention as provided in Article 3, adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences, when committed intentionally:
 - a. The promise, offering or giving to a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties;
 - b. The solicitation or acceptance by a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties.
2. Each Party shall also consider establishing as criminal offences other forms of corruption.
3. Each Party shall also adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish as a criminal offence participation as an accomplice in an offence established in accordance with this Article.

Article 9 Criminalisation of Obstruction of Justice

Each Party shall, in relation to offences covered by this Convention as provided in Article 3, adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences, when committed intentionally:

- a. The use of physical force, threats or intimidation or the promise, offering or giving of an undue advantage to induce false testimony or to interfere in the giving of testimony or the production of evidence in a proceeding in relation to the commission of offences covered by this Convention;
- b. The use of physical force, threats or intimidation to interfere with the exercise of official duties by a justice or law enforcement official in relation to the commission of offences covered by this Convention. Nothing in this Paragraph shall. Prejudice the right of Parties to have legislation that protects other categories of public officials.

Article 10 Jurisdiction

1. Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences established in accordance with Article 5, Article 6, Article 7, Article 8, and Article 9 of this Convention when:
 - a. The offence is committed in the territory of that Party; or
 - b. The offence is committed on board a vessel that is flying the flag of that Party or an aircraft that is registered under the laws of that Party at the time that the offence is committed.
2. Subject to Article 4 of this Convention, a Party may also establish its jurisdiction over any such offence when:
 - a. The offence is committed against a national of that Party;
 - b. The offence is committed by a national of that Party or a stateless person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory; or
 - c. The offence is:
 - (v) One of those established in accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 1, of this Convention and is committed outside its territory with a view to the commission of a serious crime within its territory;
 - (i) One of those established in accordance with Article 7, Paragraph (b) (ii), of this Convention and is committed outside its territory with a view to the commission of an offence established in accordance with Article 7, Paragraph (a) (i) or (ii) or (b) (i), of this Convention within its territory.
3. For the purposes of Article 19 of this Convention, each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences covered by this Convention when the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite such person solely on the ground that he or she is one of its nationals.

4. Each Party may also adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences covered by this Convention when the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite him or her.
5. If a Party exercising its jurisdiction under Paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article has been notified, or has otherwise learned, that one or more other Parties are conducting an investigation, prosecution or judicial proceeding in respect of the same conduct, the competent authorities of those Parties shall, as appropriate, consult one another with a view to coordinating their actions.
6. Without prejudice to norms of general international law, this Convention does not exclude the exercise of any criminal jurisdiction established by a Party in accordance with its domestic laws.

Chapter III Prevention

Article 11 Prevention of Trafficking in Persons

1. The Parties shall establish comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures:
 - a. To prevent and combat trafficking in persons; and
 - b. To protect victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, from revictimisation.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to undertake measures such as research, information and mass media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
3. Policies, programmes and other measures established in accordance with this Article shall, as appropriate, include cooperation with non-governmental organisations, other relevant organisations and other elements of civil society.
4. The Parties shall take or strengthen measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to alleviate the factors that make persons, especially women and

children, vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity.

5. The Parties shall adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking.

Article 12 Areas of Cooperation

The areas of cooperation under this Convention on prevention of trafficking in persons may, in conformity with the domestic laws of the respective Parties, include appropriate measures, among others:

- a. To discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking;
- b. To take or strengthen measures where appropriate, such as through bilateral, multilateral or regional cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, so as to alleviate the factors that make persons, especially women and children, vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of education and equal opportunity;
- c. To strengthen policies and programmes to prevent trafficking in persons through research, information, awareness-raising and education campaigns, social and economic initiatives and training programmes, in particular for persons vulnerable to trafficking;
- d. To further strengthen regional cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases;
- e. To enable free movement of people to take place legally, and to ensure that immigration requirements are adhered to, by disseminating accurate information on the requirements and conditions enabling the legal entry into, exit from, and stay in their respective territories;
- f. To exchange and share information on measures to reduce children's vulnerability to

trafficking in persons, so that they can grow up and live in a safe environment;

- g. To promote capacity-building, including technical cooperation, and the holding of coordination meetings;
- h. To ensure that any person who perpetrates or supports trafficking in persons is brought to justice.

Article 13

Cross-border Cooperation, Control and Validity of Documents

1. The Parties shall endeavour to undertake cross-border cooperation, in order to prevent and detect trafficking in persons, as appropriate, among border control agencies by, inter alia:
 - a. Establishing and maintaining direct channels of communication;
 - b. Enhancing intelligence exchange and sharing of information including through establishing, developing or utilising appropriate databases.
2. The Parties shall prevent the movement of traffickers and victims of trafficking in persons by effective border control and controls on the issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through effective measures to prevent counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents.

Chapter IV

Protection

Article 14

Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons

1. Each Party shall establish national guidelines or procedures for the proper identification of victims of trafficking in persons, and where appropriate, may collaborate with relevant non-governmental victim assistance organisations.
2. In a case where the trafficking takes place in more than one country, each Party shall respect and recognise the identification of victims of trafficking in person made by the competent authorities of the receiving Party.

3. Unless the victim otherwise informs, such identification shall be notified to the sending Party without unreasonable delay by the receiving Party.
4. Each Party shall consider adopting legislative or other appropriate measures that permit victims of trafficking in persons to remain in its territory, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases. Each Party shall give appropriate consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors to this end.
5. Each Party shall endeavour to provide for the physical safety of victims of trafficking in persons while they are within its territory.
6. In appropriate cases and to the extent possible under its domestic laws, each Party shall protect the privacy and identity of victims of trafficking in persons, including, inter alia, by making legal proceedings relating to such trafficking confidential.
7. Each Party shall, subject to its domestic laws, rules, regulations and policies, and in appropriate cases, consider not holding victims of trafficking in persons criminally or administratively liable, for unlawful acts committed by them, if such acts are directly related to the acts of trafficking.
8. Each Party shall not unreasonably hold persons who have been identified by its competent authorities as victims of trafficking in persons in detention or in prison, prior to, during, or after civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings for trafficking in persons.
9. Each Party shall communicate to identified victims of trafficking in persons within a reasonable period, information on the nature of protection, assistance and support to which they are entitled to under domestic laws, and under this Convention.
10. Each Party shall, where applicable, provide care and support to victims of trafficking in persons, including in appropriate cases, in cooperation with relevant non-governmental organisations, other organisations, and other elements of civil society, in the following:
 - a. Appropriate housing;

- b. Counselling and information, in particular as regards their legal rights, in a language that the victims of trafficking in persons can understand;
 - c. Medical, psychological and material assistance; and
 - d. Employment, educational and training opportunities.
11. Each Party shall make its best effort to assist in the reintegration of victims of trafficking in persons into the society of the sending Party.
 12. Each Party shall, take into account, in applying the provisions of this Article, the age, gender and special needs of victims of trafficking in persons, in particular the special needs of children.
 13. Each Party shall ensure that its domestic legal system contains measures that offer victims of trafficking in persons the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered.
 14. Each Party shall make provisions for appropriate funds to be allocated, including where applicable, establishing national trust funds, for the care and support of victims of trafficking in persons.

Article 15

Repatriation and Return of Victims

1. The Party of which a victim of trafficking in persons is a national or in which the person had the right of permanent residence at the time of entry into the territory of the receiving Party shall facilitate and accept, with due regard for the safety of that person, the return of that person without undue or unreasonable delay.
2. When a Party returns a victim in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article, such return shall be with due regard for the safety of that person and for the status of any legal proceedings related to the fact that the person is a victim of trafficking in persons.
3. In accordance with Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, at the request of a receiving Party, a requested Party shall, without undue or unreasonable delay, verify whether a person is

its national or permanent resident, whichever is applicable, at the time of entry into the territory of the receiving Party.

4. In order to facilitate the return of a victim of trafficking in persons who is without proper documentation, the Party of which that person is a national or in which he or she had the right of permanent residence at the time of entry into the territory of the receiving Party shall agree to issue, at the request of the receiving Party, such travel documents or other authorisation as may be necessary to enable the person to travel to and re-enter its territory.
5. Each Party shall adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to establish repatriation programmes where appropriate, and if necessary, involving relevant national or international institutions and nongovernmental organisations.
6. This Article shall be without prejudice to any rights afforded to victims of trafficking in persons by any domestic laws of the receiving Party.
7. This Article shall be without prejudice to the provisions of any applicable bilateral or multilateral agreement or immigration arrangements that provide for more favourable rights and privileges to victims of trafficking in persons.

Chapter V

Law Enforcement

Article 16

Law Enforcement and Prosecution

1. Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to ensure that competent authorities dealing with trafficking in persons cases are equipped with appropriate skills or knowledge in the fight against trafficking in persons and the protection of victims of trafficking in persons, and where appropriate, designate specialised units or authorities for this purpose.
2. Each Party shall take effective and active steps to detect, deter and punish corruption, money laundering, participation in an organised criminal group and obstruction of justice that contributes to trafficking in persons.

3. Each Party shall ensure that its legal system is efficient to deal with trafficking in persons cases.
4. Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to ensure coordination of the policies and actions of its government's departments and other public agencies against trafficking in persons, and where appropriate, set up coordinating bodies to combat organised crimes such as trafficking in persons, corruption, money laundering and obstruction of justice.
5. Each Party shall, consistent with the domestic laws of the sending and the receiving Parties, through informal cooperation or mutual legal assistance where appropriate, encourage the victims of trafficking in persons to voluntarily enter and stay temporarily in the territory of the receiving Party for purposes of testifying or otherwise cooperating in the prosecution of their traffickers, with due regard for the safety of the victims of trafficking in persons.
6. Each Party shall provide or strengthen training programmes for relevant officials in the prevention of and fight against trafficking in persons, with focus on methods used in preventing trafficking, investigating and prosecuting the traffickers, and protecting the rights of the victims, including protecting the victims and their families from the traffickers, and the privacy of the victims.
7. Each Party shall take all necessary steps to preserve the integrity of the criminal justice process including through protecting victims and witnesses from intimidation and harassment, where necessary, and punishing perpetrators of such acts, in appropriate cases.
8. Each Party shall, where appropriate, establish under its domestic laws a long statute of limitations period in which to commence proceedings for any offence covered by this Convention and a longer period where the alleged offender has evaded the administration of justice.
9. Nothing contained in this Convention shall affect the principle that the description of the offences established in accordance with this Convention and of the applicable legal defences or other legal principles controlling the lawfulness of conduct is reserved to the domestic laws of a

Party and that such offences shall be prosecuted and punished in accordance with that law.

Article 17 **Confiscation and Seizure**

1. Each Party shall adopt, to the greatest extent possible within its domestic legal system, such measures as may be necessary to enable confiscation of:
 - a. Proceeds of crime derived from offences covered by this Convention or property the value of which corresponds to that of such proceeds;
 - b. Property, equipment or other instrumentalities used in or destined for use in offences covered by this Convention.
2. Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to enable the identification, tracing, freezing or seizure of any item referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article for the purpose of eventual confiscation.
3. If proceeds of crime have been transformed or converted, in part or in full, into other property, such property shall be liable to the measures referred to in this Article instead of the proceeds.
4. If proceeds of crime have been intermingled with property acquired from legitimate sources, such property shall, without prejudice to any powers relating to freezing or seizure, be liable to confiscation up to the assessed value of the intermingled proceeds.
5. Income or other benefits derived from proceeds of crime, from property into which proceeds of crime have been transformed or converted or from property with which proceeds of crime have been intermingled shall also be liable to the measures referred to in this Article, in the same manner and to the same extent as proceeds of crime.
6. For the purposes of this Article and Article 21 of this Convention, each Party shall empower its courts or other competent authorities to order that bank, financial or commercial records be made available or be seized. Each Party shall not decline to act under the provisions of this Paragraph on the ground of bank secrecy.

7. Each Party may consider the possibility of requiring that an offender demonstrate the lawful origin of alleged proceeds of crime or other property liable to confiscation, to the extent that such a requirement is consistent with the principles of its domestic laws and with the nature of the judicial and other proceedings.
8. The provisions of this Article shall not be construed to prejudice the rights of bona fide third parties.
9. Nothing contained in this Article shall affect the principle that the measures to which it refers shall be defined and implemented in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the domestic laws of a Party.

Chapter VI

International Cooperation

Article 18

Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

1. In order to combat offences of trafficking in persons which are transnational in nature, the Parties shall, subject to their respective domestic laws, afford one another the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in criminal investigations or criminal proceedings in relation to such offences established in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention.
2. The Parties shall carry out their obligations under Paragraph 1 of this Article in accordance with the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

Article 19

Extradition

1. Each of the offences established in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention shall be deemed to be included as an extraditable offence in any extradition treaty existing between Parties. The Parties undertake to include such offences as extraditable offences in every extradition treaty to be concluded between them.
2. If a Party that makes extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty receives a request for extradition from another Party with which it has no extradition treaty, it may consider

this Convention the legal basis for extradition in respect of any offence established in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention.

3. Subject to the provisions of its domestic laws and its extradition treaties, the requested Party may, upon being satisfied that the circumstances so warrant and are' urgent and at the request of the requesting Party, take a person whose extradition is sought and who is present in its territory into custody or take other appropriate measures to ensure his or her presence at extradition proceedings.
4. A Party in whose territory an alleged offender is found, if it does not extradite such person in respect of an offence established in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention applies solely on the ground that he or she is one of its nationals, shall, at the request of the Party seeking extradition, be obliged to submit the case without undue delay to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution. Those authorities shall take their decision and conduct their proceedings in the same manner as in the case of any other offence of a grave nature under the domestic law of that Party. The Parties concerned shall cooperate with each other, in particular on procedural and evidentiary aspects, to ensure the efficiency of such prosecution.
5. For the purpose of this Article, each Party shall designate a central authority to be notified to the depositary of this Convention.

Article 20

Law Enforcement Cooperation

1. The Parties shall cooperate closely with one another, consistent with their respective domestic legal and administrative systems, to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement action to combat the offences covered by this Convention. Each Party shall, in particular, adopt effective measures:
 - a. To enhance and, where necessary, to establish as well as utilise existing channels of communication between their competent authorities, agencies and services in order to facilitate the secure and rapid exchange of information concerning all aspects of the offences covered by

- this Convention, including, if the Parties concerned deem it appropriate, links with other criminal activities;
- b. To cooperate with other Parties in conducting inquiries with respect to offences covered by this Convention concerning:
 - (i) The identity, whereabouts and activities of persons suspected of involvement in such offences or the location of other persons concerned;
 - (ii) The movement of proceeds of crime or property derived from the commission of such offences;
 - (iii) The movement of property, equipment or other instrumentalities used or intended for use in the commission of such offences;
 - c. To provide, when appropriate, necessary items or quantities of substances for analytical or investigative purposes;
 - d. To facilitate effective coordination between their competent authorities, agencies and services and to promote the exchange of personnel and other experts, including, subject to bilateral agreements or arrangements between the Parties concerned, the posting of liaison officers;
 - e. To exchange information with other Parties on specific means and methods used by traffickers, including, where applicable, routes and conveyances and the use of false identities, altered or false documents or other means of concealing their activities;
 - f. To exchange information and coordinate administrative and other measures taken as appropriate for the purpose of early identification of the offences covered by this Convention.
2. With a view to giving effect to this Convention, the Parties shall consider entering into bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements on direct cooperation between their law enforcement agencies and, where such agreements or arrangements already exist, amending them. In the absence of such agreements or arrangements between the Parties concerned, the Parties may consider this Convention as the basis for mutual law enforcement cooperation in respect of the offences covered by this Convention. Whenever appropriate, the Parties shall make full use of agreements or arrangements, including international or regional organisations, to enhance the cooperation between their law enforcement agencies.
 3. The Parties shall endeavour to cooperate within their means to respond to trafficking in persons and other offences covered by this Convention committed through the use of modern technology.

Article 21

International Cooperation for Purposes of Confiscation

1. A Party that has received a request from another Party having jurisdiction over an offence covered by this Convention for confiscation of proceeds of crime, property, equipment or other instrumentalities referred to in Article 17, Paragraph 1 of this Convention situated in its territory shall, to the greatest extent possible within its domestic legal system:
 - a. Submit the request to its competent authorities for the purpose of obtaining an order of confiscation and, if such an order is granted, give effect to it; or
 - b. Submit to its competent authorities, with a view to giving effect to it to the extent requested, an order of confiscation issued by a court in the territory of the requesting Party in accordance with Article 17, Paragraph 1 of this Convention insofar as it relates to proceeds of crime, property, equipment or other instrumentalities referred to in Article 17, Paragraph 1, situated in the territory of the requested Party.
2. Following a request made by another Party having jurisdiction over an offence covered by this Convention, the requested Party shall take measures to identify, trace and freeze or seize proceeds of crime, property, equipment or other instrumentalities referred to in Article 17, Paragraph 1 of this Convention for the purpose of eventual confiscation to be ordered either by the requesting Party or, pursuant to a

request under Paragraph 1 of this Article, by the requested Party.

3. The provisions of Article 18 of this Convention are applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to this Article. In addition to the information specified in Article 18, requests made pursuant to this Article shall contain:
 - a. In the case of a request pertaining to Paragraph 1 (a) of this Article, a description of the property to be confiscated and a statement of the facts relied upon by the requesting Party sufficient to enable the requested Party to seek the order under its domestic laws;
 - b. In the case of a request pertaining to Paragraph 1 (b) of this Article, a legally admissible copy of an order of confiscation upon which the request is based issued by the requesting Party, a statement of the facts and information as to the extent to which execution of the order is requested;
 - c. In the case of a request pertaining to Paragraph 2 of this Article, a statement of the facts relied upon by the requesting Party and a description of the actions requested.
4. The decisions or actions provided for in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be taken by the requested Party in accordance with and subject to the provisions of its domestic laws and its procedural rules, any bilateral or multilateral treaty, agreement or arrangement to which it is bound in relation to the requesting Party, and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
5. If a Party elects to make the taking of the measures referred to in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article conditional on the existence of a relevant treaty, that Party shall consider this Convention the necessary and sufficient treaty basis.
6. The provisions of this Article shall not be construed to prejudice the rights of bona fide third parties.
7. The Parties shall consider concluding bilateral or multilateral treaties, agreements or arrangements to enhance the effectiveness of

international cooperation undertaken pursuant to this Article.

Article 22

Disposal of Confiscated Proceeds of Crime or Property

1. Proceeds of crime or property confiscated by a Party pursuant to Article 17 or Article 21, Paragraph 1 of this Convention shall be disposed of by that Party in accordance with its domestic laws and administrative procedures.
2. When acting on the request made by another Party in accordance with Article 21 of this Convention, Parties shall, to the extent permitted by domestic laws and if so requested, give priority consideration to returning the confiscated proceeds of crime or property to the requesting Party so that it can give compensation and assistance to the victims of trafficking in persons or return such proceeds of crime or property to their legitimate owners.
3. When acting on the request made by another Party in accordance with Article 17 and Article 21 of this Convention, a Party may give special consideration to concluding agreements or arrangements on sharing with other Parties, on a regular or case-by-case basis, such proceeds of crime or property, or funds derived from the sale of such proceeds of crime or property, in accordance with its domestic laws or administrative procedures.

Chapter VII

Final Provisions

Article 23

Establishment of Coordinating Structures

Each Party shall consider establishing coordinating structures in the fight against trafficking in persons, including enhancing cooperation under all areas of this Convention.

Article 24

Monitoring, Reviewing and Reporting

1. The ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) shall be responsible for promoting, monitoring, reviewing and reporting periodically to the ASEAN

Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) on the effective implementation of this Convention.

2. The ASEAN Secretariat shall provide the support for supervising and coordinating the implementation of this Convention and assist the SOMTC in all matters relating thereto.

Article 25

Confidentiality of Documents, Records and Information

1. Each Party shall preserve the confidentiality and secrecy of documents, records and other information received from any other Party, including the source thereof.
2. No document, record or other information obtained pursuant to this Convention shall be disclosed to or shared with any other Party, State or person except with the prior written consent of the Party which provided such document, record or information.

Article 26

Relationship with Other International Instruments

This Convention shall not derogate from obligations subsisting between the Parties pursuant to other international agreements nor, where the Parties agree, shall it prevent the Parties from providing assistance to each other pursuant to other international agreements or the provisions of their respective domestic laws.

Article 27

Settlement of Disputes

Any difference or dispute between the Parties arising from the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Convention shall be settled amicably through consultation and negotiation between the Parties through diplomatic channels or any other peaceful means for the settlement of disputes as agreed upon between the Parties.

Article 28

Ratification, Approval and Depositary

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification or approval in accordance with the internal procedures of the Parties.

2. The instruments of ratification or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly inform the other Parties of such deposit.

Article 29

Entry into Force and Amendment

- a. This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth (30th) day following the date of the deposit of the sixth (6th) instrument of ratification or approval with the Secretary-General of ASEAN in respect of those Parties that have submitted their instruments of ratification or approval.
- b. For any Party ratifying or approving this Convention after the deposit of the sixth (6th) instrument of ratification or approval, but before the day the Convention enters into force, the Convention shall also apply to that Party on the date the Convention enters into force. In respect of a Party ratifying or approving this Convention subsequent to its entry into force pursuant to Paragraph 1, it shall enter into force for that Party on the date its instrument of ratification or approval is deposited.
- c. This Convention may be modified or amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties. Such modification or amendment shall enter into force on such date as shall be mutually agreed upon by Parties and shall form part of this Convention.
- d. Any modification or amendment shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from or based on the provisions of this Convention before the entry into force of such modification or amendment.

Article 30

Withdrawal

1. Any Party may withdraw from this Convention at any time after the date of the entry into force of this Convention for that Party.
2. The withdrawal shall be notified by an instrument of withdrawal to the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
3. The withdrawal shall take effect one hundred and eighty (180) days after the receipt of the

instrument of withdrawal by the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

4. The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall promptly notify all the other Parties of any withdrawal.

Article 31
Registration

This Convention shall be registered by the Secretary-General of ASEAN to the United Nations Secretariat pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty-First Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO
HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:
JOKO WIDODO
President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
THONGSING THAM MAVONG
Prime Minister

For Malaysia:
DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
THEIN SEIN
President

For the Republic of the Philippines:
BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
President

For the Republic of Singapore:
LEE HSIEN LOONG
Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
GENERAL PRAYUT CHAN-O-CHA (RET.)
Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
NGUYEN TAN DUNG
Prime Minister

**2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration
on the Establishment of the
ASEAN Community**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

RECALLING the spirit in which the ASEAN Founding Fathers gathered in Bangkok in 1967 and signed the ASEAN Declaration to create an organisation that would help bring about a Southeast Asian region of peace, freedom and prosperity for our peoples;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the ASEAN Vision 2020 (Kuala Lumpur, 1997), the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali, 2003), the Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of the Establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015 (Cebu, 2007), the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) (Cha-am, 2009), the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali, 2011), the Phnom Penh Agenda for ASEAN Community Building (Phnom Penh, 2012) and the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on Realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015 (Nay Pyi Taw, 2014);

REAFFIRMING FURTHER our commitment to the ASEAN Charter, which reflects our desire and collective will to live in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and other key ASEAN instruments in maintaining a peaceful and stable region, which contributes to ASEAN Community building;

RECOGNISING the efforts and significant achievements in the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) comprising the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprints, as well as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity;

CONFIDENT that the realisation of the ASEAN Community has set a milestone in the integration process and will ensure lasting peace, security and resilience in an outward-looking region, with economies that are vibrant, competitive and highly integrated and an inclusive community that is embedded with a strong sense of togetherness and common identity;

UNDERLINING our aspiration towards establishing a truly rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community where our peoples continue to participate in and benefit fully from the on-going process of ASEAN integration and community building; and

PLEDGING our continued commitment to the on-going process of ASEAN community building, including an ASEAN Community's post-2015 vision, guided by the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter;

DO HEREBY:

DECLARE the formal establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015.

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this Twenty Second Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy, in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO
HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:
JOKO WIDODO
President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
THONGSING THAM MAVONG
Prime Minister

For Malaysia:
DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
THEIN SEIN
President

For the Republic of the Philippines:
BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
President

For the Republic of Singapore:
LEE HSIEN LOONG
Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
GENERAL PRAYUT CHAN-O-CHA (RET.)
Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
NGUYEN TAN DUNG
Prime Minister

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), namely, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur;

RECALLING the spirit in which the ASEAN Founding Fathers gathered in Bangkok in 1967 to create an organisation that would help bring about a Southeast Asian region of peace, freedom and prosperity for our peoples;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok, 1967), the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality Declaration (Kuala Lumpur, 1971), the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (Bali, 1976), the Declaration of ASEAN Concord (Bali, 1976), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok, 1995), the ASEAN Vision 2020 (Kuala Lumpur, 1997), the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali, 2003) and the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali, 2011);

REAFFIRMING FURTHER the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter that reflect our desire and collective will to live in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress, as well as promote ASEAN interests, ideals and aspirations;

RECOGNISING that the rapidly changing geostrategic landscape continues to present both opportunities and challenges which require ASEAN to respond proactively, in order to remain relevant as well as to maintain ASEAN centrality and role as the primary driving force in the evolving regional architecture;

COGNISANT of our commitment made under the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision in 2013 and the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision in 2014 that sets out the future direction for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible and a truly rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN;

EMPHASISING the importance of implementing the Report and Recommendations of the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs that was endorsed at the 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw;

RECOGNISING the benefits realised from the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) comprising the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprints, as well as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity;

WELCOMING the formal establishment of the ASEAN Community 2015 comprising the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community; and

COMMENDING the work of the High Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, as well as the work of the High Level Task Force on ASEAN Political-Security Community, the High Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration and the High Level Task Force on ASEAN SocioCultural Community, supported by the ASEAN Secretariat, on the three Community Blueprints;

DO HEREBY:

1. **ADOPT** the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025;
2. **AGREE** that this Declaration as well as the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

Blueprint 2025, as annexed, shall constitute the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together;

3. DECIDE that the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together succeeds the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015);
4. FURTHER DECIDE that the IAI Work Plan III and the ASEAN Connectivity 2025 to be adopted in 2016 shall be an integral part of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together;
5. RESOLVE that ASEAN Member States as well as ASEAN Organs and Bodies shall implement the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, in a timely and effective manner, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter;
6. TASK the ASEAN Ministers, the Secretary-General of ASEAN as well as other ASEAN Organs and Bodies to mobilise resources from ASEAN Member States and external sources to implement the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together; and
7. DIRECT the Secretary-General of ASEAN to monitor and report the progress of implementation of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together to the ASEAN Summit annually, through the ASEAN Coordinating Council and respective ASEAN Community Councils.

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this Twenty Second Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO
HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:
JOKO WIDODO
President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
THONGSING THAM MAVONG
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For Malaysia:
DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
THEIN SEIN
President

For the Republic of the Philippines:
BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
President

For the Republic of Singapore:
LEE HSIEN LOONG
Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
GENERAL PRAYUT CHAN-O-CHA (RET.)
Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
NGUYEN TAN DUNG
Prime Minister

ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-21)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of ASEAN, on the occasion of the 27th ASEAN Summit;

RECALLING our commitments made in the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on Realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015 (2014); the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 20th

Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 10th Session of the COP serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (2014); the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Climate Change to the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7th Session of the COP serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (2011); the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change (2010); the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 15th Session of the COP to the UNFCCC and the 5th Session of the COP serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (2009); the ASEAN Declaration on the 13th session of COP to the UNFCCC and the 3rd session of the CMP to the Kyoto Protocol (2007); and the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability (2007);

GRAVELY CONCERNED that climate change has already caused major loss and damage throughout the ASEAN region, disproportionately affecting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and impacting agriculture, energy supply, livelihoods; water availability, land use and biodiversity;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the UNFCCC, and its principles and provisions, as the primary international collaboration instrument to address climate change in a manner consistent with broader sustainable development goals to the achievement of food security and poverty alleviation throughout the ASEAN region;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and its centrality in the 2015 agreement as decided at the 20th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Lima, Peru in December 2014;

URGENTLY HIGHLIGHTING the need to further scale up adaptation and mitigation efforts given the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5);

RECOGNISING the importance for enhanced pre-2020 ambition which will provide a strong basis for post-2020 cooperation, especially to avoid higher costs and risks associated with adaptation and mitigation in the long run;

NOTING the current efforts in capitalizing the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to mobilize the long-term financing commitments from developed countries to support developing countries and least developed countries in pursuing ambitious mitigation and adaptation efforts;

EMPHASIZING the reality that technology transfer, capacity building and financial assistance are vital to supporting developing countries including least developed countries in implementing Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), National Adaptation Plan of Actions (NAPAs) or National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), as well as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) effectively and efficiently in the long run;

RECOGNISING the important role that sustainable management of forest throughout ASEAN will play in reducing forest degradation and deforestation, and the enhancement of sink capacity, thereby mitigating global climate change, minimizing the risks of extreme weather events and other climate-driven disasters, and providing sustainable economic livelihood opportunities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the role of regional fora including ASEAN, in collaborating with other countries to address the local, regional and global challenges of climate change;

HIGHLIGHTING the important role of international capacity building cooperation in enhancing implementation of Article 6 of the Convention;

EXPRESSING support for the negotiations and the adoption of a universal agreement on climate change under the UNFCCC in 2015 with ambitious goals, targets and commitments for developed countries.

DO HEREBY:

1. Look forward to positive outcomes from the intensive negotiations under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action toward increasing the level of implementation of existing mitigation and financial commitments under the Convention during the pre-2020 period;
2. Encourage each Party that has not yet communicated an INDC to do so expeditiously in support of a successful COP-21;
3. Agree to explore means of further enhancing sustainable development efforts throughout

the ASEAN region during the pre-2020 period, recognising that such efforts can be the fastest and most efficient way of closing the “ambition gap”;

4. Urge Parties to adopt a COP decision on Pre-2020 ambition that effectively and adequately enhances ambition on adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building and transparency of actions and support during the pre-2020 period; in particular through the ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol in the second commitment period by all Parties, and the outcome of the Bali Action Plan;
5. Call upon all Parties to the UNFCCC, including ASEAN Member States, to continue working effectively and in good faith toward adopting a new comprehensive and balanced legally binding agreement under the Convention at the 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris in December;
6. Urge all Parties to the UNFCCC to recognise the extreme vulnerability of ASEAN Member States to climate change, and therefore reflect the importance of strengthening adaptation and climate resilience capacity in the 2015 agreement;
7. Request support for developing countries and least developed countries to pursue sustainable development opportunities that can enable new mitigation and adaptation efforts to be included in their INDCs, noting that mitigation and adaptation efforts can have strong transboundary co-benefits which contribute, inter alia, to food, water and energy security;
8. Encourage Parties to the UNFCCC to develop adaptation strategies that are consistent with, and address the threats identified in, the IPCC AR5 Working Group II report on Vulnerability and Adaptation, including, in particular groups with greater exposure and vulnerability that are disproportionately impacted by climate change;
9. Urge developed countries to enhance the provision of the means of implementation in terms of capacity building, technical assistance, technology development and transfer, and financing, during the post-2020 time frame, to enable developing countries and least developed countries to implement ambitious mitigation and adaptation actions as part of their INDCs;
10. Urge developed countries to provide assistance to ASEAN Member States to enhance protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and systematic rehabilitation of forest ecosystems including mangrove and peatland forest, in recognition of their critically important roles in mitigation and adaptation, particularly their provision of ecosystem services, including disaster risk reduction;
11. Urge developed countries to further accelerate their contributions to the GCF, and to set out a clear roadmap for developed countries to provide a minimum of USD 100 billion per year by 2020 as well as on substantially scaling up financial support after 2020, with additional and predictable financial support to developing countries. Financial support should be primarily from public sources. Private sector finance could supplement financing from the public sector;
12. Agree that finalisation and operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Mechanism with the support of developed countries is an urgent priority for the ASEAN region, notably the application of insurance oriented financial mechanisms, such as crop insurance; and
13. Call on the relevant bodies in the GCF to expedite the finalization of the adaptation and mitigation windows of the fund, in particular with regard to the financing of REDD+ through the GCF.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty First Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Joint Statement on the RCEP Negotiations

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Participating Countries (Member States of ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand) reviewed the progress of negotiations for the RCEP.

2. We recall our Joint Declaration on the Launch of Negotiations for the RCEP and the Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the RCEP, which lay the foundation for and the spirit in the conduct of the RCEP negotiations since its commencement in May 2013.
3. We welcome the substantial progress made to date. Following the breakthroughs achieved by our Ministers, substantive negotiations on trade in goods, trade in services and investment have intensified. Text-based negotiations have also intensified.
4. With half of the world's population and almost 30 per cent of the world's output and trade, the RCEP offers immense potential to improve the standard of living for billions of people. We resolve to ensure that the RCEP delivers on its potential to serve as a growth driver and a key pathway for broader economic integration in the region.
5. We instruct our Ministers and negotiators to further intensify their efforts and we look forward to the conclusion of the RCEP negotiations in 2016, contributing significantly to regional and global economic integration, providing for equitable economic development, and strengthening economic cooperation.

For links:

ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together

Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW)

Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Children (EVAC)

ASEAN Food Safety Policy

ASEAN Regional Assessment on the MDG Achievements and Post-2015 Development Priorities

Projected Gender Impact of the ASEAN Economic Community

ASEAN Integration Report 2015

ASEAN Investment Report 2015

ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2025



**ASEAN Political-Security
Community**

II. ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY

ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM)

ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Statement on the Violence and Brutality Committed by Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria

**Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia,
28 January 2015**

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN, in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia on 28 January 2015 and recalling our Statement issued on 26 September 2014, condemn and deplore the violence and brutality committed by extremist organisations and radical groups in Iraq and Syria, whose impact increasingly poses a threat to all regions of the world.

We denounce all unlawful acts of destruction, violence and terror in all its forms and manifestations, including the apparent barbaric murder of a Japanese hostage and continued detainment of another; underline the need to bring all perpetrators of the reprehensible acts to justice; and call for the release of all hostages. We express support for and solidarity with the Government and people of Japan and commend her commitment to counter terrorism and violent extremism wherever they occur.

We hereby renew our commitment to the full implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, and the relevant provisions of international law and the UN Charter. We will work with the international community in its fight against terrorism, extremism and radicalism and to address its root causes, including through the promotion of the Global Movement of Moderates.

Condolence Message from the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the Earthquake that Struck Nepal, India and Bangladesh

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
26 April 2015**

We, the Foreign Ministers of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) are deeply shocked and saddened by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal as well as its surrounding neighbours, India and Bangladesh, on 25th April 2015.

We wish to convey our deepest condolences to the Governments and peoples of Nepal, India and Bangladesh, as well as to the families affected by the earthquake. We are saddened by the loss of lives and damages to properties and infrastructures as well as historical heritage sites in the capital of Kathmandu and its surrounding areas.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers express our solidarity at this trying time and we stand ready to extend our assistance and join international efforts in assisting the Governments and the peoples of Nepal, India and Bangladesh.

Joint Communique of the 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 4 August 2015

1. We, the Foreign Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), met on 4 August 2015 at the 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (48th AMM) in Kuala Lumpur. His Excellency Dato’ Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia chaired the meeting.

2. We had a productive deliberation under the theme “Our People, Our Community, Our Vision”, to create an ASEAN Community which is truly people-oriented, people-centred comprising all areas of cooperation. We also had fruitful discussions on regional and international issues as well as our ongoing efforts to maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

ASEAN COMMUNITY BUILDING

3. We welcomed the successful convening of the 26th ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi on 27 April 2015 and the outcome documents. We will continue to work to realise our Leaders’ aspiration to create an ASEAN Community as envisaged in the Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on a Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015), the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration and the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision, and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on a People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN.
4. We reaffirmed that the ASEAN Community should be built on the established foundation of the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and the Bali Concord III and its Plan of Action (2013-2017). We recognised the importance of moderation and tolerance in ASEAN Community building and remain committed to implementing the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates 2015.
5. We are confident that the action lines under the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and its Work Plan II (2009-2015) will be completed with significant achievements across all three pillars. We took note of the gaps in the implementation of the current Roadmap (2009-2015) and are committed to addressing them under the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision and its Attendant Documents as well as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III and post-2015 Connectivity Agenda.
6. We are encouraged by the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs to strengthen the capacity of and coordination among ASEAN organs, including improving the work processes in the ASEAN Secretariat, and the coordination across and within the three community pillars in order to accelerate ASEAN Community building and integration efforts.
7. We are pleased with the progress achieved by the High Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision, and looked forward to the submission of the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision and its Attendant Documents to the ASEAN Coordinating Council, for subsequent adoption by ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur.
8. We are determined to strengthen ASEAN’s centrality and all ASEAN-led mechanisms to ensure that the evolving regional architecture would be beneficial to ASEAN and to better meet the challenges and dynamics of global development.
9. We continue to deepen cooperation with Dialogue Partners, engage other external parties for mutually beneficial relations, and play a responsible and constructive role globally based on ASEAN common platform on international issues.

ASEAN POLITICAL SECURITY COMMUNITY

Implementation of the APSC Blueprint

10. We welcomed the progress in the implementation of the APSC Blueprint, which has brought APSC cooperation to a higher plane, contributing to peace and stability in the region. In line with the commitment to launch the ASEAN Community by end of this year, we encouraged expediting implementation of the remaining action lines in the Blueprint.

Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia

11. We reaffirmed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct governing inter-State

relations in the region and a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability.

12. We recognised that the growing interest of other non-ASEAN Member States to accede to the TAC reflects a positive signal of their commitment to the purpose and principles contained in the TAC, to strengthen cooperation with ASEAN and contribute to peace and security in the region. We agreed to consider new applications in accordance with the Revised Guidelines for Accession to the TAC.

Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

13. We underscored the importance of preserving the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the ASEAN Charter.
14. In this regard, we underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty, including through the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty (2013-2017). We tasked the Senior Officials to intensify the ongoing efforts of the State Parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty and the Nuclear Weapon States to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol to that Treaty. Bearing in mind the related decisions of the SEANWFZ Commission in 2011 for all Nuclear Weapon States to sign the Protocol together, we noted Indonesia's Concept Paper concerning China's readiness to be the first among Nuclear Weapon States to sign and ratify the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty without reservations.
15. We encouraged the full support of the UN Member States, particularly the NWS for the ASEAN-sponsored United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution on the SEANWFZ Treaty in the upcoming 70th Session of the UNGA. We also looked forward to the submission and eventual adoption by

consensus of the 70th UNGA draft resolution on the SEANWFZ Treaty.

16. We looked forward to the convening of the next meeting of the ASEANTOM on 20 August 2015 in Malaysia, following the decision of the 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, which welcomed the outcome of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 25 to 27 August 2014 and its decision on the ASEANTOM as an ASEAN body under the APSC Pillar in the Annex 1 of the ASEAN Charter.

Cooperation between ASEAN and the International Atomic Energy Agency

17. We recognised the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and agreed to explore ways to formalise relations between ASEAN and the IAEA.

ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

18. We continued to reaffirm the role of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) as the overarching human rights institution in ASEAN for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the peoples in the region. We welcomed the progress of the work of the AICHR in the promotion and protection of human rights, and encouraged AICHR to engage more in current human rights challenges in the region, in accordance with the principles of the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD, as well as the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the AICHR.
19. We appreciated the Government of Indonesia for organising a dialogue with the AICHR to share information on the promotion and protection of human rights in the country as well as the Government of Thailand for organising a dialogue with AICHR to share information on thematic issues of human rights. The dialogues were useful in supporting AICHR in conducting its work. We noted that AICHR and

an ASEAN Member States, Indonesia, might consider having such a dialogue in the future.

20. We took note of the AICHR's Annual Report that reflects the progress of the work of the AICHR for the past one year as well as since its establishment in 2009. We noted the observations, challenges and recommendations that the AICHR has outlined in its Annual Report and encouraged the AICHR to continue its work done thus far. We further welcomed the AICHR's submission on the Assessment and Recommendations on the Review of the TOR and took note of the assessment and recommendations provided therein.
21. Entering its second term, we commended the AICHR's efforts in finalising its Five-year Work Plan (2016-2020) which is the continuation of the AICHR Work Plan (2010-2015). We welcomed the Philippines' offer to host the Special Meeting of the AICHR from 16-17 September 2015 in order to facilitate AICHR smooth transition into its new Work Plan. The new Work Plan will endeavor to build upon AICHR's achievements towards the promotion and protection of human rights in the region. In this regard, we approved the AICHR's Five-year Work Plan (2016-2020), the indicative budget for the cycle of five years, the Priority Programmes and Activities and indicative budget for 2016.
22. Noting the achievement made by AICHR in advancing its human rights promotion function, we encouraged AICHR, together with the ASEAN Secretariat, to integrate a more programme-based approach to its planning of activities and implementation. We also encouraged AICHR to acquire a long-term perspective to planning and implementation which will help it realise its human right protection mandate alongside its promotion mandate, as provided for in its TOR.
23. We are encouraged with the progress made by the AICHR in strengthening its cooperation with other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and stakeholders on promotion and protection of human rights. We acknowledged that human rights is a cross-cutting issue and in this regard we noted progress of AICHR's efforts in working

towards proper alignment with other sectoral bodies. We further noted with satisfaction the various initiatives being undertaken by AICHR to promote awareness of human rights in 2015, such as the AICHR Human Rights Training the Trainers Programme for Journalists in Thailand and the upcoming AICHR Youth Debates on Human Rights in Singapore, the Regional Workshop on the Role of Youth in Malaysia, the first ever AICHR Symposium on the Judiciary, also in Malaysia, the AICHR Workshop on the Implementation of Human Rights Obligations relating to the Environment and Climate Change to be held in Myanmar, and AICHR Workshop on the Development of ASEAN Legal Instruments on Human Rights in the Philippines.

Promotion of Moderation

24. We welcomed the adoption of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates by the Leaders at the 26th ASEAN Summit on 27 April 2015, which comprehensively outlines moderation and tolerance, which is an established value, in all its dimensions. We recognised that moderation is an all-encompassing approach not only in resolving differences and conflicts peacefully but also for ensuring sustainable and inclusive development and equitable growth as well promoting social harmony and mutual understanding within countries and regions.

ASEAN Security Outlook

25. We emphasised the importance of the ASEAN Security Outlook (ASO) to promote transparency in security-related policies and complement ASEAN's confidence building efforts in the region. In this regard, we looked forward to its next publication.

ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

26. We are encouraged by the progress of work of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) and appreciated the efforts undertaken by its Governing Council and Advisory Board to fully operationalise the Institute. We welcomed the convening of the AIPR Workshop on Strengthening Women's Participation in Peace Processes held in Cebu, the Philippines on 17-18 March

2015 in promoting and enhancing women's participation in peace processes worldwide.

27. We also encouraged AIPR, in accordance with its TOR, to enhance its capacities, including through activities related to peace and reconciliation with relevant stakeholders, such as think tanks, CSOs, and ASEAN external parties.

ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre

28. We noted with satisfaction the positive progress towards the operationalisation of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) which serves as a regional centre of excellence in addressing the humanitarian aspects of the explosive remnants of war (ERW) for interested ASEAN Member States.
29. We encouraged the nomination of representatives to the ARMAC Steering Committee by all ASEAN Member States so that the inaugural meeting of the ARMAC Steering Committee could be convened as soon as possible.
30. We looked forward to the convening of the Second Regional Seminar on the Establishment of an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC): Collaboration towards Operationalisation to be held in Siem Reap, on 14-15 August 2015.

Maritime Cooperation

31. We recognised that maritime security includes both traditional and non-traditional security threats. We underscored the importance of strengthening regional cooperation and promoting mutual trust and understanding in maritime security and maritime safety to ensure peace, stability, safety of sea lanes, freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief through, inter alia, capacity building, exchanging of experiences and sharing of best practices by utilising existing ASEAN-led frameworks, where appropriate, including the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF)/Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).

32. We welcomed the work to enhance maritime cooperation in, among others, maritime surveillance, port security, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, and sustainable management of maritime resources, through, inter alia, information sharing, capacity building and sharing of experiences and best practices.

33. We noted the proposal at the 5th ASEAN Maritime Forum for the establishment of the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum (ACGF). In this regard, we looked forward to the Experts' Group Meeting on the ACGF on 19-20 August 2015, in Manila, the Philippines, to discuss the possible establishment of the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum (ACGF) and its Terms of Reference.

34. We took note of the successful outcomes of the 5th AMF and 3rd EAMF held in Viet Nam in August 2014 and looked forward to the convening of 6th AMF and 4th EAMF in Manado, Indonesia in September 2015.

Non-Traditional Security Issues

35. We reaffirmed our commitment in addressing non-traditional security issues, particularly in combating transnational crimes and other trans-boundary challenges. In this regard, we looked forward to the convening and outcome of the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 29 September - 1 October 2015. We also looked forward to the convening of the Special Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2 October 2015 as part of ASEAN's efforts in addressing the growing threat of radicalisation and violent extremism to the ASEAN region.
36. We believe that the issue of irregular movement of persons, including its connection with people smuggling and trafficking in persons in our region requires the parties concerned to identify and address the root causes and other contributory factors, whether at origin, during transit or destination as well as the involvement of relevant stakeholders based on the principle of international burden sharing and shared responsibility as well as a

balanced approach between law enforcement and humanitarian response to tackle the challenges. In this regard, we welcomed the outcomes of the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (EAMMTC) Concerning Irregular Movement of Persons in the Southeast Asia Region on 2 July 2015 in Kuala Lumpur and the Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean held in Bangkok on 29 May 2015 to address this issue.

37. We also welcomed the outcome of the EAMMTC, among others, that supported the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by the ASEAN Secretariat for voluntary contributions from ASEAN Member States and members of the international community to support the humanitarian and relief efforts to deal with the irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia; the consideration to include people smuggling under the purview of SOMTC and AMMTC; and the recommendation for the ASEAN Leaders to task relevant ASEAN bodies to explore the possibility in setting up a task force to respond to crisis and emergency situations arising from irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia. We noted the offer by the Philippines to provide support towards the skills training of persons affected by the irregular movement.
38. Recognising the threat of drugs to the region, we looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters to be held on 27-29 October 2015 in Langkawi, Malaysia. We also welcomed the institutionalisation of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters which will provide political impetus to ASEAN cooperation on drug matters and strategic guidance to the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD). In this regard, we reiterated our commitment to double our efforts in achieving a drug free ASEAN, to address the drug problem in a comprehensive and holistic manner involving both demand and supply reduction measures, in line with ASEAN Leaders Declaration on Drug Free ASEAN 2015, which was adopted at the 20th ASEAN Summit in 2012, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

39. Recognising the need to strengthen ASEAN legal integration in addressing and combating transnational crimes, we encouraged the ASEAN Law Ministers to work towards elevating the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters 2004 to an ASEAN treaty and continue their work to enhance cooperation on the issue of extradition.
40. Recalling the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia adopted at the 18th ASEAN Summit held on 8 May 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, we looked forward to the endorsement of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (APA) by the 10th AMMTC in September 2015 and its subsequent adoption by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015.

Defence and Security Cooperation

41. We commended the progress of defence cooperation among ASEAN Member States and between ASEAN and its external partners through the important mechanisms of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), the ADMM Plus and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). We noted the positive outcomes of the 9th ADMM held on 17 March 2015 in Langkawi, Malaysia and its role in promoting regional peace and security through dialogue and cooperation in defence and security matters. In this regard, we welcomed the adoption of the concept papers on ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine (ACMM), as well as, the Guidelines to Respond to the Request for Informal Engagements or Meetings by the ADMM-Plus Countries.
42. We also welcomed the endorsement by the 9th ADMM of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Utilisation of Military Assets for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) under the framework of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) as the

ASEAN defence and militaries' contribution to the existing ASEAN SOP for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP).

43. We noted with appreciation the achievements of the ADMM-Plus process in forging practical defence and military cooperation among ASEAN and the eight Plus Countries, in particular, through the six ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group. We looked forward to the convening of the 3rd ADMM-Plus in November 2015 in Malaysia.

ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

44. We are encouraged by the favourable regional economic outlook for 2015. Whilst the projected outlook for ASEAN growth rate is expected to accelerate to 4.9 per cent this year from 4.6 per cent in 2014, some downside risks remain relevant to the growth prospect in the region. The continued moderation in China would have an impact on the ASEAN's forecast growth rate, given ASEAN's strong economic linkages to China. The region is also faced with financial challenges as the persistent strengthening of the U.S dollar against domestic currencies, as well as the ongoing Greece debt crisis, which may cause volatility in the global financial markets. Going forward, the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) coupled with continued adoption of appropriate policy mix and the continued focus on productivity growth and infrastructure development to improve connectivity, will help sustain economic growth, maintain regional financial stability and enhance ASEAN's competitiveness.

Implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint

45. We welcomed the commitment by ASEAN Member States to complete the implementation of the fourth and final phase at the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint by the end of 2015 and noted that 458 measures targeted for ASEAN-wide implementation have been implemented from 2008 to end-March 2015.
46. We are encouraged by the progress towards the elimination of tariffs which now stands

at 95.99 per cent across all ten (10) ASEAN Member States. There has also been progress on trade facilitation with the reactivation of the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee and the revamping of the ASEAN Trade Consultation to Solve Trade and Investment Issues (ACT). Further progress has been made in the development of National Trade Repositories (NTRs) which is a precursor to the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR), targeted to be operationalised this year.

47. We are pleased with the ongoing progress in the implementation of both the 1st and 2nd Self-Certification Pilot Projects of the Rules of Origin that will allow certified exporters to self-declare goods of ASEAN origin and gain preferential access into ASEAN markets. We encouraged the convergence and possible reconciliation of the two pilot projects towards achieving ASEAN-wide Self Certification.
48. Recognising the importance of accelerating Customs integration, we noted the completion of the ratification process of the new ASEAN Agreement on Customs which effectively operationalise the Customs Chapter of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), and welcomed the endorsement of the new Strategic Plan of Customs Development (SPCDs) for 2016-2020.
49. We took note that the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the "full-fledged" ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Pilot Project Component 2 have been endorsed, and its implementation is expected to commence in 2015. The Protocol on the Legal Framework to implement the ASW (PLF), which will govern the legal aspects of the eventual implementation of the ASW across Member States, has almost been finalised.

Transport

50. We welcomed the progress towards promoting the harmonisation of shipping-related regulations and policies within the region and endorsed the implementation Framework of the ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM), which will provide strategic guidance to coordinate policy and harmonise rules and

regulations to further liberalise shipping services in the region.

51. We noted with pleasure the good progress made on the development of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market in support of the ASEAN Economic Community and looked forward to both the full ratification of the ASEAN Air Services Agreements and the conclusion of the Ninth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services by 2015. In particular, we welcomed the completion of several key regional initiatives such as the Capacity Building Framework on Air Traffic Management and the ASEAN Regional Contingency Plan, and the development of initiatives, such as the ASEAN Aviation Regulatory Monitoring Systems; ASEAN Foreign Operator Safety Assessment; and Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Certificates, Approvals and Licences of Civil Aviation.
52. We welcomed the significant progress towards the finalisation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Transport of Passengers by Road Vehicles (ASEAN CBTP) and looked forward for the Agreement to be signed at the 21st ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting in November 2015.

Minerals

53. We welcomed the development of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP) 2016-2025 and recognised the ongoing effort in four strategic areas, namely in facilitating and enhancing trade and investment in minerals; promoting environmentally and socially sustainable mineral development; strengthening institutional and human capacities in the ASEAN minerals sector; and maintaining an efficient and up-to-date ASEAN minerals database.

Energy

54. We are encouraged that energy cooperation is on track to meet most of the key targets set out in the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2010-2015. We welcomed the steady progress in the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) and the Trans-ASEAN

Gas Pipeline (TAGP) physical interconnection projects with the completion of APG's 7th power interconnection (i.e. the Sarawak-West Kalimantan power interconnection project in June 2015) and TAGP's 13th pipeline interconnection (i.e. Block B17 in Malaysia-Thailand Joint Development Area to Kerteh, Terengganu in April 2015).

Information and Communication Technology

55. We noted the progress on the final review of the implementation of ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM2015) and are pleased to note that the Masterplan's action points are on-track for completion in 2015. The report thus far showed that 86 per cent of the initiatives have been completed, while the remaining 14 per cent are expected to be completed before December 2015. The outcome of the AIM2015 Final Report would be taken into account in the development of the next ASEAN ICT Masterplan for 2016-2020. We further noted that an ASEAN Framework on ICT Skill Upgrading is currently being formulated to serve as a voluntary guide for organisations in ASEAN Member States to develop their respective ICT work force. Additionally, we are encouraged by the efforts of the ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators Council (ATRC) which, inter alia, published a report on Transparency of Broadband Internet Access Speeds in ASEAN. This report provided ASEAN Member States with information and recommendations to further promote transparency in broadband; hence enabling greater consumer awareness and protection.

Finance

56. We are committed to implementing appropriate monetary and fiscal policies aimed at sustaining economic growth and maintain financial stability as outlined during the 1st ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in March 2015.
57. We noted the progress on the Protocol to implement the 6th Package of Commitments on Financial Services under AFAS for the implementation of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework.

58. We took note of the progress of ASEAN Regulators working towards liberalising and integrating the insurance sector commencing with the Marine, Aviation and Goods International Transit (MAT) insurance as non-sensitive sub-sector and look forward to the expected commencement in 2015 of the initial project on Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI).

Food Agriculture and Forestry

59. We appreciated the preparation of the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025 and recognised its ongoing efforts in covering seven priority areas of cooperation, namely: (i) enhancing quantity and quality of production with sustainable, 'green' technologies, resource management systems and minimise pre and post-harvest losses and waste; (ii) enhancing trade facilitation and economic integration; (iii) ensuring food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution; (iv) increasing resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks; (v) assisting resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness in line with the ASEAN Policy Blueprint on SME Development; (vi) strengthening ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues affecting the Food, Agriculture and Forestry sector and (vii) promoting sustainable forest management.
60. We noted that a study on Mutual Recognition Models for the ASEAN Agricultural Best Practices would be carried out to identify an efficient mechanism for regional accreditation and certification of good agricultural practices.

Tourism

61. We appreciated the growth of the tourism industry with more than 105 million international tourists visiting ASEAN Member States in 2014, posting a growth of 2.7 per cent compared to 2013. We are pleased to note that an agreement to establish a Regional Secretariat for the Implementation of the MRA on Tourism Professionals was

finalised in January 2015, and is being signed ad-referendum by ASEAN Member States.

62. We further noted that the Regional Secretariat would support the implementation of the ASEAN Tourism Professional Registration System to enhance ASEAN's competitiveness as a single tourist destination. We welcomed the adoption to enhance tourism standards and certification process for green hotels, homestay, spa services, public toilets, clean tourist city and community-based tourism standards.

Small and Medium Enterprises

63. We are encouraged by the progress in promoting SMEs under the current ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2010-2015).
64. We welcomed the plans initiated by ASEAN SME Agencies Working Group to complete several flagship deliverables in 2015 which are the establishment of the ASEAN SME Service Center Web Portal, the launch of ASEAN SME Online Academy, the holding of the ASEAN SME Showcase and Conference in May 2015 and other conferences and business events to promote SME opportunities including the coming ASEAN Youth Creative Industry Fair.
65. We noted the formulation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025) with the vision of 'Globally Competitive and Innovative SMEs'. We encouraged the inclusion of micro enterprises in the promotion of SMEs to widen the coverage of ASEAN sectoral and developmental efforts into the larger group comprising micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Statistical Cooperation

66. We noted the progress made by the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) in harmonising statistical domains relevant to integration monitoring; the enhancement of the dissemination system including the development of a consolidated ASEAN statistical database; and the use of infographics in statistical communication and advocacy. These efforts contributed towards

delivering relevant, timely and comparable ASEAN statistics to support ongoing efforts for enhanced integration monitoring and evidence-based policy making.

INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION

67. Recognising the importance of narrowing the development gaps (NDGs) as one of the priorities in the ASEAN community building process, we called for efforts to be intensified to implement the remaining action lines of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II (2009-2015). We looked forward to developing a successor document which would align IAI activities with ASEAN's integration efforts through equitable and inclusive development. Noting that IAI is cross-cutting in nature, we called upon ASEAN sectoral bodies to ensure full participation of all ASEAN Member States in realising regional commitments as well as closer cooperation between ASEAN and the Mekong sub-regional arrangements in achieving IAI's goals. We also welcomed the continuous assistance rendered by our Dialogue Partners and other external parties in supporting our regional integration efforts.

ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

Social Welfare and Development

68. We continued to support the establishment of an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented, people-centred and socially responsible with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the nations and peoples of ASEAN by forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and harmonious, and where the well-being, livelihood, healthy lifestyle, access to healthcare and welfare of the peoples are enhanced. We are pleased with the progress in the development of the Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence Against Women and Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence Against Children. We are also encouraged by the development of the draft Putrajaya Joint Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Priorities towards an ASEAN Citizen-Centric Civil Service and the draft Kuala

Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN.

Migrant Workers

69. Recognising the contribution of migrant workers to both society and economy of ASEAN, we reiterated the importance of safeguarding the human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals, including the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers, in accordance with national laws, regulations, and policies. We also noted the progress made so far by the ASEAN Committee on the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) in drafting the ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights. In this regard, we urged ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) to take necessary actions to facilitate the timely conclusion of such an instrument to ensure the rights of the migrant workers are well protected within the region. We noted Indonesia's proposal for a statement on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers.

Climate Change and Environment

70. We noted with great concern that climate change is already having significant impact in the region, posing challenges to our environment, causing severe social and economic disruption and damage throughout the region. We supported the timely finalisation of an ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to be adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015 and encouraged ASEAN Member States to highlight ASEAN's joint efforts, concerns and response to climate change, and where appropriate, ASEAN position at the 21st Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21 UNFCCC).
71. We recognised the urgency in promoting environmental sustainability in Southeast Asia by ensuring a stable climate, preventing land degradation, promoting water resources management, including integrated river basin management and ensuring sustainable

management of natural resources, restoring watershed forests, conserving coastal and marine environment, including terrestrial and marine biodiversity. In this context, we welcomed Viet Nam's efforts in organising the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) and related Meetings to be held on 26-31 October 2015 in Ha Noi, and expected positive outcomes of the Meetings, including the adoption of the ASEAN Joint Statement and Action Plan to Protect Threatened Species from Extinction.

72. We also recognised that education and capacity building for sustainable development is essential in ensuring effective implementation of the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change for environmental sustainability in the region.
73. We highlighted the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and emphasised the important role of the ACB as a regional centre of excellence dedicated to the promotion of regional collaboration on biodiversity conservation. We encouraged the ratification of the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre of Biodiversity by all ASEAN Member States.
74. We noted that transboundary haze pollution remained a concern in the region, as also noted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 26th ASEAN Summit. We commit to greater regional cooperation to address this concern, including through the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) and the ASEAN Sub-Regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS). We hoped with the ratification of the AATHP by all ASEAN Member States, it would be timely for us to work closely and effectively in fulfilling our roles and obligations to the Agreement. We should increase our efforts in mitigating and preventing the annual occurrence of transboundary haze in this region. We looked forward to the establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control under the AATHP. We acknowledged that the ASEAN Sub-regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS) is a useful tool to assist in monitoring and internal enforcement actions

against irresponsible parties contributing to fires. We urged the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution countries to take the necessary actions to operationalise the HMS as soon as possible.

Youth

75. We recognised that over sixty percent of the ASEAN population today comprises those under 35 years old, and they are the driving force in shaping ASEAN's future direction.
76. We noted the outcome of the Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth in Siem Reap, Cambodia, 4 June 2015 which reiterated the importance of youth development in the region towards the ASEAN Community building through among others the establishment of ASEAN Youth Development Index (AYDI).
77. We welcomed Malaysia's effort in organising the ASEAN Young Leaders Summit from 18-20 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur in conjunction with the 27th ASEAN Summit to promote meaningful youth involvement in building an ASEAN Community, the outcomes of which would be reported to ASEAN.

Disaster Management and Emergency Response

78. We underscored the importance of enhanced cooperation to prevent and reduce disaster risk as well as to enhance community resilience. We reiterated our commitment to strengthen the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Response mechanism to better respond to disaster and to substantially reduce loss of life and damage to economic, social, physical and environmental assets of ASEAN Member States caused by natural and human-induced disasters. We also encouraged cooperation with other ASEAN-led mechanisms, as well as with relevant regional and international agencies to promote effective Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).
79. We welcomed the Joint Statement of ASEAN for the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan, and the Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities

and People to Disaster and Climate Change adopted at the 26th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur. In this regard, we looked forward to the convening of the 27th ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management Meeting and the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management, to be held on 14-18 December 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

80. Towards enhancing the region's preparedness and resilience in facing disasters, we welcomed the successful convening of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercises (ARF DiREx) in Kedah and Perlis on 24-28 May 2015, co-chaired by Malaysia and China. The ARF DiREx tested the civil-military coordination efforts, created synergy, and synchronised efforts towards supporting the effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) as the common platform for disaster management in the region.
81. We also welcomed and expressed support to the ongoing efforts to draft the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region. We underscored the importance of ASEAN centrality in the AADMER and that the draft Declaration would strengthen the response of ASEAN in disaster management. In this regard, we affirmed AHA Centre's key role as ASEAN's coordinating body for disaster management in the region, that will, where appropriate, work in partnership with other relevant regional and international agencies and centres, to strengthen HADR efforts and effectively implement the work programme under AADMER.

ASEAN CONNECTIVITY

82. We are encouraged by the progress in implementing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), which contributes to ASEAN integration and Community-building. We acknowledged that a better-connected ASEAN is imperative in promoting economic growth, narrowing the development gap and promoting greater people-to-people contacts, realising the Millennium Development Goals, and implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In this regard, we welcomed contributions by our Dialogue Partners and External Parties and their initiatives such as Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Partnership for Quality Infrastructure which support the implementation of the MPAC. We also welcomed continuous efforts to strengthen public private partnership (PPP) in ASEAN through a pipeline of potential ASEAN PPP projects, such as the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia's (ERIA) ASEAN PPP Guideline and a database on risk mitigation instruments.
83. We encouraged ongoing efforts by the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) to formulate a post-2015 Agenda on Connectivity which would be bold, visionary and contain practical and implementable measures contributing to a well-integrated ASEAN region. We looked forward to the convening of the 6th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium with the theme "The Connectivity Agenda for an Integrated ASEAN Community" which will be held in Penang, Malaysia on 15-16 October 2015.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

84. We reaffirmed our commitment to continue enhancing ASEAN's relations with Dialogue Partners and external parties for mutual benefit. We emphasised the importance of ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture, and agreed to continue to work closely with all our partners in the various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, ARF, ADMM-Plus, and EAS, in promoting peace, stability, security and prosperity in the region. We acknowledged the increased interest from external parties in engaging ASEAN, which should be governed by the Guidelines for ASEAN's External Relations, and based on the principles of equality and parity of treatment for all ASEAN Member States. We recognised the importance of strengthening ASEAN's effectiveness in managing its external relations, including through the streamlining of ASEAN meetings and exploring other appropriate modalities.
85. We expressed our satisfaction with the progress made in our relations with Dialogue Partners, and stressed the significance of

further promoting dialogue and enhancing existing cooperation. We noted the important developments in ASEAN's external relations and expressed our appreciation to our Dialogue Partners for their commitment to strengthen relations with ASEAN and their continued support and assistance for ASEAN community building efforts over the past year.

86. With the ASEAN Community in the horizon, we underscored the importance of cooperation with Dialogue Partners in ASEAN's post-2015 priority areas, namely, ASEAN Community building, connectivity, narrowing development gaps, disaster management and maritime security and safety, as laid out in the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision and the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration of Realisation of the ASEAN Community in 2015. We looked forward to the adoption of the Plans of Action between ASEAN - Canada, ASEAN - India and ASEAN - Republic of Korea (ROK). We noted the progress of negotiations on the successor documents of the Plans of Action with China, New Zealand, Russia and the US.

ASEAN-Australia

87. We agreed that the elevation of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations from a Comprehensive Partnership to a Strategic Partnership during the ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations on 12 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw will contribute to more enhanced and focused ASEAN-Australia political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation for mutual benefit which will promote regional peace, stability, prosperity and appreciated Australia's contribution to this.
88. We noted the benefits of deeper regional economic integration and appreciated Australia's support for the realisation of the ASEAN Community 2015 and the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision.
89. We noted with satisfaction progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership 2015-2019. We welcomed the extension of the ASEAN-Australia

Development Cooperation Program Phase II (AADCP II) with additional funding for 2015-2019.

90. We acknowledged Australia's consistent support for the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (AADMER) and collaboration with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) to strengthen cooperation in disaster management.
91. We supported the strengthening of people-to-people connectivity between ASEAN and Australia, including the New Colombo Plan and the various Australian scholarship programmes.

ASEAN-Canada

92. We welcomed progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Partnership (2011-2015) and looked forward to the adoption of the new Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2016-2020) at the PMC+1 with Canada, which reflects the goals and priorities of both sides in the next five years.
93. We are committed to working with Canada on concrete activities to address regional security challenges, including international terrorism and violent extremism, as well as agricultural development, technology and innovation, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) development, connectivity, climate change and disaster management, pandemic disease and the promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of women and children. We looked forward to the endorsement of the new Work Plan to implement the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment for 2016-2020 at the 4th AEM-Canada Consultations.
94. We emphasised the need to enhance ASEAN-Canada connectivity, specifically through forging an Air Services Agreement, with a view to increase tourism flow between both sides and promoting people-to-people exchanges.

95. We welcomed Canada's commitment to appoint the first dedicated Canadian Ambassador to ASEAN, as well as the establishment of the Canadian Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta to further enhance the engagement and cooperation of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations. We believed that this will lead to more substantive cooperation between both sides.

ASEAN-China

96. We noted with satisfaction the commitment of ASEAN and China to further strengthening the strategic partnership and welcomed the progress of activities undertaken by both sides to enhance cooperation in a wide range of political-security, trade, investment, and socio-cultural areas to promote peace and stability, prosperity and mutual understanding in the region. We welcomed the commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations in the year 2016.

97. We appreciated China's commitment and constructive initiatives in support of ASEAN Connectivity goals, through diverse cooperation programmes, including enhancing practical cooperation and intensifying people-to-people contacts. We also noted China's One Belt One Road initiative that includes the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road project, which aims at creating greater regional prosperity.

98. We noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement and looked forward to continued engagement between ASEAN and China on aviation cooperation. We also noted the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 13th ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting that looked forward to enhancing cooperation between ASEAN and China including eventually putting in place a liberal and substantial air services framework in support of the upgrading of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement.

99. We also expressed a common desire to expedite the negotiation on upgrading the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area with an aim to achieve our target of USD 1 trillion on trade by 2020.

100. We noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the 2011-2015 Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. We noted the progress made in the negotiation of the Plan of Action (2016-2020) and looked forward to its endorsement by the Foreign Ministers and adoption by the Leaders at the 18th ASEAN-China Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015.

ASEAN-EU

101. We noted with satisfaction the progress of the implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017) that serves as a catalyst which contributes to further strengthening the ASEAN-EU Partnership as well as the fruitful outcomes of the Informal ASEAN-EU Leaders' Meeting held in Milan in 2014 for the first time since 2007, the meeting between H.E. Herman Van Rompuy, former President of the European Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) in November 2014, and the 23rd ASEAN-EU SOM in July 2015 in Brussels. We also welcomed the EU's continuous support for the ASEAN regional integration and Community building process, including enhancing ASEAN Connectivity.

102. We noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in ASEAN-EU Relations and the shared willingness to work towards a Strategic Partnership. We welcomed the interest of the EU in furthering engagement through all ASEAN-led processes.

103. We noted with appreciation the EU's commitments and efforts to further strengthen the ASEAN-EU Partnership and its continued support for the ASEAN regional integration and Community building process. In this regard, we encouraged the EU to increase engagement with and support ASEAN sub-regional cooperative mechanisms and initiatives, including sharing experience regarding sustainable water management between countries in Danube and Mekong regions.

104. We noted the convening of the 4th ASEAN Plus European Union Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC+EU) Consultation on 11 June 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Both sides reaffirmed the commitments to intensify ASEAN-EU cooperation in the fight against terrorism and transnational organised crime.
105. We noted with satisfaction the progress made at the 2nd ASEAN-EU Aviation Working Group Meeting in Yangon in May 2015 and the large degree of compatibility between the principles and objectives of the aviation policies of ASEAN and the EU. We looked forward to a mandate from the EU for the European Commission to start negotiations with ASEAN on an ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement to strengthen air connectivity in support of tourism, trade and investment flows.
106. We looked forward to the 4th ASEAN-EU Business Summit that will be held on 23 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur which is aimed at further strengthening and building opportunities for ASEAN and EU's business communities especially after the launching of the ASEAN Community 2015.
107. We noted the success of the 2nd ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security co-hosted by Malaysia and the EU, and welcomed the Philippines' offer to co-host the 3rd ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security in 2017.
108. We welcomed EU's commitment to appoint the first dedicated EU Ambassador to ASEAN, as well as the establishment of the EU Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta.
110. We appreciated the efforts made by India in deepening ASEAN-India cooperation and strengthening coordination through the appointment of its first dedicated Ambassador of India to ASEAN and the establishment of the Mission of India to ASEAN in Jakarta in April 2015.
111. We looked forward to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the ASEAN-India Centre. We believed the ASEAN-India Centre would serve as a good platform to promote cooperation in various areas and contribute to strengthening ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. Therefore, we looked forward to the early operationalisation of the Centre. We looked forward towards the establishment of the ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre (AITIC) as a platform for ASEAN and India to strengthen the cooperation in trade and investment.
112. We looked forward to the convening of the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN-India Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements and the expeditious conclusion of an ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement, which will enhance air connectivity between and beyond both sides to strengthen trade, investment, business and tourism flows.
113. We acknowledged India's commitment in sharing knowledge and experiences on information and technology, particularly in light of the establishment of Information and Technology Centres in CLMV countries. We encouraged India to gradually establish other Information and Technology Centres in all ASEAN Member States.

ASEAN-India

109. We noted with satisfaction the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015). We looked forward to the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2016-2020) at the ASEAN PMC+1 Session with India to further enhance the ASEAN-India cooperation in the identified areas of mutual interests.

ASEAN-Japan

114. We noted with satisfaction the progress made in ASEAN-Japan relations in the past year. We looked forward to further strengthening the partnership across all areas through the effective implementation of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: Shared Vision, Shared Identity, Shared Future and its Implementation Plan.

115. We value Japan's support for ASEAN Community building efforts, especially through its contribution to the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, narrowing the development gap in ASEAN and enhancing ASEAN's capacity in disaster management, as well as its contributions through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).
116. We noted with satisfaction the progress made at the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN-Japan Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangement in Tagaytay, the Philippines in April 2015. We looked forward to the early conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement based on the principle of meaningful exchange of traffic rights over and above what has been exchanged bilaterally between Japan and each ASEAN Member States, to increase market access substantially.
117. We welcomed the adoption of The New Tokyo Strategy 2015 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation and Japan's efforts in narrowing development gap and promoting peace, prosperity in the Mekong region. We also welcome Japan's initiatives to promote cultural and art cooperation with ASEAN, especially people-to-people exchanges.
118. We acknowledged Japan's ongoing support for the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (AADMER) and collaboration with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) to strengthen the cooperation in disaster management.
120. We noted with satisfaction the progress of implementation of the 2011-2015 Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2010-2015). We looked forward to the adoption of the Plan of Action for the next five years (2016-2020) at the ASEAN PMC+1 with ROK on 5 August 2015.
121. We noted the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund (AKCF) by the ASEAN-ROK Joint Cooperation Committee which will enhance cooperative activities between ASEAN and the ROK in a more impactful and sustainable manner. We welcomed the ROK's commitment to support ASEAN Community building, especially in narrowing development gap and enhancing development cooperation through the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund.
122. We welcomed the convening of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements to be held later in 2015/2016 to discuss the conclusion of an ASEAN-ROK Air Services Agreement. We reiterated the heightened expectations of the ASEAN Transport Ministers for the early conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial air services agreement with the ROK to strengthen air connectivity in support of tourism, trade and investment flows.
123. We looked forward to the establishment of an ASEAN Culture House in Busan, as announced by the ROK last year, as well as to the observance of the ASEAN-ROK Cultural Exchange Year in 2017.
124. We took note the convening of the 19th ASEAN-ROK Dialogue on 28-29 May 2015 in Bali, Indonesia, which both sides agreed to further enhance the engagement and cooperation. We also supported the continued discussion on security related matters in a dedicated agenda within the framework of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue.
125. We welcomed the progress of the ASEAN-ROK Business Council established during the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in 2014. We agreed to promote the development of

ASEAN-Republic of Korea

119. We noted with satisfaction the progress in ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) relations following the momentum set by the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations in December 2014. We are committed to implementing the decisions of the Leaders to further strengthen the partnership across the areas of political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) by fully utilising the ASEAN-ROK Business Council.

126. We are pleased with the ASEAN-Korea Centre's contribution in promoting ASEAN-ROK relations, particularly in trade and investment, culture and tourism, as well as people-to-people contacts.

ASEAN-New Zealand

127. We noted with satisfaction the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration for ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Partnership (2010-2015) and the progress made in the negotiation of the new Plan of Action. We looked forward to adopting the Plan of Action (2016-2020) by the Commemorative Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015.
128. We noted with appreciation the commemorative activities undertaken by New Zealand and ASEAN in conjunction with the convening of the Commemorative Summit to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations. We looked forward to the adoption of the Joint Statement by the Leaders to chart the direction for a more substantive cooperation in the future.
129. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhance dialogue relations and recommended to elevate the ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Partnership to Strategic Partnership. We looked forward to working closely with New Zealand to deepen our two-way cooperation and expand existing programmes, including the Flagship Initiatives to support the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision.
130. We welcomed the establishment of the New Zealand Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta as well as the appointment of a dedicated New Zealand Ambassador to ASEAN as an effort to further enhance the cooperation and in deepening the political, economic and socio-cultural relationship between ASEAN-New Zealand.

ASEAN-Russia

131. We welcomed the proposal to convene the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit in

2016 in Russia, to mark the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations. We agreed that the successful convening of the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit would enhance the substantive cooperation between ASEAN and Russia in the years to come. We also welcomed the proposal to organise activities throughout 2016 to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations.

132. Recognising the significance of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations, we agreed to establish the ASEAN-Russia Eminent Persons Group (AREPG), which would look into ways of broadening and deepening of the ASEAN-Russia cooperation. We also looked forward to the adoption of the terms of reference of the AREPG and the nomination of candidates from both ASEAN and Russia to the Eminent Persons Group.
133. We also noted the progress of the implementation of the Comprehensive Programme of Action (CPA) to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation (2005-2015) and took note of the progress made in the negotiation of the Successor Document to the CPA (2005-2015). We look forward to adopting the Successor Document by the Commemorative Summit in 2016.

ASEAN-United States of America

134. We noted with satisfaction the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration for ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership (2011-2015) and the progress made in the negotiation of the new Plan of Action. We look forward to adopting the Plan of Action (2016-2020) in time for the 27th ASEAN Summit and related Summits in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015.
135. We acknowledged the US' continued support for the ASEAN Community building efforts through various development cooperation programmes, including the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment project (ACTI) and the ASEAN-US Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (ASEAN-US PROGRESS).

136. We appreciated the US' continued support for ASEAN integration and ASEAN community building, especially in enhancing cooperation and capacity building to address regional security challenges, including maritime security, cyber security, climate change and disaster management, and transnational crime including international terrorism, trafficking in person, wildlife trafficking, as well as collaboration to support ASEAN in enhancing its economic competitiveness through development, education and training, women empowerment, entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and youth. We welcomed the US' initiative to enhance aviation relations with ASEAN and looked forward to the development of an ASEAN-US Aviation Cooperation Framework covering comprehensive economic and technical components.
137. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhance dialogue relations and to elevate the ASEAN-US dialogue partnership to a strategic level in recognition of the role of the US in the region and the partnership's importance in sustaining Southeast Asia's rapid economic growth and maintaining peace and stability.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

138. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen ASEAN Plus Three cooperation framework to promote peace, security and prosperity in East Asia noting that this will contribute to the realisation of the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015 and deepen regional integration thereafter.
139. We acknowledged good progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017) especially in the areas of finance, tourism and health cooperation.
140. We noted the ongoing work to follow-up on the recommendations of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II and looked forward to the final report on the assessment and action plans for the selected recommendations to be submitted to the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in November this year.
141. We welcomed the convening of ASEAN Plus Three-related meetings this year and looked forward to their positive outcomes.

East Asia Summit

142. We recognised the important contribution of the East Asia Summit to the maintenance and promotion of peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region. In this regard, we reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political, security and economic issues of common interest and concern with ASEAN playing a central role and driving force based on the principles, objectives and modalities of the EAS as reflected in the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit, the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit, and the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles).
143. Noting that 2015 marks the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the East Asia Summit, we had an extensive discussion on its work processes and areas of cooperation with the aim of strengthening and consolidating the EAS based on the objectives, principles and modalities established by ASEAN, which is an important manifestation of ASEAN's Centrality in the evolving regional architecture. We encouraged greater engagement between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the EAS Missions in Jakarta.
144. We underscored the importance of maritime cooperation in order to effectively manage maritime-related issues in the region, including maritime security, maritime connectivity, freedom of navigation, search and rescue, marine environmental protection, fisheries, energy and food security. We welcomed Indonesia's proposal to deliberate on a standalone EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific for consideration by the EAS Leaders at the 10th EAS in November 2015 in Malaysia.

Applications for Formal Partnership with ASEAN

145. We are pleased to note the growing interest of external parties in pursuing formal partnerships with ASEAN. We agreed to consider the new and official applications in accordance with the guidelines for ASEAN's external relations and undertake the necessary ASEAN processes. In this regard, we reviewed and agreed to Norway's application and granted it Sectoral Dialogue Partner status.

ASEAN Regional Forum

146. We reaffirmed the importance of the ARF as the primary forum for cooperation in political and security issues of common interest and concern in the Asia-Pacific region through dialogue and consultations. We reiterated the need to ensure that the ARF process continues to be relevant in light of the ongoing discussion on regional architecture, with ASEAN at its core. We underlined the need to make this forum more efficient and effective in providing meaningful contribution to address the increasingly complex regional non-traditional security challenges among others through increased synergy between the ARF and various ASEAN-led mechanisms. We welcomed the continued support of all ARF participating countries to ensure successful implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement, as well as all other current work plans under the main priority areas to support ARF's confidence building efforts. We agreed to advance the ARF process towards the Preventive Diplomacy phase in parallel with the strengthening of confidence building measures through the implementation of concrete and practical activities, in line with the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy.
147. We looked forward to the adoption of the draft ARF Work Plans on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Maritime Security, Disaster Relief, and Security of and in the use of communications and technologies. We also looked forward to deepening the synergy and effective coordination within and among the ARF and other ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ADMM Plus to successfully implement the activities contains

in the respective documents. We noted the convening of the 8th ARF Intersessional Meeting on Maritime Security in the Philippines in 2016.

REGIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

148. We reiterated the importance of preserving ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture. In this context, we welcomed the convening of the 4th EAS Workshop and Dialogue on Regional Security Architecture in the Asia-Pacific Region which was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 20-21 July 2015 as a follow-up to the three Workshops held in Brunei Darussalam, Russia and Indonesia. We looked forward to the continued deliberation on a common vision for regional security architecture in the Asia-Pacific that is ASEAN-led and ensures ASEAN Centrality based on ASEAN principles, norms, values and interests. To this end, we requested Indonesia to consolidate the various initiatives by China, India, Russia and Indonesia for further consideration, taking into account Cambodia's discussion paper, by the EAS SOM.

TIMOR-LESTE'S OFFICIAL APPLICATION FOR ASEAN MEMBERSHIP

149. We were encouraged by the progress by the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group (ACCWG) in the consideration of all relevant aspects related to the application by Timor-Leste, as well as its possible implications on ASEAN, and agreed to explore the possibility of Timor-Leste's participation in ASEAN activities within the context of its need for capacity building.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

South China Sea

150. We discussed extensively the matters relating to the South China Sea and remained seriously concerned over recent and ongoing developments in the area. We took note of the serious concerns expressed by some Ministers on the land reclamations in the South China Sea, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea.

151. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, security, stability, and freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. We emphasised the need for all parties to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety: to build, maintain and enhance mutual trust and confidence; to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes; to not to resort to threat or use of force; and for the parties concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

152. We looked forward to the effective implementation of the agreed Early Harvest Measures to enhance mutual trust and confidence as well as to build a conducive environment for the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the region. We tasked our Senior Officials to continue working on this matter, and to further explore other initiatives, in pursuit of these objectives.

153. While noting the progress made in the consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), we reiterated the importance of expeditious establishment of an effective COC. To this end, we welcomed the recent outcome of the 9th ASEAN-China SOM on the Implementation of the DOC whereby they agreed to proceed to the next stage of consultations and negotiate the framework, structure, elements as well as to address crucial, difficult and complicated issues relating to the proposed COC. We, therefore, tasked our Senior Officials to follow up and work closely with China on this matter.

154. Pursuant to the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety, and while the work towards the expeditious establishment of the COC are undertaken, we agreed that preventive measures should be undertaken to address developments in the South China Sea, with the objective, among others, to enhance trust and confidence amongst parties.

155. We took note of Indonesia's proposal to establish a hotline of communications at the high level in the government between ASEAN and China to address emergency situations on the ground that need immediate intervention, which aim to immediately reduce tensions on the ground.

156. We discussed extensively the matters related to the progress of the COC. The Philippines briefed the Meeting on further developments including matters particularly relating to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Situation in the Middle East

157. We reiterated ASEAN's support for the legitimate right of the Palestinian people for an independent state of Palestine and a two-State solution where Palestine and Israel live side-by-side in peace. We called upon Israel and Palestine to constructively engage in peace negotiations. We reiterated our call for all parties to make every effort to remove obstacles related thereto, in particular the construction of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, in order to reach a final status agreement.

Countering extremism and radicalisation

158. We continued to condemn and deplore the violence and brutality committed by extremist organisations and radical groups in Iraq and Syria, whose impact increasingly poses a threat to all regions of the world. In this regard, we denounced all unlawful acts of destruction, violence and terror in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated our commitment of combating terrorism, including our support for UNSC Resolutions 2170 (2014), and 2178 (2014) which called on the international community to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

159. We also reaffirmed our commitment to the full implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, and the relevant provisions of international law and the UN Charter. We will work with the international community in its fight against terrorism, extremism and radicalism and to address its

root causes, including through the promotion of the Global Movement of Moderates.

160. We called for the promotion of religious tolerance and mutual understanding as well as fostering of interfaith dialogue so that adherents of various faiths can build harmonious and mutually beneficial cooperative relationships to address the negative repercussion directed towards moderates as a result of violent extremism.

Developments on the Korean Peninsula

161. We expressed concern over recent developments in the Korean Peninsula including the recent ballistic missile launches and underlined the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security in the region. We highlighted the importance of trust-building activities on the Peninsula and we encouraged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We called for the creation of necessary conditions for the early resumption of Six-Party Talks and the continuous inter-Korean dialogue, which would pave the way for the complete and verifiable de-nuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and Korean reunification.

Iran Nuclear Issue

162. We welcomed the efforts by the parties concerned in reaching a comprehensive nuclear agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/EU+3 (China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) on 14 July 2015 and the UN Resolution 2231 endorsing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) regarding Iran's nuclear programme on 20 July 2015. In this regard, we called for full compliance of the agreement and resolution in order to contribute to peace, security and stability in the region and the world as whole.

The US-Cuba Relations

163. We welcomed the normalisation of the diplomatic relations between the US and Cuba and the re-opening of diplomatic missions in their respective countries on 20 July 2015. We believe that this positive move would be mutually beneficial to the people of both countries as well as contribute to peace, security and stability and enhance cooperation in the region. We called for the timely lifting of all sanctions and embargoes imposed on Cuba.

Group of Twenty (G20)

164. We welcomed the continuous engagement between G20 and ASEAN through the participation of the ASEAN Chair in the G20 processes including the G20 Leaders' Summit. We were pleased that this engagement provides us with the opportunity to work with the G20 in addressing pertinent global and regional issues. In this regard, we looked forward to the G20 Leaders' Summit hosted by Turkey in Antalya in November 2015.

49th ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

165. We looked forward to the convening of the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, Post Ministerial Conference, 17th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting, 6th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting and 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum to be held in Lao PDR in 2016.

ASEAN Ministerial Statement on the Bombing at Ratchaprasong Intersection

Bangkok, Thailand, 25 August 2015

The ASEAN Member States extend their deepest sympathies and condolences to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand and to the families of the victims of the bombing incident at the Ratchaprasong Intersection in Bangkok on the evening of 17 August, which resulted in the loss of lives and injuries.

ASEAN strongly condemns the bombing as it had in the past condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever it is committed.

ASEAN renews its commitment to work with the international community to further intensify its cooperation to combat all forms of terrorism.

ASEAN expresses solidarity with the Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand and supports the efforts to bring the perpetrators of this heinous act to justice.

**Joint Press Release of the
ASEAN Foreign Ministers'
Meeting with the United Nations
Secretary-General and the
President of the 70th Session of
the UN General Assembly**

New York, US, 29 September 2015

ASEAN and the United Nations today reaffirmed their partnership to work towards the realization of the ASEAN Community and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This commitment was made at the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting held at the UN Headquarters in New York, United States of America. Chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, the Meeting was attended by the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the President of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, and other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN. Also in attendance were the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, and senior officials of the UN System.

Noting that 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and a milestone in the establishment of an ASEAN Community, the Meeting welcomed the formal adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals at the Summit on 25-27 September. The two Organisations also looked forward to the Climate

Change Summit in Paris in December. ASEAN welcomed various reviews by the UN in peace and security, including by the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, and the UN looked forward to the presentation of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision in the near future.

The Meeting welcomed the progress in the cooperation within the framework of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN and also endorsed the recommendations of the ASEAN-UN Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting held on 26 September 2015 as reflected in the 2013-2015 Joint Report submitted by the Secretariats of ASEAN and the UN.

Both sides agreed to redouble efforts to enhance the efficiency of ASEAN-UN cooperation through a more coordinated approach, strategic and long-term planning, and stable funding sources. They agreed to strengthen concrete cooperation in each pillar of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership, including Secretariat-to-Secretariat collaboration. They also agreed to work on a five-year plan of action to implement the Joint Declaration in the post-2015 period, to be finalised in the first quarter of 2016.

The Meeting further recognised the importance of considering the implementation of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision alongside the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to complement one another, particularly in reducing poverty and hunger, tackling inequalities and promoting women empowerment, fostering sustainable economic growth and equitable social development, protecting the environment, ensuring peoples' access to clean water and clean air, minimizing adverse impact of climate change and building effective institutions to achieve sustainable and inclusive development as well as in enhancing the collaboration between the UN and its specialised agencies with various ASEAN's mechanisms and institutions.

The United Nations reaffirmed its continued support to ASEAN's post-2015 community building and ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architectures. The Meeting also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concerns, such as peacekeeping and conflict prevention, combatting international terrorism and preventing violent extremism,

addressing transnational crime including drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, the irregular movement of persons, disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, food and energy security, global health issues, and inclusive and sustainable development. The Meeting also affirmed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes, including in the South China Sea, through dialogue and in conformity with international law.

The Meeting looked forward to the upcoming Seventh ASEAN-United Nations Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where the Leaders will formally review the Comprehensive Partnership and chart its future course towards the common goals of peace, security, and sustainable development.

The Meeting welcomed ASEAN's continuing efforts to engage with the UN and, in this connection, noted that candidatures from ASEAN have been submitted to the UN bodies, reflecting ASEAN's continuing interest to contribute positively to the work of these bodies and to multilateralism in general.

ASEAN Ministerial Statement on the Multiple Attacks

Paris, France, 17 November 2015

ASEAN Member States strongly condemn the multiple barbarous attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015, which resulted in the loss of more than a hundred innocent lives and injuries.

ASEAN extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the Government of France and to the families of the victims of the attacks.

ASEAN expresses its solidarity with the Government of France in bringing the perpetrators of these heinous acts to justice. At the same time, ASEAN stands united with the Government of France and remains resolute in its continued fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)

Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Maintaining Regional Security and Stability for and by the People

Langkawi, Malaysia, 16 March 2015

WE, the Defence Ministers of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, gathered here in Langkawi, Malaysia on 16 March 2015 for the Ninth ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "ADMM");

RECALLING the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) adopted at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009 in Thailand that reaffirms the commitment to establish an ASEAN Community comprising the three pillars of political-security community, economic community and socio-cultural community;

COGNISANT of the importance to strengthen and sustain ASEAN integration and community building towards the creation of a people-centred and people-oriented ASEAN, and the further need to develop ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, including the ADMM and ADMM-Plus' inputs to chart ASEAN's ongoing efforts for regional integration;

RECALLING the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) on 17 November 2011, which calls for a strengthened ASEAN Community with the ASEAN Charter as the foundation, while upholding the fundamental principles, values and norms of ASEAN;

RECALLING the establishment of the ADMM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May 2006 as a significant milestone for the evolution of ASEAN security

and defence cooperation in contributing towards building the ASEAN Political-Security Community;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the ADMM to enhance defence cooperation among ASEAN Member States and with the Plus countries to contribute towards the realisation of an ASEAN Community, including the ASEAN Political-Security Community by 2015;

COMMENDING the substantial achievements of the ADMMPlus process in forging practical cooperation, through the six ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Maritime Security, Military Medicine, Counter-Terrorism, Peacekeeping Operations and Humanitarian Mine Action;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN Member States' commitment to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, and the Joint Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of the DOC, and ready for expeditiously working towards an early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC);

NOTING with satisfaction the significant progress and results that have been made in the area of defence and security cooperation since the ADMM and ADMM-Plus were established in 2006 and 2010, respectively;

ADHERING to the principle of ASEAN centrality, where ASEAN is the driving force in the ADMM-Plus to deal with security issues and non-traditional threats;

EXPRESSING satisfaction with the positive results of the 9th ADMM, which was held in Langkawi, Malaysia on 16 March 2015 under the theme "ASEAN: Maintaining Regional Security and Stability for and by the People" in keeping with the goals of a people-centred, people-oriented ASEAN and ASEAN togetherness;

RECOGNISING AND COMMENDING the outcomes of the 12th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces' Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 10 February 2015, including the discussion and proposal to formalise

ACDFIM and to enhance practical cooperation of ASEAN militaries;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significant role as played by the militaries in HADR and the opportunity for a more coordinated and effective deployment;

OBSERVING the various mechanisms in place that tackle similar security issues and acknowledging the limited financial and human resources available;

AGREEING to the hosting of the Second ASEAN Defence Interaction Programme (ADIP) by Malaysia which aims at networking and strengthening cooperation among the young officers in the military and defence establishments;

NOTING the hosting of the ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration (ADIC) Networking Programme in March 2015 by Malaysia which aims to promote collective industrial collaboration and reduce defence imports by ASEAN;

COMMENDING the progress and achievements of the Establishment of Logistics Support Framework which provides an ideal opportunity for ASEAN Member States to share ideas among disaster management practitioners;

COMPLIMENTING the progress of cooperation under the ASEAN Defence Establishments and CSOs Cooperation on Non-Traditional Security issues;

COMMENDING the progress of cooperation under the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network (APCN) and its potential for closer and constructive cooperation;

COMMENDING the efforts and progress in Establishing a Direct Communications Link in the ADMM Process for secure and effective communication;

NOTING the development of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Utilisation of Military Assets for HADR Under the Framework of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) at ACDFIM, and its relevance as input for Chapter VI of the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response

Operation (SASOP) for a faster and more coordinated facilitation of provision of assets in HADR operations;

ACKNOWLEDGING the role of Track II defence diplomacy as played by the Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institution (NADI) in providing relevant inputs and recommendations in addressing emerging defence and security challenges;

NOTING with serious concern the rise of violence and brutality committed by the self-declared Islamic State and other terrorist/extremists organisations and radical groups in Iraq and Syria, and condemning all terrorist acts of destruction and violence as carried out by these and other terrorist/extremist organisations and radical groups, whose impacts increasingly poses a threat to all regions of the world;

ACKNOWLEDGING the ASEAN Member States' support in the search and rescue operation of the Indonesian and Malaysian-affiliated Air Asia flight QZ 8501, and expressing deepest condolences and sympathies towards the families of the victims;

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Contribute towards the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision and the attendant documents to promote the role of the ADMM and the ADMM-Plus in consolidating the ASEAN Community and maintaining regional peace and stability;
2. Affirm, with regard to military missions on nontraditional security issues such as HADR, that actions shall be in accordance with ASEAN's principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of assisted states, and that participation of ASEAN Member States shall be on the basis of flexible, voluntary and non-binding nature;
3. Adopt the Guidelines to Respond to the Request for Informal Engagements or Meetings by the ADMM-Plus Countries, which will serve as a further guidance for ASEAN Member States in engaging with Plus Countries;
4. Adopt the Concept Paper on ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on HADR that serves as a complementary document in support of AADMER, and as a conceptual guidance and umbrella document for subsequent

implementing instruments to provide for a more coordinated and concerted quick deployment of the militaries in facilitating disaster relief, and task the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM) to work out the operational details and modalities for its implementation;

5. Adopt the concept paper on the establishment of the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM), which establishes practical, effective, and sustainable cooperation among military medical services of member states, and task ADSOM to work out the operational details and modalities for its implementation;
6. Endorse the SOP for the Utilisation of Military Assets for HADR and subsequently transmit to the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) as a constructive input for Chapter VI of SASOP in providing for a more systematic utilisation of militaries' capacities in joint disaster relief operations;
7. Adhere to the principles of the United Nations Charter and urge the no first use of force in dealing with disputes as a measure to prevent conflicts in the region and to promote security and stability;
8. Continue enhancing practical cooperation in countering non-traditional and transnational security concerns and developing coordinating mechanisms for military participation as outlined by the ADMM Three-Year Work Programme 2014 to 2016;
9. Endeavour towards streamlining and improving work processes of different security platforms for more economical and efficient outcomes;
10. Strengthen the constructive ties between ASEAN Member States and between ASEAN Member States and the Plus countries to contribute to regional peace and security;
11. Support and enhance the activities of practical cooperation among the ASEAN Member States under the ADMM initiatives;
12. Deepen practical cooperation through the six ADMMPlus EWGs to strengthen the region's capacity and effectiveness in addressing common security challenges at a pace comfortable to all while maintaining ASEAN centrality;
13. Underscore the importance of freedom of navigation in, and over-flight above, the South China Sea as provided for by universally recognised principles of international law,

including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

14. Undertake practical measures such as protocol of interaction and direct communication channels to reduce vulnerability to miscalculations and to avoid misunderstanding and undesirable incidents at sea;
15. Cooperate in accordance with both domestic and international law, including the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, to counter the imminent threat of terrorist/extremist organisations and radical groups through information sharing, increasing surveillance and promoting awareness among the public about the threat of radicalism;
16. Welcome the Lao People's Democratic Republic's Chairmanship of ASEAN and its hosting of the 10th ADMM in 2016.

DONE at Langkawi, Malaysia, this Sixteenth Day of March in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
PEHIN DATU SINGAMANTERI COLONEL (RTD)
DATO SERI SETIA (DR) HAJI MOHAMMAD
YASMIN HAJI UMAR
Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
GENERAL TEA BANH
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense

For the Republic of Indonesia:
GENERAL (Ret.) RYAMIZARD RYACUDU
Minister of Defence

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
LIEUTENANT GENERAL SENGNOUANE
SAYALAT
Minister of National Defense

For Malaysia:
DATO' SERI HISHAMMUDDIN TUN HUSSEIN
Minister of Defence

For the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
LIEUTENANT GENERAL WAI LWIN
Union Minister for Defence

For the Republic of the Philippines:
VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN
Secretary of National Defense

For the Republic of Singapore:
DR. NG ENG HEN
Minister for Defence

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
GENERAL PRAWIT WONGSUWON
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
GENERAL PHUNG QUANG THANH
Minister of National Defence

ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM)

Joint Communique of the 9th ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM)

Bali, Indonesia, 22 October 2015

1. The Ninth ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) was held on 22 October 2015 in Bali, Indonesia.
2. The Ministers expressed appreciation to H.E. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia for officiating the Meeting and delivering his Opening Remarks. In his remarks, H.E. Jusuf Kalla highlighted the even greater role ALAWMM has to support the attainment of economic prosperity in the region of ASEAN. He went on to say that this depends not only on strong economic-related legal frameworks, but also greatly depends on criminal justice legal framework. He also recognised that rule of law is the key factor to progress the endeavor of ASEAN in accelerating ASEAN integration and attaining its goals. He noted that ALAWMM's tasks in promoting progressive development of international law within ASEAN region but it has never been an easy task. Therefore, he encouraged the Ministers to take the appropriate course of action for ALAWMM

to work closely with other sectoral bodies of ASEAN, and also take a proactive step to engage in cooperation with other regional and international organisations in order to provide a robust legal and institutional framework for sustainable economic growth.

3. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Yasonna H. Laoly, Minister of Law and Human Rights, Republic of Indonesia and attended by H.E. Datin Seri Paduka Hayati Salleh, Attorney General of Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Ngor Sovann, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Ket Kietisak, Vice-Minister of Justice, Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E. Hajah Nancy binti Shukri, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia, H.E. Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Attorney-General, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Francisco F. Baraan III, Undersecretary, Department of Justice, Philippines, H.E. Tan Siong Thye, SC, Deputy Attorney-General, Republic of Singapore, H.E. Gen. Paiboon Koomchaya, Minister of Justice, Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Nguyen Khanh Ngoc, Vice-Minister of Justice of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and H.E. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.
4. The Ministers reviewed the progress of the implementation of cooperation programmes and activities under the purview of the ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) since their last meeting on 4-5 November 2011 in Cambodia. They took note of updates on the implementation of various initiatives of ALAWMM such as ASEAN Government Law Directory, ASEAN Legal Information Authority (ALIA), ASEAN Government Legal Officers' Programmes (AGLOP) and Exchange of Study Visits.
5. The Ministers were encouraged by achievements in the area of combating transnational crimes, in particular the ratification by all ASEAN Member States of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Among Like-minded ASEAN Member Countries (MLAT) and also the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons which will soon be signed by the ASEAN Leaders. The Ministers noted the progress of work by the ASLOM Working Groups on the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty; Examining Modalities for Harmonisation of ASEAN Trade Laws; and Strengthening Judicial Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters among ASEAN Member States.
6. The Ministers noted the preliminary work of ASLOM in relation to Maritime Security and Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Environment, and the positive exchange of views on the Liberalisation of Legal Professions in ASEAN Member States.
7. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to work towards elevating the MLAT into an ASEAN instrument while taking note of the consensus that has been reached by the 5th Meeting of Attorneys-General/Ministers of Justice/Ministers of Law of the parties to the MLAT.
8. The Ministers acknowledged the work of the Working Group on the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty and urged the Working Group to expedite their deliberation and finalise the text of the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty at their next meeting that will be hosted by Singapore. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that ASEAN Member States shall endeavour to make extradition mechanisms available between them, taking into consideration the principles set out in the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty where appropriate, and the possibility for a legally binding ASEAN Extradition Treaty.
9. The Ministers encouraged ASEAN Member States to consider the possibility of acceding to the Hague Convention on Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents.
10. The Ministers noted new ALAWMM's initiatives and proposals that are being implemented and/or developed can significantly contribute to the ongoing efforts to strengthen legal and institutional framework of ASEAN and its Member States, aiming to transform ASEAN into a more rules-based community. They were pleased to note that through an initiative of ALAWMM, the judiciaries in ASEAN Member States have also gathered among

themselves in the Court Excellence and Judicial Cooperation Forums to share best practices and exchange views of common concern and interest in anticipation of the ASEAN Community 2015 and beyond.

11. The Ministers took note with keen interest of developments in ASEAN, in particular in the area of law and legal developments and cooperation. They were pleased with ASEAN's success in the implementation of integration agenda and realisation of the ASEAN Community comprising ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) by the end of 2015.
12. The Ministers noted the progress on the development of ASEAN agenda beyond 2015, and expressed their readiness to support the decisions and visions of ASEAN Leaders as set out in the proposed ASEAN Community Vision 2025. To this end, the Ministers pledged their commitment to contribute more to the ASEAN Community in the area of law and legal matters.
13. The Ministers reviewed the work of ASLOMM and endorsed the reports of the 15th ASLOM held on 4-5 December 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and the 16th ASLOM held on 19-20 October 2015 in Bali, Indonesia.
14. The Ministers thanked Malaysia for offering to host the 17th ASLOM in 2017 and Lao PDR for offering to host the 18th ASLOM and the 10th ALAWMM in 2018.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)

Chairman's Statement of the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (EAMMTC) Concerning Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2 July 2015

1. ASEAN Ministers overseeing the responsibilities of combating transnational crime and Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam met in Kuala Lumpur on 2 July 2015 for the convening of the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (EAMMTC) concerning Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia. The Meeting was also attended by the Secretary-General of ASEAN and Brunei Darussalam as the current Chairman of the Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM).
2. The Meeting was presided by Hon. Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Bin Hamidi, Minister of Home Affairs, Malaysia. The purpose of the Meeting was to provide a platform for ASEAN Member States to discuss the issue of irregular movement of persons and its connection with the crime of trafficking in persons and people smuggling. The Meeting's objective was to find a feasible regional solution for ASEAN Member States to collectively deal with this issue.
3. The Meeting discussed on three (3) main issues mainly (i) the Scenario on the Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia (by land and sea); (ii) the Connection between

Irregular Movement of Persons with Human Trafficking and People Smuggling; and (iii) Plan of Action/Way Forward to resolve these issues.

4. The Meeting noted the presentations from representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on their overviews concerning the recent trends on irregular movement of persons in the Southeast Asia and connection between irregular migration and the crime of trafficking in persons and people smuggling.
5. The Meeting further noted the presentation from the representative of the U.S. State Department on the Government of U.S. readiness to cooperate with ASEAN on capacity building, enhancement of law enforcement cooperation and to provide expert advisory services on irregular migration.
6. The Meeting have resolved to:
 - (i) Task SOMTC to consider including people smuggling as one of the transnational crimes under the purview of SOMTC and AMMTC and to work in tandem with the DGICM on this issue.

Look forward to the current discussion in the DGICM on irregular movement of persons including the possibility of establishing a Special Task Force or Heads of Specialist Unit on this issue;
 - (ii) Strengthen law enforcement efforts to combating trafficking in persons and people smuggling as well as other forms of transnational crime at the national and regional level, among others, through the sharing of information and intelligence sharing and, where appropriate, the establishment of a special investigative taskforce;
 - (iii) Utilise the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters to ensure that ASEAN Member States are well-equipped to prosecute perpetrators of the heinous crimes of trafficking in persons and people smuggling, and bringing

such perpetrators to justice through due process;

- (iv) Conduct analysis and studies on the irregular movement of persons in the Southeast Asia and its connection with trafficking in persons and people smuggling as well as other forms of transnational crime with a view to assist ASEAN Member States in their efforts to address the long-term impact of this issue;
- (v) Develop and implement together with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies comprehensive regional communication campaigns to send a strong message to the community to prevent irregular migration that is closely linked to trafficking in persons and people smuggling;
- (vi) Strengthen cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and related International Organisations in combating trafficking in persons and people smuggling, including through law enforcement cooperation, sharing of information and expertise, exchange of intelligence and capacity building;
- (vii) Support the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by the ASEAN Secretariat for voluntary contributions from ASEAN Member States and members of the international community to support the humanitarian and relief efforts involved in dealing with challenges resulting from irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia;
- (viii) Recommend the ASEAN Leaders to task relevant ASEAN bodies to explore the possibility of setting up a Task Force to respond to crisis and emergency situation arising from irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia; and
- (ix) Look forward to the early adoption of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children (APA) at the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) in September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

7. The Meeting appreciated the initiative of the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand to convene, and particularly the Government of Malaysia for hosting the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (EAMMTC) concerning Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia.

Joint Statement of the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (10th AMMTC)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
29 September 2015**

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers from Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, responsible for overseeing the prevention and combating of transnational crime in our respective states, gathered here in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 29 September 2015 for the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as the AMMTC) to consolidate and further strengthen regional cooperation in combating transnational crime. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for the 10th AMMTC on 28 September 2015. The 10th AMMTC was chaired by Hon. Dato' Seri' Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Malaysia.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the 15th SOMTC and Its Related Meetings, the 36th ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) and the 19th Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM).
3. We took note of the outcomes of the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters on 3rd December 2014, Jakarta, Indonesia and welcomed the institutionalisation of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters and the convening of the 4th Meeting in Langkawi, Malaysia from 27-29 October 2015.
4. We also took note of the report of the 35th ASEANAPOL (ASEANAPOL-XXXV) in Jakarta, Indonesia from 3-7 August 2015.
5. We exchanged views during the Retreat and agreed upon the following:
 - i. Convene the AMMTC annually beginning 2017;
 - ii. Consider holding consultations with other Dialogue Partners in order to enhance regional cooperation to combat transnational crime;
 - iii. Noted the progress on the development of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Trust Fund to Support Emergency Humanitarian and Relief Efforts for the Victims of the Irregular Movement of Persons and tasked the SOMTC to finalise the document;
 - iv. Enhance coordination with the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters on addressing the challenges posed by drug trafficking and its linkages with other aspects of transnational crime;
 - v. Endorse illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber and people smuggling as new areas under our purview; and
 - vi. Welcomed Malaysia's offer to convene a conference to discuss the scope of non-traditional maritime security issues/crime.
6. We endorsed the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA).
7. We adopted and signed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime.

8. We also adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia.
9. We welcomed the convening of the 11th AMMTC in Myanmar in 2017.
10. We expressed our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Malaysia for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this Meeting.

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
29 September 2015

WE, the ASEAN Ministers from Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, responsible for overseeing the prevention and combating of transnational crimes in our respective states, gathered here in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 29 September 2015 for the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as the AMMTC);

RECALLING the outcomes of the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (EAMMTC) Concerning the Irregular Movement of Persons in the Southeast Asia Region, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 2 July 2015;

NOTING the outcomes of the Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean held on 29 May 2015 in Bangkok to discuss the irregular movement of persons among the countries involved;

CONCERNED over the recent increase in the irregular movement of persons in the Southeast Asia region and its serious impact on the national security of the affected countries namely Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia;

RECOGNISING irregular movement of persons as a global phenomenon which requires concerted effort to address in accordance with the principle of international burden sharing and shared responsibility;

ACKNOWLEDGING the commitment and the need for ASEAN Member States to work together to address the irregular movement of persons irrespective of whether they are the countries of origin, transit or destination;

RECOGNISING the urgency of the current situation which requires immediate regional responses;

VIEWING the increasing challenges posed by the irregular movement of persons in this region, particularly the close connection between trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants;

STRONGLY CONDEMNING trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants while expressing the collective determination of the ASEAN Member States to combat both crimes;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in addition to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, the irregular movement of persons could also contribute to the commission of other forms of transnational crime;

RECOGNISING the need for coordinated responses amongst the ASEAN Member States in addressing the issues of trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and related transnational crime, including enhanced regional cooperation on border management;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the need to expedite the adoption of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children (APA);

AFFIRMING the commitment to cooperate and coordinate more closely with the Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) on the issue of smuggling of migrants;

WELCOMING the offer by ASEAN Dialogue Partners on aspects of assistance in capacity building, and enhancement of law enforcement cooperation, including expert-level advisory services; and

DO HEREBY AGREE TO:

1. Include people smuggling as one of the transnational crimes under the purview of SOMTC and AMMTC and to work in tandem with the DGICM on this issue;
2. Look forward to the discussions in the DGICM on irregular movement of persons including the possibility of establishing a Special Task Force or Heads of Specialist Unit on this issue;
3. Strengthen law enforcement efforts in combating trafficking in persons and people smuggling as well as other forms of transnational crime at the national and regional level, among others, through the sharing of information and intelligence and, where appropriate, the establishment of a special investigative taskforce;
4. Utilise the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters to ensure that ASEAN Member States are well-equipped to prosecute perpetrators of the heinous crimes of trafficking in persons and people smuggling, and bringing such perpetrators to justice through due process;
5. Conduct analysis and studies on the irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia and its connection with trafficking in persons and people smuggling as well as other forms of transnational crime with a view to assist ASEAN Member States in their efforts to address the long-term impact of this issue;
6. Develop and implement, together with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, comprehensive regional communication campaigns to send a strong message to the community to prevent irregular migration that is closely linked to trafficking in persons and people smuggling;
7. Strengthen cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and related International Organisations in combating trafficking in persons and people smuggling, including through law enforcement cooperation, sharing of information and expertise, exchange of intelligence and capacity building;
8. Endorse the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by the ASEAN Secretariat for voluntary contributions from ASEAN Member States and members of the international community to support the humanitarian and relief efforts involved in dealing with challenges resulting from the irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia;
9. Recommend to the ASEAN Leaders to task relevant ASEAN bodies to explore the possibility of setting up a Task Force to respond to crisis and emergency situation arising from irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia; and
10. Look forward to the early ratification of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the effective implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA).

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on this Twenty-Ninth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
30 September 2015**

In line with the relevant ASEAN instruments and Roadmap for an ASEAN Community relating to trafficking in persons, there is a need to have strong international cooperation and a comprehensive regional approach to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in all forms of sexual, labour, and organ trafficking. This ASEAN Plan of Action, which complements the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), aims to provide specific action plans within ASEAN Member States' domestic laws and policies, as well as relevant international obligations, to effectively address regional challenges common to all ASEAN Member States in the identified major concerns, to wit: (1) Prevention of trafficking in persons; (2)

Protection of victims; (3) Law enforcement and prosecution of crimes of trafficking in persons; and (4) Regional and International cooperation and coordination.

In undertaking this ASEAN Plan of Action, ASEAN Member States are mindful of the equal rights and inherent human dignity of women, and men, as well as the rights of children, as reflected in the following international and regional instruments, among others:

1. Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ("ASEAN Charter");
2. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
3. Convention on the Rights of the Child;
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
5. United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;
6. ASEAN Human Rights Declaration;
7. ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children adopted in 2004;
8. Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons: Ending Impunity for Traffickers and Securing Justice for Victims in 2007 ("ASEAN Practitioner Guidelines");
9. ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia in 2011; and
10. ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime.

II. Challenges

Based on the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, there are generally three (3) types of trafficking in persons. These are sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and organ trafficking. In some ASEAN Member States, not all of these three types of trafficking are criminalised, while in some, no specific laws on trafficking in persons have been adopted.

While some ASEAN Member States are considered countries of destination, others are considered countries of origin and transit. Depending on whether they are origin, transit or destination countries, the challenges, national priorities, and strategies of ASEAN Member States are different. Nonetheless, they share a common interest and commitment in preventing and combatting trafficking in persons.

Common challenges among the ASEAN Member States include:

1. Alleviating the factors that make persons, especially women and children vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as organised crime, government corruption, poverty, different levels of social economic development, economic instability, inefficient law enforcement and legal systems, and discouraging the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons especially women and children that leads to trafficking;
2. Having appropriate legislation to effectively combat trafficking in persons;
3. The need to enhance capabilities of frontline officers for early detection and prevention of movements of victims of trafficking from countries of origin, through transit countries, to countries of destination;
4. The proper identification of victims and provision of suitable protection to them;
5. The need to improve investigation and prosecution of traffickers, especially relating to complex trafficking in persons cases;
6. The need to enhance direct communication and coordination between and among competent authorities of ASEAN Member States; and
7. The lack of effective regional legal and other mechanisms to further international cooperation in combatting trafficking in persons.

III. Objective

The ASEAN Member States seek to effectively address these challenges so as to progressively prevent, suppress and punish all forms of trafficking in persons including the protection and assistance to victims of trafficking in the region and work towards an enhanced comprehensive and coordinated regional approach to achieve this objective.

IV. Action Plans

We, Member States of the ASEAN resolve to translate our political will into concrete actions by adopting a Plan of Action to:

1. Strengthen the rule of law and border control among ASEAN Member States;
2. Intensify efforts to prosecute trafficking in persons cases; and
3. Strengthen regional cooperation based on shared responsibilities to effectively address demand and supply that fosters all forms of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking.

A. Prevention of Trafficking in Persons

- a. Increase awareness campaigns to educate all levels of society on trafficking in persons and its linkage to violation of human rights, targeting those most at risk with effective involvement of mass media, relevant non-governmental organisations, private sectors, and community leaders;
- b. Continue capacity building of law enforcement, immigration, education, social welfare, labour and other relevant officials in the prevention of trafficking in persons, taking into account the need to respect human rights, child and gender-sensitive issues, and encourage cooperation, where appropriate, with civil society, non-governmental organisations and other relevant organisations;
- c. Put in place effective mechanisms and ensure their proper implementation to effectively prevent the movement of traffickers and victims of trafficking in persons through appropriate border control systems, issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through measures that prevent counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents;
- d. Enhance cross-border cooperation and sharing of intelligence and exchange of information to disrupt the operations of traffickers;
- e. Adopt and implement appropriate labour laws or other mechanisms that promote and protect the interests and rights of workers to reduce their risk of being trafficked;
- f. Adopt and ensure implementation of national action plans, where applicable, to identify and prioritise key policies and programmes aimed at preventing trafficking in persons, and strengthen the implementation and coordination and monitoring mechanisms of such plans;
- g. Conduct or support research studies on relevant topics to be used by ASEAN Member States in combatting trafficking in persons and collect suitable data to enable analysis and better understanding of the nature and extent of trafficking in persons both nationally and regionally;
- h. Develop national data collection systems in relation to trafficking in persons and methods of exchange of such data between and among ASEAN Member States with a view to developing a regional database for trafficking in persons;
- i. Utilise existing regional guidelines as well as develop or strengthen national guidelines for the identification of victims of trafficking in persons, including applying appropriate and non-discriminatory measures that help to identify victims of trafficking in persons among groups who are more susceptible to trafficking. The early detection of possible cases of trafficking in persons will allow swift responses to deter and prevent trafficking in persons and minimise the exploitation of victims;
- j. Increase and support prevention efforts in each ASEAN Member States by focusing on discouraging both the demand and supply that fosters the exploitation of persons, especially women and children that leads to trafficking;
- k. In the case of cross-border trafficking, to explore how the country of origin can implement intensive preventive measures in cooperation with the receiving country who can provide useful information gathered from the victim of trafficking; and
- l. Strengthen prevention measures to discourage demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that

leads to trafficking, including to protect victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, from revictimisation.

B. Protection of Victims

- a. Reaffirm that the promotion and protection of human rights for all victims of trafficking and effective measures to respond to trafficking in persons are complementary and mutually reinforcing;
- b. In line with Article 14, Paragraph 10 of the ACTIP, continue development of appropriate care, protection and support for victims of trafficking in persons;
- c. Provide specialised services to identified victims of trafficking in persons, consistent with the ACTIP and other relevant international instruments, including access to health services, such as for the purpose of prevention, treatment, care and support services for HIV and AIDS and other bloodborne and communicable diseases for those victims of trafficking in persons that have been sexually exploited, taking into account the fact that trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation has serious, immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health;
- d. Subject to domestic laws, rules, regulations and policies, and in appropriate cases, consider not holding victims of trafficking in persons criminally or administratively liable, for unlawful acts committed by them, if such acts are directly related to the acts of trafficking in persons;
- e. Ensure that there are avenues for victims of trafficking in persons, with particular attention to child victims, to be provided with protection, assistance and services for the physical, psychological, social recovery and rehabilitation in cooperation with non-governmental organisations and other relevant organisations and sectors of civil society, where appropriate, such as the establishment of a network of service providers to provide for medical care, counselling, education and training opportunities, legal aid and translation services;

- f. Develop and utilise an appropriate procedure for the rescue, protection, recovery, repatriation, and reintegration of the victim into his or her family and community, in accordance with domestic laws, with particular attention to child victims;
- g. Ensure that domestic legal or administrative systems include measures to provide information to victims of trafficking in persons, in a language they understand, regarding their legal rights and the relevant court and administrative proceedings and facilitate their access to assistance in order to enable their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of such proceedings against offenders in a manner not prejudicial to the rights of the defence, consistent with the ACTIP;
- h. Recognise the important role of civil society organisations in each ASEAN Member States in providing assistance and empowerment to victims of trafficking in persons, helping them to seek redress and facilitating the care of and provision of appropriate services to victims, including close cooperation and coordination with law enforcement officials.

C. Law Enforcement and Prosecution of Crimes of Trafficking in Persons

- a. Establish trafficking in persons as a criminal offence, consistent with Article 5 of the ACTIP;
- b. Develop pro-active investigation methods and where appropriate, to conduct surveillance and other pro-active measures to gather evidence to establish a case to prosecute trafficking in persons cases even without the testimony of victims;
- c. Enhance efforts to investigate alleged cases of trafficking in persons, strengthen the means to combat trafficking, prosecute the perpetrators, including through more systematic use of freezing assets for the purpose of eventual confiscation in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the ACTIP, and ensure that penalties are proportionate to the gravity of the crime;

- d. Designate specialised prosecutors and establish prosecutorial specialised units that will handle trafficking in persons cases, where applicable;
- e. Prosecute crimes of trafficking in persons that encompass all forms of exploitation and enact, enforce and strengthen legislation that criminalises all forms of trafficking in persons, especially women and children;
- f. Combat and prosecute organised criminal groups engaged in trafficking in persons, in accordance with domestic laws;
- g. Investigate, prosecute and punish corrupt public officials who engage in or facilitate trafficking in persons and promote a zero-tolerance policy against those corrupt officials consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime;
- h. Continue the development of suitable and effective protection mechanism for witnesses of trafficking in persons, where appropriate;
- i. Ensure the liability of all categories of perpetrators of trafficking in persons, including the liability of legal persons and entities as appropriate, in line with the ACTIP;
- j. Waive, to the extent possible under domestic laws, immigration fees to facilitate the entry and stay of the victim of trafficking in persons temporarily in the territory of an ASEAN Member States for purposes of testifying or otherwise cooperating in the prosecution of traffickers;
- k. Intensify capacity building, where appropriate, of law enforcers, prosecutors, judges, immigration officers, foreign service officers, labour inspectors, social welfare officers and other relevant personnel involved in combatting trafficking in persons;
- l. Strengthen the information-sharing, investigation and prosecution processes for cases of trafficking in persons, including the setting up of specialised enforcement teams, encouraging joint enforcement between domestic agencies and fast-tracking the investigation and prosecution of serious or

aggravated cases, especially at the regional level.

D. Regional and International Cooperation and Coordination

- a. Strengthen the Heads of Specialist Units (HSU) mechanism within ASEAN;
- b. Utilise existing international mechanisms, including INTERPOL tools and resources such as INTERPOL database;
- c. Strengthen the coordination and cooperation among ASEAN Member States in combatting crimes that might be connected with trafficking in persons, including money laundering, corruption, smuggling of migrants and all forms of organised crime;
- d. Strengthen the operational cooperation between ASEAN Member States, in accordance with their domestic laws and bilateral or multilateral agreements, joint investigation teams to be put together by the concerned ASEAN Member States, where appropriate;
- e. Strengthen capacity building activities for the purposes of improving the preparation and receiving of requests relating to mutual legal assistance, extradition and cross-border law enforcement cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons;
- f. Render to one another the widest possible measure of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters to prosecute and punish crimes of trafficking in persons in accordance with the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and bilateral undertakings;
- g. Utilise international cooperation, including through mutual legal assistance in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, and consistent with domestic laws and regulations of each ASEAN Member States, to ensure the effective investigation, prosecution and confiscation of assets relating to trafficking in persons;
- h. Strengthen and enhance collaboration and coordination among the ASEAN platforms dedicated to facilitating cooperation among

ASEAN Member States in combating trafficking in persons, including the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the HSU Meeting, taking into account the relevant work undertaken by other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;

- i. Promote mutually beneficial collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations to combat trafficking in persons, including through the provision of technical and sustainable funding assistance by Dialogue Partners and relevant organisations aimed at strengthening the collective and individual capacities of ASEAN Member States in combatting all forms of trafficking in persons;
- j. Enhance cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and other international organisations on trafficking in persons to strengthen the region's capacity to effectively combat trafficking in persons and provide assistance to victims of trafficking in persons;
- k. Improve capacity building as a very important component in combatting trafficking in persons and encourage and enhance coordination and coherence within ASEAN;
 1. Identify focal points to facilitate communication, data sharing and exchange of information on trafficking in persons to strengthen prevention and protection policies and programmes among ASEAN Member States;
 2. Promote cooperation and coordination among governmental institutions, civil society organisations, private sector, media, and all relevant stakeholders, to strengthen prevention and protection policies and programmes.
- l. Enhance and continue the development of regional guidelines, in light of national and bilateral guidelines, to combat trafficking in persons by strengthening coordination partnership, and international cooperation and implement effectively the relevant existing guidelines.

V. Implementation Mechanism

1. Endeavour to incorporate the relevant programmes and activities of this Plan of Action into the respective ASEAN Members States' national plans of action against trafficking in persons to ensure its success.
2. The SOMTC, supported by the SOMTC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, will oversee the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action.

Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
30 September 2015**

WE, the ASEAN Ministers from Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, responsible for overseeing the prevention and combating of transnational crimes in our respective states, gathered here in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 30 September 2015 for the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as the AMMTC);

REAFFIRM our commitment to the aims and purposes of ASEAN as set forth in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967;

BEARING IN MIND the purpose and the specific objectives of the 1997 ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime and the 1999 ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime;

EMPHASISE the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, which reflect the desire and collective will of our people to live in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, enjoying sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress;

SATISFIED WITH the implementation of the relevant provisions in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2015, that stipulates our commitment to strengthen cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues, particularly in combating transnational crimes and other transboundary challenges;

ACKNOWLEDGE that all ASEAN Member States have ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT);

NOTE the good progress made in the implementation of the provisions of these Conventions;

REAFFIRM also our commitment to the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT);

ACKNOWLEDGE the emergence of new forms of transnational crimes including those closely linked to the issue of irregular movement of persons;

RECOGNISE the continued need to be vigilant and address effectively and in a timely manner, existing and emerging transnational and trans-boundary challenges and threats that have the potential to undermine the stability and well-being of each Member States and the peoples of our region; and

REITERATE our commitment to combat the areas of transnational crimes under the purview of AMMTC and the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), namely terrorism; illicit drug trafficking; trafficking in persons; arms smuggling; sea piracy; money laundering; international economic crime; and cybercrime;

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Reaffirm the commitment of Member States to continue to cooperate closely in efforts to prevent and combat transnational crimes;
2. Convene the AMMTC on an annual basis for regular consultations due to the rapid progress and evolution of transnational crime issues, including the emergence of new forms of transnational crimes;
3. Convene emergency ministerial sessions, if necessary, to respond immediately and effectively to imminent challenges and threats of transnational crimes;

4. Endorse illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber and people smuggling as new areas of transnational crimes under the purview of the AMMTC;
5. Support the work towards the elevation of the MLAT to an ASEAN Treaty;
6. Support the work of the ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALAWMM) to enhance cooperation on the issue of extradition;
7. Promote enhanced cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and external parties;
8. Preserve the central role of ASEAN and the region's interests in appropriate regional frameworks and mechanisms, including those with ASEAN's external parties, established to prevent, address and combat transnational crimes;
9. Expand the scope of responsibility where necessary to effectively address new methods and forms of transnational crimes;
10. Continue to effectively implement the ACCT, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on CounterTerrorism (ACPoA on CT) and the SOMTC Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime;
11. Encourage ratification of existing international legal instruments designed to serve as legal frameworks in combating transnational crimes;
12. Consider the formulation of regional legal instruments and harmonisation of relevant national policies, laws and regulations among ASEAN Member States to further strengthen regional efforts to combat transnational crimes;
13. Endorse the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and encourage its early ratification and its effective implementation, and also endorse the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA);
14. Initiate the formulation of a new ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime;
15. Encourage the effective implementation of the relevant provisions on combating transnational crimes identified in the post-2015 APSC Blueprint;

16. Strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system, including judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, through cooperation within ASEAN and with relevant regional and international organisations;
17. Enhance cooperation and coordination among ASEAN law enforcement operational as well as intelligence units responsible for tackling transnational crimes;
18. Streamline and improve work processes including coordination with other ASEAN bodies under the APSC pillar, namely the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting; ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters; ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting; ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights; as well as with ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus and the ASEAN Regional Forum; and other ASEAN sectoral bodies to ensure effective implementation of decisions;
19. Strengthen cross-sectoral coordination and improve information sharing with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies under the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community pillars on issues pertaining to combating transnational crimes including through, *inter alia*, enhancing cooperation on border management information sharing, and intelligence exchange; and
20. Collaborate and implement effective information exchange with all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, media and civil society in combating transnational crimes.

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Thirtieth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
PEHIN DATO (DR) MOHAMMAD YASMIN UMAR
Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
POLICE GENERAL MR EM SAM AN
Secretary of State of the Ministry of Interior

For the Republic of Indonesia:
POLICE GENERAL BADRODIN HAITI
Chief of the Indonesian National Police

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
BRIGADIER GENERAL SOMKEO SYLAVONG
Minister of Public Security

For Malaysia:
DATO' SERI DR AHMAD ZAHID HAMIDI
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs

For the Republic of the Union Myanmar:
BRIGADIER GENERAL KYAW KYAW TUN
Deputy Minister of Home Affairs

For the Republic of the Philippines:
PETER IRVING CORVERA
Undersecretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government

For the Republic of Singapore:
MASAGOS ZULKIFLI BIN MASAGOS MOHAMAD
Second Minister for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
SUTEE MARKBOON
Deputy Minister of Interior

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
PROF DR GENERAL TRAN DAI QUANG
Minister of Public Security

Chairman's Statement of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (SAMMRRVE)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
2 October 2015**

1. ASEAN Ministers overseeing the responsibilities of combating transnational crime and Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist

Republic of Viet Nam met in Kuala Lumpur on 2 October 2015 for the convening of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (SAMMRRVE). The Meeting was also attended by the Deputy-Secretary General of ASEAN.

2. The Meeting was presided over by the Hon. Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Malaysia. The purpose of the Meeting was to provide a platform for ASEAN Member States to exchange experiences, views and ideas on the best practices in handling the issues of radicalisation and violent extremism, particularly in Southeast Asia. The holding of this meeting is consonant with the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2178 adopted on 24 September 2014 which requires all United Nations Member States to take concrete steps to address the threats posed by Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) by building community resilience in countering violent extremism to prevent terrorism.
3. The Meeting deliberated on three (3) main issues, namely, (i) the Challenges in Dealing with Radicalisation and Violent Extremism; (ii) Rehabilitation/Reintegration; and (iii) Regional Cooperation to Counter Radicalisation and Violent Extremism.
4. The Meeting noted the challenges and the concrete measures taken by the respective ASEAN Member States in dealing with the aspects of radicalisation and violent extremism encompassing promulgation of new laws, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and activities to engage as well as to create awareness among civil society, the private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).
5. The Meeting further noted the presentations by the representatives from ASEAN Member States on their experiences, methods and approaches to the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of radicalised or extremist individuals.

6. The Meeting has resolved to:

Call upon ASEAN Member States to speak up against and reject extremism and support moderation in line with the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of the Moderates adopted on 27 April 2015. The Langkawi Declaration aims to promote moderation and tolerance as core values for the region and its peoples to ensure that it would continue to be a peaceful and prosperous region.

Counter radicalisation and violent extremism in all forms and manifestations that lead to terrorism, including preventing radicalisation, financing, recruitment and mobilisation of individuals into terrorist groups.

Place strong emphasis on the aspect of deradicalisation in rehabilitation and reintegration programs as part of comprehensive measures in countering terrorism, besides applying force or punitive measures, so as to ensure that radicalised or extremist individuals are ready to reintegrate into society as well as to prevent 'relapse' or their return to militant/terrorist activities;

Conduct analyses and studies on the factors, including root causes, that create a conducive environment for the spread of radicalisation and violent extremism in Southeast Asia with a view to assisting ASEAN Member States by providing them with a better understanding to effectively address both issues that could lead to terrorism;

Develop programmes to counter violent extremism that build trust and strengthen cooperation between communities vulnerable to radicalisation and the Police. These initiatives might focus on community-police relations such as through community policing. Additionally, ASEAN Member States should also develop more community-based approaches to countering radicalisation and violent extremism;

Develop and implement, together with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, comprehensive regional communication campaigns to counter terrorist narratives through all information and communication technologies aimed at denying radicals and extremist proponents the means and opportunities to pursue extremist/terrorist activities and promote their misconstrued ideologies;

Strengthen cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and related International Organisations through exchange of experiences, views and ideas including best practices in handling the issues of radicalisation and violent extremism.

The Meeting appreciated the initiative of the Government of Malaysia in convening the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (SAMMRRVE).

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD)

Chairman's Statement of the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD)

**Langkawi, Kuala Lumpur,
29 October 2015**

1. The Fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (4th AMMD) was held on 29 October 2015 in Langkawi, Malaysia. The Honourable Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Malaysia officiated and chaired the 4th AMMD. The Meeting was attended by ASEAN Ministers responsible for drug matters, the Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Political-Security Community Department, Heads of Anti-drugs Agencies and their respective delegations.
2. The Ministers recognised the achievements and progress made in the fight against drugs, through the first three AMMDs. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) and its five working groups for their efforts towards achieving the common regional aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN.
3. The Ministers also welcomed the institutionalisation of AMMD at the 26th ASEAN Summit on 27 April 2015. The institutionalisation of AMMD will ensure high-level political commitment to the fight against drugs and provide strategic guidance to the work of ASOD.
4. The Ministers expressed grave concern about the escalating threat of the production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs in the region. The Ministers therefore re-affirmed their strong commitment and readiness to enhance regional cooperation and to continue their relentless work in mitigating the scourge of illicit drugs.
5. The Ministers appreciated the work of the UNODC Regional Survey titled *Drug Free ASEAN 2015: Evaluation and Recommendations Post-2015* and took note the recommendations outlined to be used as an ASEAN internal reference document to develop the Post-2015 ASOD Work Plan.
6. The Ministers agreed to pursue the aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN and endorsed ASOD's proposal to establish a post-2015 *Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use*. ASOD will adopt a balanced approach, involving both demand and supply reduction measures, and strengthen the areas of enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, research and alternative development. The Ministers welcomed Indonesia's proposal to host a workshop to develop the Post-2015 ASOD Work Plan.
7. Notwithstanding the progressive developments achieved at the national and regional level, the Ministers shared their concerns about the following:
 - a. Increased opiate drug production in the Golden Crescent;
 - b. Threat of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and diversion of precursors that continue to flow into this region;
 - c. Increased threat of synthetic drugs, particularly New Psychoactive Substances, and the challenges posed to law enforcement.
8. The Ministers noted the following measures that have been made to address these concerns by:

- a. Eliminating illegal crop cultivation, engaging communities whose livelihoods depend significantly on such cultivation, and providing sustainable alternatives to these communities;
 - b. Improving prevention efforts and access to treatment and rehabilitation of drug users, and ensuring that they receive appropriate standards of care for their reintegration into society;
 - c. Tackling the illicit precursor trafficking and international drug syndicates, high value targets and profits of drug crime through robust, targeted actions by enforcement agencies;
 - d. Increasing collaborative efforts among ASEAN Member States and its Dialogue Partners; and
 - e. Promoting awareness of the danger of illicit drugs through preventive anti-drug education campaigns and adopting the green-and-white ribbon as the region's symbol of our commitment to a Drug-Free ASEAN.
9. The Ministers recognised the importance of continuous education campaigns, especially for youth and high risk groups, as these groups are vulnerable to drug abuse. Hence, effective education campaigns are necessary to raise awareness of these vulnerable groups on the danger of drug abuse.
 10. The Ministers commended the efforts made by the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF) and the ASEAN-Narcotics Coordination Centre (ASEAN-NARCO) to strengthen cooperation among members. These efforts have contributed to the aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN. These efforts are important as they prevent our regional trade routes from being exploited for illicit purposes, as the region moves towards closer integration. Hence, the Ministers also look forward to the expansion of operational cooperation in seaport and border interdiction to tackle drug syndicates and activities. The Ministers welcomed the hosting of the ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF) in Indonesia in 2016.
 11. The Ministers called on all Member States to continue their efforts to improve treatment and rehabilitation programmes, with consideration for scientific and evidence-based practices. The involvement of families, communities and NGOs in such programmes is highly recommended.
 12. The Ministers agreed and endorsed the ASEAN Position, appended at the Annex of this Chairman's Statement, to be reflected in a Statement to be delivered at the 59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in March 2016, and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem in April 2016. This ASEAN Statement will reaffirm ASEAN's commitment to a zero-tolerance approach in realising its aspiration for a Drug-Free ASEAN, and to the three international drug control conventions, which should continue to serve as the basis for the world drug policy.
 13. The Ministers requested the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015 to endorse the proposal for ASEAN to submit a Joint Statement at the 59th Session of the CND in March 2016 and the UNGASS 2016.
 14. The Ministers welcomed the offer by Singapore to host the 5th AMMD in 2016.
 15. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality, in keeping with ASEAN's journey towards a region of "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".

ASEAN Position Statement

**Langkawi, Kuala Lumpur,
29 October 2015**

1. The following position statement represents a united ASEAN approach, which was endorsed and adopted by the Ministers at the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (4th AMMD) held in Langkawi, Malaysia on 29 October 2015. We also recommend that the key points of this position statement be incorporated into the Chairman's Statement at the AMMD,

and form the basis of an ASEAN statement to be delivered at the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem, to be held at the UN Headquarters from 19 to 21 April 2016. We also propose that these key points be included in each ASEAN Member State's individual country statement at UNGASS:

- a. Zero-tolerance Approach against Drugs. ASEAN embraces a zero-tolerance approach against drugs. Zero-tolerance means that we strongly commit to suppress and eliminate the scourge of drugs and condemn its abuse in our society. Failure to deal with the drug problem undermines society, and presents a threat to national security and the rule of law, socio-economic development and the sustainable livelihood of citizens. Drug abuse affects not just the abuser but also his family and the community. While some drug-related support services may be implemented, ASEAN is committed to a zero-tolerance approach to realise its regional vision of a Drug-Free ASEAN, so as to provide our people and communities with a society free from drug abuse and its illeffects.
- b. Comprehensive and balanced approach towards drugs: ASEAN's approach to the drug problem has been to address it in a comprehensive, balanced and holistic manner, involving both demand and supply reduction measures. Upstream preventive measures, as well as downstream enforcement and intervention measures, are necessary to address the drug problem. The successful rehabilitation and reintegration of drug addicts into society are just as important as taking a tough stance against drug traffickers and those who wish to profit off drug addicts.
- c. Support the centrality of the international drug control conventions and stand firm against drugs, including being resolute against calls to legalise controlled drugs: ASEAN is of the view that the existing three international drug control conventions¹, as well as other relevant

international instruments, should continue to serve as a basis for the world drug policy, and continue to remain relevant in meeting the challenges of drug control in the 21st century. ASEAN has observed drug policy reforms recently undertaken by some countries which seek to decriminalise the consumption of controlled drugs or even to legalise the consumption of controlled drugs. While we respect that these countries have taken the approaches of decriminalisation and legalisation domestically given their own circumstances, these approaches should not be imposed on other countries.

- d. Sovereign right of each country: Each country has the sovereign right and responsibility to decide on the best approach to address the drug problem in their country, taking into account the historical, political, economic, social and cultural contexts and norms of its society. The transnational challenges posed by the world drug problem should be addressed with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, and the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of States. Every Government and its citizens should be free to decide for themselves on the most appropriate approach to tackle its own drug problem. There is no one-size-fits-all approach towards addressing the drug issue, as each country has its own unique set of challenges.
- e. Ready to work closely with other regions: Despite the progress achieved by ASEAN Member States at the national and regional level since the target of a "Drug Free ASEAN 2015" was set at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok in July 2000, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2014 research findings on South-East Asia still showed an alarming drug situation. In this regard, ASEAN expresses grave concerns about the escalating threat of production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs in and throughout South-East Asia. ASEAN therefore re-affirms its commitment to take collaborative and cooperative operational measures with other regions to a higher

¹ The three main international drug conventions are: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

level, as part of a global collaborative effort to address and mitigate the scourge of illicit drugs.

- f. Supporting the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND): ASEAN remains firm in supporting the role of the CND as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of international drug control and as the governing body of the UNODC's drug programme.
2. Apart from the above key points, the 36th ASOD proposes that the Chairman's Statement at the 4th AMMD include the following recommendations:
 - a. ASEAN Member States are encouraged to be represented at the highest-level for UNGASS 2016;
 - b. ASEAN Member States to deliver a joint ASEAN Statement at UNGASS in April 2016 and the 59th Session of the CND in March 2016, in addition to each Member State's individual country statement; and
 - c. That the 4th AMMD seeks the support and endorsement of the ASEAN Leaders at their November 2015 Summit for the position statement and recommendations above.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

Chairman's Statement of the 22nd ASEAN Regional Forum

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 6 August 2015

1. The Twenty-Second Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 6 August 2015. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Hj. Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers and Representatives of all ARF participants. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The list of delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

Overview of the ARF Process

3. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the ARF as the primary forum to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interests and concerns in the Asia-Pacific region.
4. The Ministers also acknowledged the vital role of the ARF in the evolving regional security architecture. In this regard, the Ministers emphasised the importance of ensuring that the ARF process, with ASEAN at its core, continues to be relevant in light of the on-going discussion on regional architecture.
5. The Ministers underlined the need to make the ARF more efficient and effective in providing a meaningful contribution to address the increasingly complex regional traditional and non-traditional security challenges. Towards this end, the Ministers underscored the need to ensure comprehensive implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement, as well as all other current work plans under the respective priority areas to support the ARF's confidence building efforts.
6. The Ministers recognised that the ARF has made significant progress in the evolution of the ARF's three-stage process from Stage 1: promotion of Confidence Building Measures to Stage 2: development of Preventive Diplomacy and in time, Stage 3: Conflict Resolution. In particular, the Ministers welcomed the advancement of the ARF process towards the phase of Preventive Diplomacy in parallel with the strengthening of confidence building measures.
7. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to implement the Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan and undertake activities consistent with the ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the growing number of initiatives aimed at building regional preventive diplomacy capacities with the view to creating a pool of experts that appreciate the uniqueness of this region. The Ministers recognised the diversity of the Asia-Pacific countries and their different security concerns. In this regard, the

Ministers emphasised that all ARF participants should work together to explore ways to implement preventive diplomacy that would contribute towards the maintenance of peace and security of the region consistent with the ARF Work Plan of Preventive Diplomacy as adopted by the Ministers.

Highlights of Discussions on Regional and International Issues

8. The Ministers noted the outcome of the 26th ASEAN Summit convened in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi on 26 and 27 April 2015. The Summit with the theme “Our People, Our Community, Our Vision” had highlighted the significant progress in the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015 as well as in developing the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision and its Attendant Documents for 2016-2025. The Ministers also noted the ASEAN Leaders’ adoption of three documents namely: the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on a People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN; the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates; and the Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change.
9. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in the Southeast Asia (TAC) as a key code of conduct governing interstate relations and recognised its significance as a foundation for the promotion of peace and stability in the region. The Ministers underscored the importance of a regional security architecture that is comprehensive, open, inclusive, transparent and sustainable as well as creates opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation.
10. The Ministers recognised the significance of the year 2015, which marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the World War II and the establishment of the United Nations (UN). The Ministers stressed the importance of maintaining international peace and security with the UN as its core, abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter as well as universally recognised norms and principles of international law.
11. The Ministers reiterated the importance of strengthening the international cooperative efforts in nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy. In this regard, the Ministers of the State Parties to the NPT regretted that consensus was not achieved on a final document at the 2015 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Review Conference. The Ministers of the State Parties to the NPT reaffirmed their commitment to the NPT and the importance of a regional dialogue in the implementation of the commitments and undertakings from the past Review Conferences. The Ministers recognised that transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) and progress on global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation can play a role in improving the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of preserving the Southeast Asia region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty or Bangkok Treaty. The Ministers expressed support for the implementation of the Treaty as an effective instrument in promoting and strengthening nuclear non-proliferation, called upon all members of the international community to respect and safeguard the purpose and objectives of the SEANWFZ and noted the on-going efforts of States Parties and the Nuclear Weapon States to resolve outstanding issues, pertaining to the signing and ratification of the Protocol to that Treaty.
12. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, respect for international law, unimpeded lawful commerce, freedom of navigation and over-flight, including in the South China Sea. The Meeting discussed matters relating to the South China Sea and took note of the serious concerns expressed by some Ministers over the recent and on-going developments in the area, including land reclamation which have resulted in the erosion of trust and confidence amongst parties, and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea. The Ministers called on all parties to exercise

self-restraint in the conduct of activities, and avoid actions that would complicate or escalate tension. The Meeting stressed the importance of resolving disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with international law including 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Ministers noted the commitment of ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. The Meeting welcomed the recent agreement between ASEAN Member States and China to proceed to the next stage of consultations towards the establishment of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) and looked forward to the expeditious establishment of the COC.

13. The Ministers underlined the importance of peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula and emphasised the need to manage the dispute peacefully. The Ministers reiterated calls to de-escalate tension and refrain from taking any counterproductive moves. Most Ministers called on the DPRK to comply fully with its obligations to all relevant UNSC Resolutions. They further emphasised on the need for parties to fulfil commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. The Ministers encouraged all efforts to have constructive engagement, including under the ambit of ARF, towards the resumption of the Six-Party Talks that would pave the way for the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. The Ministers also supported the reunification of the two Koreas including through the continuation of the inter-Korean talks and cooperation and reiterated the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns.
14. The Ministers condemned the violent and barbaric acts of the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and called for concerted efforts to counter this threat. The Ministers reiterated their strong support and commitment to implementing UNSC Resolutions 2170, 2178 and 2199 and recalled the issuance of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Violence and Brutality Committed by Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria on 28 January 2015. Efforts must be increased to counter violent extremism

by collaborating closely with stakeholders and strengthening intelligence and security cooperation. The Ministers fully supported the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates, adopted at the 26th ASEAN Summit on 27 April 2015.

15. The Ministers supported efforts to address the humanitarian crisis caused by the irregular movement of people in South, Southeast Asia and the Mediterranean. The Ministers commended the on-going work of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the trilateral meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 20 May 2015 between Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia and the Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean on 29 May 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand which discussed the plight of the irregular migrants in the Indian Ocean and developed recommendations for cooperation to save the lives of migrants, address root causes, and develop responses to address irregular maritime migration. In this regard, the Ministers underlined the importance of on-going dialogues to address the complex and multi-dimensional issues related to irregular migration. The Ministers also welcomed the outcomes of the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (EAMMTC) held in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 2 July 2015 concerning Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia and further supported the establishment of a voluntary trust fund to support the humanitarian and relief efforts involved in dealing with challenges resulting from irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia.
16. The Ministers welcomed the historic agreement reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015 on a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the E3/EU+3 (China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) and the Islamic Republic of Iran which would ensure that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively peaceful. The JCPOA signifies a shift in how diplomatic efforts can bring an end to a 13-

year old stand off on Iran's nuclear program. The Ministers urged all parties to fulfil their respective obligations and implement the agreement in good faith and expeditiously. The Ministers called on the international community to support the implementation of this Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action which can positively contribute to regional and international peace and security.

17. The Ministers emphasised the need for the international community to continue the support and assistance to the Government of Afghanistan. The Ministers expressed support for the peace and reconciliation efforts undertaken and led by the Government of Afghanistan. The Ministers highlighted the importance of continued humanitarian and development assistance as the government continues to implement its reform programme.
18. The Ministers reiterated calls for a comprehensive, just and sustainable solution towards peace in the Middle East. The Ministers also stressed the urgent need for all parties to work towards a resumption of the direct negotiations between the parties and to pursue a two-state solution with a Palestinian state and Israel living side-by-side in peace and security with their neighbours. The Ministers urged for the early resumption of negotiations on the Middle East Peace Process.
19. The Ministers expressed their concern over the continuing situation in Ukraine. The Meeting called on all sides to fully implement the Minsk agreements including the Package of Measures for their implementation signed on 12 February 2015 in Minsk and reiterated that resolution of the situation in eastern regions of Ukraine can only be achieved through a peaceful settlement to the current crisis. The Ministers emphasised that adherence to the United Nations Charter, including the obligation to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, is of paramount importance in maintaining international peace and security.
20. The Ministers welcomed the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba and the re-opening of diplomatic missions in their respective countries on 20

July 2015. The Ministers believed that this positive move would be mutually beneficial to the peoples of both countries as well as contribute to peace, security, and stability and enhance cooperation in the region.

21. The Ministers reiterated the support to the government of Iraq in its efforts to achieve national reconciliation and underscored the key role of the reconciliation process for the achievement of a lasting peace, security and stability in the Republic of Iraq. The Ministers expressed their deep concern on the on-going violence and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria. The Ministers supported the efforts aimed at promoting a political and diplomatic settlement of the crisis in Syria on the basis of the Geneva Final Communiqué of the 30 June 2012.

Review of Activities of the Current Inter-Sessional Year (2014-2015)

22. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the contribution of the ARF as an effective multilateral platform to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interests and concerns in the Asia-Pacific region through the implementation of ARF Track 1 activities for the inter-sessional year of 2014/2015. The Ministers commended the work of the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting (ARF SOM) held in Kuching, Sarawak on 10 June 2015 and the Meetings of ARF Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ARF ISG on CBMs and PD) co-chaired by Malaysia and Japan that were held in Melaka, Malaysia on 2-3 December 2014 and in Tokyo, Japan on 8 May 2015. The Ministers noted the reports and endorsed the recommendations made in the reports which appear as **ANNEX 2**, **ANNEX 3** and **ANNEX 4**.
23. The Ministers welcomed the contributions made by the defence officials and emphasised the importance of defence and security cooperation in the ARF process. The Ministers appreciated the increased engagement among the defence officials in streamlining and improving the synergies between ARF and other regional mechanisms such as the

ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus. The Ministers expressed continued support to defence officials' role in the ARF process through the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD), ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) and the ARF Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM). In this regard, the Ministers noted the reports of the recent ARF DOD, the 12th ASPC and the 18th HDUCIM, which appear as **ANNEX 5**, **ANNEX 6** and **ANNEX 7**.

24. In line with the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs and with the view to streamline the work of the ARF, the Ministers decided to conduct a trial run of convening one ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in the inter-sessional year 2015/2016 and for the frequency of the ARF DOD to be reduced from three (3) to two (2) beginning from the intersessional year 2015/2016 to further strengthen the ARF process.

25. The Ministers welcomed the results of the:

- 14th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR), co-chaired by Myanmar, China and Japan, in Tokyo, Japan on 12 and 13 February 2015;
- 9th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting (EEPs), co-chaired by Singapore and the European Union, in Helsinki, Finland from 11-13 March 2015.
- 13th ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC), co-chaired by Thailand and China, in Nanning, China on 14 and 15 May 2015;
- 7th ARF ISM on Maritime Security (ISM on MS), co-chaired by The Philippines, Japan and the United States, in Honolulu, Hawaii from 30 March - 2 April 2015; and
- 7th ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD), cochaired by Malaysia, Canada, New Zealand, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 15 and 16 June 2015.

The reports of these meetings appear as **ANNEX 8**, **ANNEX 9**, **ANNEX 10**, **ANNEX 11**, and **ANNEX 12**.

26. The Ministers welcomed the conduct of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercises 2015 (ARF DiREx 2015), co-chaired by China and Malaysia, held in Kedah and Perlis, Malaysia from 24-28 May 2015. The ARF DiREx contributed towards strengthening civilian-military coordination and supported the effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) at the strategic level through a Table Top Exercise (TTX) and at the tactical and operational level through the Field Training Exercise (FTX). The Ministers noted that the exercises had highlighted the critical role to be played by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) as the operational arm of AADMER in coordinating ASEAN's collective response. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report appears as **ANNEX 13**.

27. The Ministers also noted with satisfaction, the following ARF Track 1 Activities which were successfully conducted in the inter-sessional year 2014-2015 and encouraged officials to implement appropriate outcomes and recommendations:

- ARF Workshop on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response, cochaired by The Philippines and the United States, in Manila, The Philippines, from 26-28 August 2014;
- Initial Planning Conference (IPC) of the ARF DiREx 2015, co-chaired by Malaysia and China in Kedah, Malaysia from 9-11 September 2014;
- 18th ARF Heads of Defence Universities/ Colleges/Institutions Meeting, co-chaired by Myanmar and Republic of Korea, in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 22-25 September 2014;
- ARF Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation Training Event and Regional Lessons Learned Workshop, co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and European Union, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam from 7-10 October 2014;
- ARF Training Course on Preventive Diplomacy, co-chaired by Thailand, China, New Zealand and the United

States, in Beijing and Nanjing, China from 13-19 October 2014;

- 2nd ARF Workshop on Space Security, co-chaired by Indonesia, Japan and the United States, in Tokyo, Japan on 9 and 10 October 2014;
- ARF Workshop on Earthquake Relief and Emergency Response, cochaired by Malaysia and China, in Beijing and Kunming, China from 23-27 November 2014;
- ARF Seminar on Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs) Security, cochaired by Indonesia and China, in Beijing, China from 7-9 December 2014;
- Final Planning Conference (FPC) of the ARF DiREx 2015, co-chaired by Malaysia and China, in Kedah, Malaysia from 3-5 February 2015;
- ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Cooperation to Address Challenges Posed by Illicit Drugs, co-chaired by Thailand and New Zealand, in Bangkok, Thailand on 11 and 12 February 2015;
- ARF Workshop on Precursor Chemicals and Synthetic Drugs, cochaired by Thailand and Canada, in Bangkok, Thailand on 12 and 13 February 2015;
- ARF Seminar on Counter-Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia, cochaired by Malaysia and Japan, in Tokyo, Japan on 3 and 4 March 2015;
- ARF Workshop on Security, Stability and International Migration in the ASEAN Region, co-chaired by Myanmar and the United States, in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 10 and 11 May 2015;
- ARF Workshop on Counter Radicalisation, co-chaired by Malaysia and Japan in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 25 and 26 March 2015;
- ARF Workshop on Combating Wildlife Trafficking in Asia, co-chaired by Malaysia and the United States, in Sabah, Malaysia, from 30 March and 1 April 2015;
- ARF Workshop on Multi-Year Strategic Exercise Planning, co-chaired by Malaysia, Australia and the United States,

in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 9 and 10 April 2015;

- ARF Track 1.5 Symposium on Preventive Diplomacy, co-chaired by Thailand, New Zealand and the United States, in Bangkok, Thailand on 1 and 2 July 2015; and
- ARF Workshop on Cyber Security Capacity Building, co-chaired by Malaysia and China, in Beijing, China from 28-30 July 2015.

Programme of Work for the next Inter-Sessional Year (2015-2016)

28. The Ministers reaffirmed the commitment to continue strengthening efforts for confidence building measures while at the same time continue to promote preventive diplomacy. The Ministers underlined the importance of exploring preventive diplomacy suited to the region based on agreed ARF PD principles as enshrined in the ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy adopted in 2001.
29. The Ministers welcomed Lao PDR and India as the next Co-Chairs of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD and ARF DOD in the Inter-Sessional year 2015/2016.
30. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) to further advance the ARF process through their recommendations and feedback. In this regard, the Ministers noted the recommendations made by the ARF EEPs at their 9th Meeting in Helsinki, Finland on 11-13 March 2015. The Ministers welcomed Singapore and Australia as the Co-Chairs of the 10th ARF EEPs Meeting for the inter-sessional year 2015/2016.
31. The Ministers reiterated the importance of continuing to promote Confidence-Building Measures while progressing in implementing Preventive Diplomacy including through Preventive Diplomacy training and were pleased with the range of initiatives proposed in support of the work of the ARF. The Ministers welcomed the progress of discussion on the possible scope of implementation of preventive diplomacy in the region, which has been well elaborated in the recent years.

32. The Ministers reaffirmed that all proposed ARF activities should first be discussed at the ISG/ISM level and endorsed at the ARF SOM before they are brought for the consideration of the ARF Ministers. The Ministers encouraged the respective Co-Chairs of activities to manage the schedule of their respective activities with the view to convene them prior to the ARF SOM. In this regard, the Ministers approved the List of Track 1 Activities for the Inter-Sessional Year 2015/2016 which appears as **ANNEX 14**.

33. The Ministers agreed to adopt:

- ARF Statement on Strengthening Cooperation on Marine Environmental Protection and Conservation;
- ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs);
- ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017;
- ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2015-2017; and
- ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2015- 2017.

Future Direction of the ARF Process

34. The Ministers welcomed Lao PDR as the next Chair of the 23rd ARF, beginning 1 January 2016.

35. The Ministers reiterated the importance of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement as the guiding document for the ARF process to move forward towards an 'action-oriented' forum, at a pace comfortable to ARF participants. In this regard, they commended the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat for its effort in preparing the Matrix of the Status of the Implementation of the POA. The Ministers encouraged stronger commitment of the ARF participants to implement action lines of the POA. The Matrix appears **ANNEX 15**.

36. Recognising the importance of intensifying ties between Track 1 and Track 2 to strengthen the work of the ARF, the Ministers reaffirmed the need to strengthen partnership with Track 2

organisations. The Ministers welcomed the active role played by the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), which had made valuable contributions to the ARF process among others through the publication of CSCAP Security Outlook and various memoranda for the consideration of Track 1 officials.

37. The Ministers encouraged the involvement of ARF EEPs as well as Track 2 Officials at the relevant ARF Meetings/Activities. The Ministers also encouraged the convening of Track 1.5 initiatives, which could serve as an exploratory approach in discussing complex political and security issues in support of the role of the ARF as the primary platform for dialogue and consultation.

38. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the active role of the ARF EEPs in supporting the progress of the ARF in particular to serve as resource persons to the ARF on issues of relevance to their expertise. In this regard, the Ministers tasked the officials to deliberate on the recommendations submitted by the ARF EEPs with the view to turn them into concrete initiatives for consideration in the next intersessional year.

39. The Ministers commended the work of the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat in supporting the 22nd ARF Chair, Co-Chairs of ISMs and other ARF-endorsed activities. Taking into account the increasing activities under the ARF ambit, the Ministers reiterated their support for strengthening the ARF Unit with necessary resources and manpower, as part of the on-going efforts to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat itself.

40. The Ministers expressed their commitment to support ARF initiatives and at the same time recognised the need to encourage complementarity between the work of ARF with other ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ADMM-Plus, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and the East Asia Summit (EAS). The Ministers tasked the officials to deliberate on practical steps to ensure better coordination and synergy of efforts among the various mechanisms with

the view to enhancing complementarity of initiatives, avoid straining of resources and unnecessary duplication of efforts.

41. The Ministers welcomed the publication of ARF Annual Security Outlook (ARF ASO) 2015 and shared the view that it is an essential instrument for the promotion of confidence building and mutual understanding through greater transparency among the ARF participants.



ASEAN Economic Community

III. ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM)

Joint Media Statement of the 21st ASEAN Economic Minister's Retreat

**Kota Bharu, Malaysia,
28 February-1 March 2015**

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) expressed confidence that the region's economies will maintain their momentum in 2015 despite the global economic and geopolitical challenges. They emphasised that the deepening economic integration in the region would serve as a buffer in helping ASEAN progress and prosper.
2. They made these remarks at the 21st ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat held on 28 February to 1 March 2015 in Kota Bharu, Malaysia. The Retreat was chaired by Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Malaysia's Minister of International Trade and Industry. Malaysia is the Chair of ASEAN for 2015.

Economic Outlook for ASEAN

3. "We expect ASEAN's economic performance to improve in 2015 to 5.1%, above the 3.5% global growth projection. We based this on the stronger demand in advanced economies, energised by the robust US recovery and several policy stimulus measures in the Eurozone and Japan. Also, the region's domestic demand could get a further boost from falling oil prices with higher purchasing power for consumers, lower input costs for producers and greater fiscal space," the Ministers said.
4. They cautioned, however, that falling oil prices could affect export earnings and government revenue for net oil-exporting economies in ASEAN. The Ministers also highlighted the concern posed by currency volatility, including possible capital flow reversals.

5. "This is where the implementation of ASEAN's regional economic integration can help Member States overcome the challenges posed by global economic volatility. In 2013, intra-ASEAN trade amounted to USD 608.6 billion, accounting for 24.2% of total trade of the region, compared with USD 458.1 billion in 2008 when the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint was first implemented. Similarly, total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to ASEAN amounted to USD 122.4 billion in 2013, representing the highest FDI flows into a region, globally. Intra-regional FDI accounted for a significant share of 17.4% of total FDI flows into the region in 2013," the Ministers further elaborated.

Establishing the ASEAN Economic Community

6. The Ministers welcomed the steady progress made in implementing the AEC Blueprint, in particular the key measures prioritised by Member States. "Benefits are already flowing to ASEAN businesses and consumers, from significant tariff liberalisation, progress in trade facilitation measures such as self-certification, simplification of customs procedures, and the Mutual Recognition Arrangements on the movement of skilled professionals in the region. ASEAN has also put in place legal structures on competition, consumer protection and intellectual property, contributing to an improved environment for business".
7. "The formal establishment of the AEC by end-2015 marks a major milestone in ASEAN's effort to fulfil the goal of an integrated region, encapsulated under the rubric of One Vision, One Identity, One Community. The implementation of the AEC measures does not mean that ASEAN will become a single economic entity by 1 January 2016, rather it sends a strong signal that positive measures have been put in place towards a more liberalised and integrated economic region," the Ministers added.
8. The Ministers highlighted that the focus for this year would be on further simplification of Customs procedures, harmonisation of

standards, further liberalisation of services, enhanced trade facilitation, and conclusion of the services and investments portion of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership. The Ministers also discussed the progress in developing the SME Strategic Action Plan, with a specific focus on micro and small enterprises, and the promotion of globally accepted regulatory practices.

Pushing Ahead with Regional Trade Talks

9. The Ministers noted that seven rounds of negotiations have been completed since the commencement of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) talks in 2013. When concluded, RCEP will link together the economies of ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. The envisioned grouping will account for half the world's population and almost 30% of the global economy.
10. Among the outstanding issues yet to be finalised are those on trade in goods, trade in services and investment. The Ministers urged all Parties to work out solutions that are pragmatic, credible, and acceptable to all, as well as consistent with the Guiding Principles and Objectives of Negotiating the RCEP. Noting the complexities of this significant undertaking, the Ministers reiterated the commitment to aim to complete negotiations by end-2015.

The Decade Ahead

11. The Ministers also discussed the progress in developing a comprehensive vision for AEC beyond 2015. They noted that the AEC will require further enhancements to meet the demands and challenges over the next ten years. "This is particularly relevant given the dynamic global environment we are in. ASEAN will need to constantly innovate and strengthen itself to ensure that the region continues to be globally competitive," the Ministers elaborated. In this regard, the Ministers are committed to implementing the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision adopted by Leaders at the 25th ASEAN Summit in November 2014. The Declaration endorsed the deepening of ASEAN integration, promotion of sustained and equitable economic growth,

and promotion of ASEAN as a rules-based community among the key elements of this Vision.

12. The Ministers welcomed the strong contribution of the private sector and other stakeholders to the work of the AEC. They reaffirmed the value of regular stakeholder consultations and directed officials to review the recommendations of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and other private sector organisations, with a view to further fostering and facilitating trade and investment opportunities in the region and beyond.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Rachmat Gobel, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mrs. Apiradi Tantraporn, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; and H.E. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Economic Community.

Joint Statement of the 5th ASEAN-Japan Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Meeting

Nara, Japan, 25 May 2015

Cooperation on Industrial Property Right for Sustainable Economic Development in ASEAN and Japan

1. The Intellectual Property Offices of the Member States of the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Partners") held the Fifth Heads of Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) Meeting on 25 May 2015 in Nara, Japan.

2. The Partners reaffirmed the importance of further strengthening cooperation on industrial property rights among them for their mutual prosperity and development, based on the strong relationships between ASEAN and Japan over the years.
3. The Partners recognized the importance of industrial property system in facilitating trade and investment, taking into account the different levels of economic development and capacity and differences in national legal systems; and fostering innovation and technology transfer to achieve sustainable economic development in ASEAN and Japan.
4. The Partners emphasized that deepening cooperation among them contributes to the achievement of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by transforming ASEAN into an innovative and competitive region through the use of IP for their nationals and ensuring that the region remains an active player in the international IP community.
5. To this end, the Partners affirmed the ASEAN IPOs – JPO IPR Action Plan 2015-2016 and the further deepening of their cooperation beyond 2016.
6. The Partners reaffirmed that the Sixth Heads of IPOs Meeting would be held on the occasion of the 50th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation, which is scheduled in July 2016.

Joint Media Statement of the 47th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 August 2015**

1. The 47th Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) was held on 22 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was chaired by HE Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia. The 47th AEM was preceded by a preparatory meeting of the Senior Economic Officials. The AEM also held joint meetings with the 29th ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council and the 18th ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the recent global developments and the impact on the region. They highlighted that ASEAN's economy has remained relatively resilient in the midst of global uncertainties, foreign exchange volatilities and the subdued post-global financial crisis recovery and the need to remain vigilant. The Ministers underscored the significance of the year 2015 as a key milestone in ASEAN's community building process. Noting the challenges faced collectively by the region as well as by individual ASEAN Member States, the Ministers expressed ASEAN's continued resolve to establish the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) at the end of this year and its commitment towards deeper integration under the AEC post-2015 agenda.

Economic Performance

3. In reviewing ASEAN's economic performance, the Ministers were encouraged to note that ASEAN's integration efforts have contributed to stronger confidence in the region, and consequently to its economic performance since the adoption of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint in 2007. The Ministers also highlighted that the region's collective GDP passed the US\$2.57 trillion mark in 2014, with a near doubling of average per capita GDP between 2007 and 2014 to reach US\$4,130 in 2014.

4. The Ministers further welcomed the strong growth in ASEAN's exports, which rose by more than 50 per cent since 2007 to US\$1.3 trillion in 2014. Ministers noted the evolving profile of ASEAN's external trade partners, with China emerging as the top destination for ASEAN exports since 2011, standing at US\$150.4 billion or 11.6 per cent of total exports. This was closely followed by EU-28 at 10.2 per cent, the United States at 9.5 per cent, and Japan at 9.3 per cent. Intra-ASEAN exports remained resilient at 25.5 per cent of ASEAN's total exports, which put ASEAN collectively on the top of other individual trading partners. Intra-regional trade continued to support ASEAN Member States strong outward orientation in trade as well as the development of regional production networks.
5. The Ministers were also upbeat over the robust foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in 2014, which outperformed other regions of the world. Preliminary ASEAN statistics put total FDI inflows to the region in 2014 as the highest to date at US\$136.2 billion, amounting to 160 per cent of the pre-crisis level inflows in 2007 when the AEC Blueprint was first adopted. The European Union (EU-28) remained the top source of FDI to the region, accounting for 21.5 per cent of the total FDI to the region. Japan was the second largest, at 9.8 per cent, followed by the United States at 9.6 per cent and China at 6.5 per cent. Intra-ASEAN FDI also continued to grow and accounted for an increasing share of total FDI inflows to the region, reaching 17.9 per cent or US\$24.4 billion in 2014 as compared to only 11.3 per cent in 2007. This strong growth of intra-ASEAN investment reflects the positive impact of ASEAN economic integration on stimulating investment within the region.
6. Notwithstanding ASEAN's relatively robust economic performance, the Ministers acknowledged that the region is not immune from external dynamics and shocks, from lower growth environment in the developed countries to heightened volatilities in the global financial and exchange markets. The Ministers re-affirmed ASEAN's commitment to continue the integration process and build on the region's collective strengths and potentials towards a high-growth, sustainable

and resilient economic community. Moving forward, the Ministers were encouraged by the latest forecast that global growth in 2015 will remain solid at 3.3 per cent and strengthen to 3.8 per cent in 2016. ASEAN's own growth prospects are thus expected to be positively impacted, growing by 4.6 per cent in 2015 and 5.1 per cent in 2016. Nevertheless, export growth in the region is expected to remain modest in 2015, reflecting softer growth prospects of ASEAN's major trading partners as well as further consolidation of world trade growth.

Implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint

7. The Ministers welcomed continued progress in the implementation of the AEC Blueprint. The Ministers noted that 91.5 per cent or 463 out of the 506 prioritised AEC Blueprint measures have been implemented.
8. The Ministers called for maximum effort to be exerted to expedite the implementation of the pending measures, particularly the remaining high priority measures. The Ministers observed that there may be challenges in completing some of the key measures in the AEC scorecard within the year. Notwithstanding that, efforts shall be continued towards their full implementation under the post-2015 agenda by the end of 2016.
9. Underscoring the imperative of stakeholder awareness and understanding of the AEC to realise its benefits and potentials, the Ministers also tasked senior officials to step up communications efforts in the run-up to the launch of the AEC 2015. Towards this end, the Ministers welcomed the preparation of the AEC Scorecard Report, which is aimed at providing the general public with the progress and achievements of the implementation of the AEC Blueprint, as well as the ASEAN Integration Report 2015, a comprehensive technical report on the progress and impact of the AEC, both of which are planned for launching at the margin of the 27th ASEAN Summit.

Trade in Goods

10. The Ministers expressed ASEAN's continued commitment towards efforts to enhance trade facilitation. This is done through various initiatives including Self-Certification, ASEAN Trade Repository, ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade (ASSIST), ASEAN Single Window, Standards and Conformance.

Self-Certification

11. In order to ensure that the benefits of a liberalised tariff regime continue to bring gains to the business sector, especially the SMEs, the Ministers welcomed the progress in operationalising the Self-Certification Pilot Projects. The key elements of the ASEAN-wide Self-Certification are being developed and will be fully implemented in 2016 to allow businesses to save costs and time when operating in the region.

ASEAN Trade Repository

12. The Ministers were pleased to note the significant progress made on the establishment of the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR) which will be launched by the ASEAN Summit in November 2015. The ATR will serve as an interface to link ASEAN Member States' National Trade Repositories (NTRs), providing a one-stop online database containing all ASEAN trade-related information, thus significantly enhancing and improving information access to the private sector including the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee

13. The Ministers continued to emphasise the importance of ASEAN's initiatives to address the non-tariff measures. To this end, they welcomed the reactivation of the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC) comprising both the public and private sectors. The inclusion of private sector members will ensure that the voice of business community is heard and taken into consideration in resolving their concerns.

ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade

14. The Ministers also supported the initiative to revitalise the consultation mechanism through the establishment of ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade (ASSIST). ASSIST is designed to be an internet-based and business-friendly facility for receiving, processing and responding to complaints submitted by ASEAN enterprises.

ASEAN Single Window

15. While welcoming the commencement of the implementation of the full-fledged ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Pilot Project Component 2, the Ministers stressed the importance of timely completion of the full-fledged pilot testing of the ASW and the evaluation of the ASW Pilot Project by 2015.

ASEAN Customs Transit System

16. Further measures have also been taken to facilitate movement of goods. These include the finalisation of Protocol 2 (Designation of Frontier Posts) of ASEAN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and the signing of Protocol 7 (Customs Transit System) of AFAFGIT. The Ministers stressed that the ratification processes for these two Protocols be expedited to pave the way for the implementation of the ASEAN Customs Transit System Pilot Project by 2016.

Standards and Conformance

17. In facilitating greater trade among ASEAN Member States, ASEAN remains committed to the reduction of technical barriers to trade to enhance market integration and facilitation, for a conducive business environment. The Ministers welcomed progress in the harmonisation of standards, mutual recognition arrangements and regulatory coherence, in particular the signing of the ASEAN Medical Device Directive in November 2014, complementing the ASEAN Harmonised Cosmetics Regulatory Scheme and the ASEAN Harmonised Electrical and Electronics Equipment Regulatory Regime.

18. The Ministers welcomed the development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Harmonisation of Standards, the ASEAN Guidelines for the Development of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA), the ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Conformity Assessment, the ASEAN Common Food Control Requirements and common procedures on legal metrology verifications that have been put in place to provide common approaches for ASEAN Member States in these areas.
19. In line with the integration of priority sectors, the Ministers noted the progress on the harmonisation of technical requirements on automotive, medical devices, cosmetics, electrical and electronics, pharmaceuticals, and prepared foodstuff, traditional medicines and health supplements, which have been developed by the sectors concerned as common requirements among the ASEAN Member States.

Investment

20. With ASEAN continuing to be the preferred investment destination given the growth of its markets and conducive policies, the Ministers re-affirmed their commitment to continue building ASEAN as a single investment destination. They welcomed the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), which serves as ASEAN's main economic instrument in realising the free flow of investment. In particular, the Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the senior officials on the built-in-agenda of the ACIA, which would further enhance the implementation and effectiveness of the Agreement. The Ministers tasked the officials to prepare the necessary legal instruments to put into effect the required amendments to the ACIA.
21. The Ministers welcomed the completion of the endorsement of the revised ACIA reservation lists of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Myanmar, which will pave the way towards further improvement of their investment regimes. These revised reservation lists will enter into force upon completion of the ratification process by all ASEAN Member States for the Protocol to Amend ACIA, which was signed in 2014.
22. The Ministers commended the continued efforts of ASEAN Member States to further improve their respective investment regimes through economic reform and the various facilitation initiatives, including the on-going projects on investment promotion and facilitation. The continuing involvement of the ASEAN Member States in Investment Policy Review conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also signified the commitment of ASEAN to transparency in its investment regimes as well as to its efforts to further facilitate investment into the region. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN Investment Report 2014-2015, to be published in collaboration with UNCTAD, will be launched during the ASEAN Business Investment Summit in November 2015.

Trade in Services

23. The Ministers looked forward to the completion of the signing of the Protocol to implement the Ninth Package of Specific Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS). This paves the way towards completion of the Tenth AFAS Package to contribute towards the realisation of the free flow of services under the ASEAN Economic Community 2015.

ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRf)

24. The Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework (AQRf) by the ASEAN Education Ministers, the ASEAN Labour Ministers, and the ASEAN Economic Ministers. They recognised that this marked another step forward towards the AEC goal of free flow of skilled labour. The Ministers looked forward to the process of finalising the implementation document by the Task Force on AQRf.

Intellectual Property (IP)

25. The Ministers recognised the recent progress towards reducing the turnaround time for trademark processes. They took note of the adoption of the Common Guidelines on Substantive Examination and the finalisation of the ASEAN List of Goods and Services. The Ministers were pleased with the launch of the ASEAN TMview, ASEAN TMclass, the

ASEAN Designview databases which are on-line search tools that will contribute towards improving the quality of the services provided in the area of trademarks and industrial designs. The Ministers welcomed the accession of Cambodia to the Madrid Protocol for the International Registration of Trademarks, becoming the fourth ASEAN Member States to do so after Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam.

26. The Ministers also welcomed the recent launch of the electronic platform for the ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC) programme. The e-ASPEC platform allows electronic submissions of patent applications under the ASPEC programme which is a regional work sharing initiative that provides for expedited processing of patent applications within ASEAN.
27. The Ministers further welcomed the development of the ASEAN IPR Strategic Action Plan 2016-2025 (AIPSAP). It includes action lines that support a strengthened and business-friendly IP environment and regional platforms which promotes enhanced alignment of IP laws, processes and procedures to reflect an integrated ASEAN.

Competition Policy

28. The Ministers re-affirmed the commitment to build a competitive ASEAN. In this regard, they were pleased with the recent enactment of comprehensive competition laws in Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines, bringing the total to eight ASEAN Member States with competition laws and thus exceeding the target of seven ASEAN Member States with such laws.
29. The Ministers appreciated the continuing efforts to build capacity of ASEAN Member States in competition law enforcement and competition advocacy. They welcomed the inputs of experts and officials into the development of the ASEAN Competition Action Plan (ACAP) 2025 during the 5th ASEAN Competition Conference on 4-5 June 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. They were pleased to note the completion of ACAP 2025 in July 2015 with its five strategic goals that are supportive of the overarching vision of a

competitive, innovative, and dynamic ASEAN with an effective and progressive competition policy.

Consumer Protection

30. In furtherance of a people-oriented ASEAN, the Ministers were pleased to note that consumer protection laws are now available in nine ASEAN Member States. They welcomed efforts to ensure consumer advocacy continues to be a priority. Towards this end they noted the development of public awareness models for consumer protection aimed at supporting the establishment of a systematic approach towards enhancing consumer protection awareness. In addition, they commended the completion of twenty policy digests in August 2015, of which the first 12 have been published as a compendium entitled 'Consumer Protection Digests and Case Studies: A Policy Guide (Volume I)'.
31. They welcomed the partnership with UNCTAD and the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme II (AADCP II) to design, develop and deliver training programmes/modules in six core areas covering Phone and Internet Services, and E-commerce; Product Safety and Labelling; Environment; Consumer Credit; Healthcare Services; and Professional Services to further enhance the capacity of officials to promote consumer protection.

Small and Medium Enterprises

32. SMEs remained one of the key stakeholders in ASEAN integration. In supporting SMEs' role in ASEAN integration, the Ministers recognised the continuing efforts to improve SMEs access to information, markets, finance and human capital development.
33. In enhancing SMEs access to information, the Ministers welcomed the development of the ASEAN SME Service Web Portal, the launch of the Directory of Outstanding ASEAN SMEs 2015, and the recent publication of the three information packs on ASEAN integration in the areas of tariffs, rules of origin and customs procedures. The Ministers were pleased with efforts to promote SME access to markets through the provision of dedicated

training to SMEs on supply chain integration in the areas of textiles, footwear, electronics, automotive and healthcare. They welcomed the development of the “ASEAN Benchmark for SME Credit Rating Methodology” which is aimed at the reduction in asymmetric information between SMEs and the bank lenders as well as the grant competition for the conduct of policy studies on key aspects of the SME access to finance and financial literacy.

34. The Ministers commended the completion of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (SAP SMED) 2016-2025. They welcomed the addition of initiatives on micro-enterprises under the SAP SMED given the micro-enterprises’ strong presence in ASEAN’s economies. They further welcomed the SAP SMED’s the vision of having globally competitive and innovative SMEs in ASEAN by 2025.

Initiative for ASEAN Integration

35. The Ministers re-affirmed commitment to the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) framework and the narrowing of the development gap. They noted the CLMV Action Plan 2015 comprising activities on economic and trade as well as human resource development, including added support and technical assistance for RCEP negotiations.

ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS)

36. The Ministers welcomed the progress made by the ACSS Committee in advancing several initiatives on institutional strengthening under the ACSS Strategic Plan (SP) 2011-2015, including the revision of the ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics, formulation of the successor ACSS SP, implementation of the ACSS Code of Practice Self-Assessment Measures on Institutional Environment and the ACSS Communication Strategy to engage users on ASEAN regional data requirements. These mechanisms will contribute to addressing the challenges, issues, new priorities and commitments from the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development, and implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity as well as ASEAN Roadmap for

the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Community Statistical System for its continuing efforts in enhancing the statistical capacity of the Member States and ASEAN Secretariat in order to provide relevant, timely and comparable statistics in support of an evidence based policy and decision making in the ASEAN.

Public-Private Sector Engagement

37. The Ministers recognised the importance of engagement with the private sector in the building of the ASEAN Community. The Ministers welcomed the intensified consultations with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) and the business dialogue format adopted in their consultations with dialogue partners. They appreciated ASEAN-BAC’s continuing efforts in coordinating with the business councils to identify issues and concerns.
38. The Ministers also recognised the dedicated consultations between the ASEAN working groups and ASEAN-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) as well as the other business councils. These included the ASEAN-BAC consultations with the ASEAN SME Advisory Board in May 2015 which provided inputs into the work of the SME Working Group and the SAPSMED 2016-2025. They welcomed the efforts of ASEAN-BAC to also input into the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 ASEAN during its workshop on the Private Sector in the Post-2015 Economic Vision of ASEAN on 11 June 2015, Penang, Malaysia.
39. The Ministers took note of the concerns of the business community and commit to stronger information sharing and consultations with the business sector to advance ASEAN integration efforts. Towards this end, the Ministers welcomed the holding of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2015 to showcase private sector’s efforts to promote ASEAN as a single investment destination and to promote the benefits of ASEAN integration to business.

External Economic Relations

40. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of building an open ASEAN that is integrated

into the global economy. They welcomed the signing and entry into force of ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements as well as on-going work to enhance existing FTAs with dialogue partners. These include: the upgrading of the ASEAN-China FTA Agreement; finalisation of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement; the modality for further liberalisation of products under the ASEAN-Korea FTA; arrangements for the implementation of the Protocol to Amend the Agreement establishing the AANZFTA; and the adoption of the scope of the review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement. The Ministers welcomed the continuing close cooperation with dialogue partners through the adoption of new trade and investment cooperation work programmes. They also welcomed the support and assistance of dialogue partners in ASEAN's internal integration programmes.

41. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in the RCEP negotiations to date, and commended the efforts made by all RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) in moving towards market access negotiations. The Ministers noted progress in the drafting of texts on the agreed elements under all areas of negotiation, and urged RPCs to keep the momentum in advancing the negotiations.

AEC Vision 2025

42. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the work of the High Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) and endorsed in principle the AEC Blueprint 2025, which is a document that charts the agenda for ASEAN economic integration from 2016 to 2025. The AEC Blueprint 2025 will be launched together with the 2025 Blueprints of the other two ASEAN Communities at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November. Collectively, these Blueprints will set the path for the ASEAN Community for the coming decade.
43. Under AEC 2015, ASEAN has made good progress in putting in place key frameworks and other fundamentals that are imperative for the effective functioning of the economic community. AEC 2025 will follow through on these achievements and early gains, while taking into consideration the evolving global

context and other mega-trends. By 2025, the AEC is envisioned to be highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic; with enhanced economic connectivity as well as integration and cooperation across sectors; while fostering a more resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centred community that is integrated into the global economy.

Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building

44. ASEAN's integration efforts have been strongly supported through technical assistance and capacity building rendered by dialogue and development partners. This cooperation covers key projects under the trade in goods, services and investment, competition, consumer protection, SMEs, statistics, agriculture and the initiative for ASEAN integration. Ministers expressed appreciation to the assistance provided under the AADCP II, the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (EU-ARISE), the EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Programme for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (EU-ASEAN COMPASS), the US ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) projects as implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the support provided by the Asia Development Bank, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Sun Chantol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia); H.E. Ms. Nguon Sokha, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia; Dr. Sar Senara, Director, Council for the Development of Cambodia (representing H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea, Minister for the Council for the Development of Cambodia); H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; Mr. M.M. Azhar Lubis, Deputy Chairman of Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board (representing H.E. Franky Sibarani, Chairman of Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board);

H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; Mr. Thawatchai Sophasienphong, Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); Mr. Chokedee Kaewsang, Deputy Secretary General of the Board of Investment, Thailand (representing H.E. M.R. Pridiyathorn Devakula, Deputy Prime Minister, Thailand); H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 3rd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministerial Meeting

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
24 August 2015**

1. The Economic Ministers from the 16 RCEP Participating Countries attended the 3rd RCEP Ministerial Meeting held on 24 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Ministers were encouraged by the progress made after nine rounds of negotiations since the launch in November 2012. In particular, Ministers noted that some breakthroughs have been made to settle some key issues.
2. The Ministers noted that the economic performance of RCEP Participating Countries stayed strong amidst slow growth in the global economy. RCEP economies' combined output stood at US\$ 22.7 trillion in 2014, which accounts for about 29.3 per cent of world output. Trade and investment flows in RCEP economies also remained strong. In 2014, total trade of RCEP economies amounted to US\$ 10.8 trillion (28.4 per cent of global trade), while total FDI inflows to RCEP economies

reached US\$ 366.3 billion (29.8 per cent of global FDI inflows). Ministers believed that with almost half of the world's population, the RCEP region offers immense potential to grow through better market access, deeper economic integration, shared opportunities and improved standard of living for billions of people of this region.

3. In view that significant breakthroughs have been achieved at this Ministerial Meeting, the Ministers were encouraged that substantive market access negotiations are to commence soon and that work on draft texts of various chapters has accelerated. To meet the vision of achieving a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement, the Ministers were of the view that further work is required for the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee to come up with a well-crafted, balanced agreement which takes into account individual and diverse circumstances of the RCEP Participating Countries ranging from amongst the most developed to least developed countries in the region.
4. The Ministers tasked the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee to intensify its work on tackling the remaining issues and its work in developing the draft texts of the agreed areas of the RCEP agreement in the lead up to the 10th Meeting of the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee scheduled for 12-16 October 2015 in Busan, Korea. The Ministers emphasised that the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee should expedite the negotiations with a view to substantially concluding the negotiations by the end of 2015 with the remaining technical issues to be resolved as soon as possible in 2016.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Hon. Andrew Robb AO MP, Minister for Trade and Investment, Australia; The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia [representing H. E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia]; H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China; H.E. Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of

State for Commerce and Industry (Independent Charge), India; Mrs. Sondang Anggraini, Adviser to the Minister on Trade (representing H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Daishiro Yamagiwa, State Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; H.E. Yoon Sang-Jick, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea; H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; The Hon. Timothy Groser, Minister of Trade, New Zealand; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, Republic of the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister of Trade and Industry, Singapore; Mr. Thawatchai Sophastienphong, Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 7th CLMV Economic Ministers' Meeting

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
24 August 2015**

1. The Seventh Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) Economic Ministers' Meeting (EMM) was held on 25 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State for Commerce, Cambodia.
2. The Ministers noted the robust growth of combined CLMV's total merchandise trade, which in 2014 grew by 14.0% compared with 2013 and constituted approximately 14.1% of ASEAN's total trade, compared with 12.4% in 2013. In the same period, foreign direct investment into the four countries totalled US\$12.8 billion, which constituted 9.4% of total inward direct investment to ASEAN.
3. The Ministers noted that the implementation of the CLMV Action Plan 2015 is on track, where almost half of the activities including trade fairs in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam as well as CLMV attachment programme at the ASEAN Secretariat have been implemented, while other activities are at various stages of implementation. The Ministers also noted the achievement of the CLMV Action Plan 2014 where 14 activities were completed. These activities included trade fairs in Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam, seminars related to cross-border trafficking of goods and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, capacity building projects on cattle breeding as well as market access for fish and fishery products, and Viet Nam's scholarship programme for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. Most of these activities were funded and implemented by the CLMV countries themselves.
4. The Ministers acknowledged the significant economic progress which their countries have achieved since the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint in October 2003. With the AEC's establishment due at the end of this year, the Ministers were pleased with the achievement of CLMV countries in implementing the AEC commitments. Using a focused base of 506 AEC Scorecard measures, which includes fully implemented measures since 2008 and high-priority measures identified by the 21st ASEAN Economic Ministers Retreat, CLMV's performance is currently at par with most ASEAN-6 countries. As of the end of July 2015, the rate of implementation of the CLMV countries is between 93.1% and 94.5%, while the overall implementation rate by all ten ASEAN Member States stood at 91.5%. The Ministers emphasized the importance of effective implementation of the AEC commitments that aim to facilitate trade and investment as well as bring about positive impact to the socio-economic welfare of the ASEAN community.
5. The Ministers endorsed the CLMV Action Plan 2016 which includes ten priority activities, which are related to economics-trade, human resource development and coordination mechanism. The Ministers tasked the senior

economic officials to review the scope and objectives of future CLMV Action Plans, taking into consideration the aspirations of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its attendant documents, which will be adopted by the Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015.

6. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the ASEAN-6, Dialogue Partners and external parties for the support in the development of CLMV countries, in particular the implementation of CLMV Action Plan 2015. The Ministers looked forward to the continued cooperation in achieving the objectives of regional economic integration and narrowing of the development gap.

LIST OF MINISTERS

H.E. Mr. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State for Commerce (representing H.E. Mr. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia); H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 5th Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

**Cyberjaya, Malaysia,
3-5 November 2015**

The 5th Session of the ACSS Committee, hosted by Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOS Malaysia), was held on 3-5 November 2015. Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahman Hasan, Chief Statistician of DOS Malaysia chaired the meeting with Dr. Samaychanh Bouppha of Lao Statistics Bureau as the co-chair.

Introduction

1. We, the Heads of the National Statistical Office (NSO) of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) gather today in Cyberjaya, Malaysia to reaffirm our mission to produce relevant, timely and comparable statistics towards the vision of a responsive ACSS providing high quality statistics in support of the establishment of the ASEAN Community.
2. We support enhancing statistical capacity of the AMS and ASEAN Secretariat to better meet the challenges of a more diverse and more detailed aggregated data requirements as ASEAN integration deepens and as the effective monitoring of regional integration remains paramount.

Institutional Strengthening, Enhancement of ACSS and its Sustainability

3. We welcome with appreciation the acknowledgement of the ACSS Committee's inclusion as a sectoral body in the ASEAN Charter, as adopted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN in September 2015. We will continue to uphold our role in the ACSS in support of informed and evidence-based decision and policy making in ASEAN.
4. We note with satisfaction the efforts of the NSOs in establishing and adopting frameworks and institutional mechanisms to further strengthen and enhance the ACSS, including the review and amendment of statistics law in some of the AMS and the development and alignment of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in support of the initiatives in the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025.
5. We welcome the efforts to implement the ACSS Code of Practice (CoP) on Institutional Environment, Statistical Process and Statistical Output as important means of ensuring trust, accountability and highest professional standards in the development, production, dissemination and communication of ASEAN statistics. We are encouraged by the pilot self-assessment exercise on the Institutional Environment dimension of the ACSS CoP undertaken by all the NSOs. We look forward to the self-assessment of the

Statistical Process and Statistical Output dimensions of the ACSS CoP, and reaffirm our commitment to adhere to the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as upheld by the key principles of the ACSS CoP.

6. We are pleased to endorse the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 in supporting the call by the Committee of the Whole that all the ASEAN Economic Community sectoral bodies extend their strategic plans to 2025. The 10-year ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 builds on the key strategic goals and initiatives of the 5-year ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2020 adopted at the 4th Session of the ACSS Committee in October 2014. In addition, the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 recognises the need for a review of the Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics to include new data requirements identified by the ASEAN Community, the need for the provision of more detailed aggregated data in support of regional policy making, as well as the importance of international statistical developments in the areas of the sustainable development goals (SDG), open data, big data, and the use of geospatial data. We take note of the urgency for the countries to provide comments on the initial list of SDG indicators.

Improvement of the Response to Greater ASEAN Data Needs

7. We are mindful of the growing demand and emerging data needs in the ASEAN as well as in the global community. We fully support the importance of statistical information in monitoring and assessing the impact of the initiatives drawn in the ASEAN Community Blueprints. We encourage support to the endeavours of the UN Statistical Commission, as the highest body in the international statistical system, on the broader measures of progress, including the framework for post-2015 development agenda and other emerging issues. Towards this end, the Committee appeals for strong cooperation and coordination within the National Statistical System (NSS) in the implementation of ASEAN Statistical Indicators (ASI) Consolidated Template. The ASI Consolidated Template is updated regularly to effectively respond to current and emerging data needs arising from

the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Equitable Economic Development and post-2015 development agenda on SDG.

8. We appreciate that an efficient and responsive ACSS requires communication and consultation between data users and producers at the national and regional levels to determine statistical priorities of the ASEAN Community Blueprints.

Enhancement of Dissemination, Communication, Visibility, and Use of ASEAN Statistics

9. In our efforts to promote the visibility and expand the use of ASEAN statistics, we are pleased to endorse the ACSS Communication Strategy. We acknowledge the leadership of BPS-Statistics Indonesia in the development of the Strategy as we constantly highlight the need for collective action to gain better support and investment to further statistical development. We appreciate the determination of the ACSS to enhance the communication of ASEAN statistics through the use of data messaging and data visualisation tools, such as infographics; and the appropriate issuance of press releases at the national and regional levels.
10. We note the progress in the development of Glossary of Terms for Laymen to be published at the ASEAN stats webpage. We expect that the Glossary will promote greater appreciation, understanding and use of ASEAN statistics among our major regional stakeholders and the data users in general.
11. We recognise the importance of communicating the outcomes of the ACSS Committee Meetings and the need to develop further the implementation plan.

Catching Up and Narrowing Development Gap

12. We are grateful to the EU-COMPASS Project in strengthening the statistical system of AMS particularly Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) in the areas of International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS) and Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS). We also appreciate the support provided by

EU-COMPASS to CLMV under the access to higher education in Statistics programme, in collaboration with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

13. We take note of the efforts of the AMS in furthering the ASEAN-Help-ASEAN initiative in capacity building activities for CLMV. In particular, we express our gratitude to DOS Malaysia, Bank Indonesia, and Bank of Thailand for providing resource persons in the FDIS and SITS workshops this year; and BPS-Statistics Indonesia and PSA for the first peer review of the NSS exercise conducted at the National Institute of Statistics Cambodia this year under PARIS 21. We also appreciate BPS-Statistics Indonesia, DOS Malaysia, PSA, Singapore DOS, NSO Thailand and General Statistics Office of Viet Nam for their assistance in providing training on infographics to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar this year. We encourage stronger collaboration between the sub-regional groups in forming a pool of regional experts in specific areas of statistical priority. We appreciate the ASEAN Secretariat's assistance in facilitating and mobilising knowledge, technical, and financial resources for the CLMV from development partners.
14. We value our cooperation with other international organisations namely the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), ASEAN Australia Development Program (AADCP) Phase II, ASEAN Australia New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) Economic Cooperation Work Programme, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Eurostat and other development partners in our pursuit of quality and timely ASEAN statistical products and services. The Meeting calls for development partners to continue their technical assistance for narrowing development gaps in statistical fields especially in the CLMV.

Hosting of the Meeting

15. We sincerely thank the Government of Malaysia, through the DOS Malaysia, for its strong support to the enhancement of ACSS and its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements during this 3-day event.
16. We look forward to the 6th Session of the ACSS Committee, to be chaired and hosted by Lao Statistics Bureau in Vientiane, Lao PDR in November 2016.

ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

1. Brunei Darussalam: Mr. Hj. Abd Amin Bin Hj. Hashim;
2. Kingdom of Cambodia: Mrs. Hang Lina;
3. Republic of Indonesia: Dr. Suryamin;
4. Lao People's Democratic Republic: Dr. Samaychanh Boupha;
5. Malaysia: Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahman Hasan;
6. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar: Dr. Wah Wah Maung;
7. Republic of the Philippines: Mr. Candido Jove Astrologo, Jr;
8. Republic of Singapore: Mr. Tang Hsiu Chin;
9. Kingdom of Thailand: Ms. Nuannapa Thanasak;
10. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: Mr. Pham Quang Vinh; and
11. ASEAN Secretariat: Dr. Ahmad Zafarullah.

The Protocol to Implement the Ninth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Service

**Makati City, the Philippines,
27 November 2015**

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic

of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Member States “ or singularly as “Member State “);

NOTING the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 15 December 1995 in Bangkok, Thailand (hereinafter referred to as “AFAS”), which seeks to enhance cooperation in services amongst Member States, to eliminate substantially all restrictions to trade in services amongst Member States and to liberalise trade in services by expanding the depth and scope of liberalisation beyond those undertaken by Member States under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (hereinafter referred to as “GATS”) of the World Trade Organisation (hereinafter referred to as “WTO”);

HAVING carried out six rounds of negotiations and concluded eight packages of schedules of specific commitments embodied in the Protocol to Implement the Initial Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 15 December 1997 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; the Protocol to Implement the Second Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 16 December 1998 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam; the Protocol to Implement the Third Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 31 December 2001; the Protocol to Implement the Fourth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 3 September 2004 in Jakarta, Indonesia; the Protocol to Implement the Fifth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 8 December 2006 in Cebu, the Philippines; the Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 19 November 2007 in Singapore; the Protocol to Implement the Seventh Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 26 February 2009 in Cha-am, Thailand; and the Protocol to Implement the Eighth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services signed on 28 October 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam;

NOTING the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors together with the Roadmaps for the Integration of Priority

Sectors signed by the ASEAN Leaders on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the ASEAN Framework (Amendment) Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors signed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers on 8 December 2006 in Cebu, the Philippines, and the 2007 Protocol to Amend Article 3 of the ASEAN Framework (Amendment) Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors signed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers on 24 August 2007 in Makati City, the Philippines, which include four services sectors, namely, Air Travel, Healthcare, e-ASEAN (telecommunications and IT services) Tourism, and logistics services, provide measures to deepen and broaden internal economic integration and linkages, with the participation of the private sector, to realise an ASEAN Economic Community;

MINDFUL of the targets and timelines of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint adopted at the 13th ASEAN Summit held on 21 November 2007 in Singapore that, amongst others, provided for the liberalisation of trade in services through consecutive rounds of liberalisation ending in 2015;

DESIRING to implement the Ninth Package of Commitments (hereinafter referred to as “Ninth Package”) by the timelines specified;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Annexes to this Protocol shall consist of the consolidated schedules of each Member State’s Schedules of Specific Commitments, Schedules of Horizontal Commitments, and the Lists of Most-Favoured Nation Exemptions, which shall form an integral part of this Protocol.
2. Subject to each Member State’s Schedules of Specific Commitments and the Lists of Most-Favoured Nation Exemptions, Member States shall accord preferential treatment to one another on a Most-Favoured-Nation basis.
3. This Protocol and its Annexes shall form an integral part of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services.
4. This Protocol and the commitments set out in its Annexes shall enter into force one hundred and eighty (180) days after the date of signature. Member States undertake to complete their internal procedures for the entry into force of this Protocol and its Annexes. Each Member State shall, upon the completion of its

internal procedures for the entry into force of this Protocol, notify the ASEAN Secretariat in writing. Where a Member State is unable to notify the completion of its internal procedures within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the date of signature, the rights and obligations of that Member State under this Protocol and its Annexes shall commence on the date on which the Member States notifies the completion of its internal procedures.

5. For a Member State that is unable to submit its full commitments under the Ninth Package by the time of signing of this Protocol:
 - (a) commitments that are submitted thereafter but before the entry into force of this Protocol and its Annexes, shall also enter into force one hundred and eighty (180) days after the date of signature of this Protocol; and
 - (b) commitments that are submitted after the entry into force of this Protocol and its Annexes shall enter into force upon their submission.
6. Pursuant to paragraph 5, a Member States that is unable to submit its full commitments under the Ninth Package by the time of the signing of this Protocol, shall notify the ASEAN Secretariat in writing of the commitments it subsequently submits towards the fulfilment of its full commitments under the Ninth Package. Such submissions shall form an integral part of the Member State's Schedules of Specific Commitments under this Protocol and its Annexes.
7. This Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each Member State. The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall also promptly furnish notifications made pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 to each Member States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the Protocol to Implement the Ninth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services.

DONE at Makati City, the Philippines, this 27th Day of November the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:
LIM JOCK SENG
Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
SUN CHANTHOL
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Republic of Indonesia:
MUHAMMAD LUTFI
Minister of Trade

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
KHEMMANI PHOLSENA
Minister of Industry and Commerce

For Malaysia:
MUSTAPA MOHAMED
Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
KAN ZAW
Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Republic of the Philippines:
GREGORY L. DOMINGO
Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Republic of Singapore:
LIM HNG KIANG
Minister of Trade and Industry

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
CHUTIMA BUNYAPRAPHASARA
Permanent Secretary
Acting for the Minister of Commerce

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
VU HUY HOANG
Minister of Industry and Trade

ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM)

Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Commitment on Financial Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20 March 2015

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Member States" or singularly as "Member State");

NOTING the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) signed on 15 December 1995 in Bangkok, Thailand, which seeks to enhance cooperation in services amongst Member States, substantially eliminate restrictions to trade in services amongst Member States and liberalise trade in services by expanding the depth and scope of liberalisation beyond those undertaken by Member States under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (hereinafter referred to as "GATS") of the World Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WTO");

PURSUANT to the Protocol to Amend the AFAS signed on 2 September 2003 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which incorporates a new Article IV bis into the AFAS that aims to expedite the liberalisation of trade in services within ASEAN;

RECALLING the decision of the Leaders to establish the ASEAN Community including the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) made in the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II adopted on 7 October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia;

NOTING, the Declaration on the AEC Blueprint signed in Singapore on 20 November 2007, which aims to transform ASEAN into a single

market and production base, a highly competitive economic region, a region of equitable economic development and a region fully integrated into the global economy;

MINDFUL of the core elements to establish an ASEAN single market and production base including the element of free flow of services where there will be substantially no restriction to ASEAN services suppliers; and the targets and timelines of the AEC Blueprint;

RECALLING the Fifteenth ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting that called on Member States to enter into the sixth round of negotiations on financial services beginning in 2011 and ending in 2013;

HAVING carried out and completed the negotiations on financial services pursuant to Article IV of the AFAS and finalised the package of commitments under the sixth round of negotiations on financial services;

ACKNOWLEDGING the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF) conducted by ASEAN Central Bank Governors' process.

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Member States who are WTO Members shall continue to extend their specific commitments under the GATS to other Member States who are non-WTO Members.
2. This Protocol and its Annexes shall form an integral part of the AFAS.
3. The Annexes to this Protocol shall consist of each Member State's Consolidated Schedule of Specific Commitments on Financial Services which comprises the Member States' horizontal and sector specific commitments and the Lists of Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) Exemptions.
4. Subject to each Member State's Consolidated Schedule of Specific Commitments on Financial Services and List of MFN Exemptions, Member States shall accord preferential treatment to one another on a MFN basis.
5. For the purpose of deepening regional banking integration, in accordance with Article IV bis of the AFAS and guided by the principles and governance of ABIF as approved by the ASEAN Central Bank Governors Meeting (ACGM), two or more Member States may conduct

negotiations and agree to liberalise their banking sectors. Not with standing Article X of the AFAS that sets a minimum three-year requirement for modification or withdrawal of Schedules of Specific Commitments, each participating Member States may conclude negotiations at any time and shall inscribe its commitments in banking sectors in its respective Consolidated Schedule of Specific Commitments on Financial Services as referred to in paragraph 3. Any extension of preferential treatment in the banking sector to the remaining Member States on an MFN basis shall be voluntary on the part of the participating Member States.

6. This Protocol and the commitments set out in the Annexes shall enter into force ninety (90) days after the date of its signing. Subsequent commitments made in accordance with paragraph 5 shall enter into force ninety (90) days after the date such commitments are notified in writing to the ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting.
7. Member States undertake to complete their internal procedures of ratification or acceptance for the entry into force of this Protocol and the commitments set out in the Annexes.
8. Each Member States shall, upon the completion of its internal procedures of ratification or acceptance of this Protocol and the commitments set out in the Annexes, notify the ASEAN Secretariat in writing.
9. (1) Where a Member States is unable to complete its internal procedures for the entry into force of this Protocol within ninety (90) days from the date of its signing, the rights and obligations of that Member State under this Protocol shall commence on the first day following the date on which notification was made under paragraph 8.
(2) Where a Participating Member States is unable to complete its internal procedures within ninety (90) days after the date upon which subsequent commitments made by participating Member States in accordance with paragraph 5 are notified to the ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting, the rights and obligations of that Participating Member States shall commence on the first day following the date on which notification was made under paragraph 8.

10. This Protocol and the commitments set out in the Annexes shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each Member States. The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall also promptly furnish notifications of ratification or acceptance made pursuant to paragraph 8 to each Member States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Commitments on Financial Services under the AFAS.

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this 20th Day of March in the Year, Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy in the English language.

For the Government of Brunei Darussalam:
PEHIN DATO ABD RAHMAN IBRAHIM
Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office

For the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia:
AUN PORNMONIROTH
Minister of Economy and Finance

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia:
BAMBANG PERMADI SOEMANTRI
BRODJONEGORO
Minister of Finance

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
THIPPHAKONE CHANTHAVONGSA
Vice - Minister of Finance

For the Government of Malaysia:
DATO' SERI AHMAD HUSNI MOHAMAD
HANADZLAH
Minister of Finance II

For the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
U WIN SHEIN
Union Minister, Minister of Finance

For the Government of the Republic of the Philippines:
CESAR V. PURISIMA
Secretary of Finance

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore:
THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand:
SOMMAI PHASEE
Minister of Finance

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam:
DINH TIEN DUNG
Minister of Finance

Joint Statement of the 1st ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21 March 2015

Introduction

1. We, the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, convened the joint Meeting of the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Dato' Seri Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah, Finance Minister II of Malaysia, H.E. Tan Sri Dr. Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Governor of Bank Negara Malaysia.
2. We, the ASEAN Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors together with the ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General, expressed our gratitude to the Honourable Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, for meeting us at Perdana Putra, Putrajaya.
3. We maintain our commitment to strengthen economic growth and promote financial stability in the ASEAN region, amid uncertainties in the external environment. We exchanged views with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) on the economic outlook, risks, opportunities and policy challenges facing our region, in an effort to foster sustainable and inclusive growth.

4. We remain committed to achieving the goals of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015. We supported the activities under the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN. In particular, we affirmed our commitment to develop plans for post 2015 ASEAN financial integration that will be built upon our agreed broad framework. The Working Committees will further develop implementation plans accordingly by the end of this year.

Regional Economic Update and Policy Challenges

5. We noted that the ASEAN economy grew by 4.4 per cent in 2014, amid challenges in the global economy. Domestic demand in our economies has remained resilient, supported mainly by private consumption. Investment is expected to increase significantly, as the ASEAN region continues to focus on infrastructure development to improve connectivity. We are mindful that external factors remain challenging and could adversely impact our economies. Despite the relatively stable financial sector among economies in the region, we note that the high household leverage in some ASEAN economies may pose some vulnerability.
6. We are committed to implementing appropriate monetary and fiscal policies, complemented by macroprudential policies, when warranted, that will sustain economic growth and maintain financial stability. We agreed that our macroeconomic policies should continue to address country-specific issues, while remaining vigilant of possible spillover effects across the region. We remain steadfast in further strengthening domestic demand, continuing structural reforms, and enhancing private sector investment. We also agreed to intensify our cooperation and integration initiatives to fortify ASEAN's resilience against changing market conditions and possible external shocks.

Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN (RIA-Fin)

7. We were pleased to note that the efforts to integrate the financial sector in ASEAN have made significant progress. We encouraged the Working Committees under the Roadmap

for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN to intensify ongoing efforts as financial integration plays an important role in supporting regional economic integration.

8. The meeting was updated on the implementation of the ASEAN Financial Integration Framework (AFIF). We welcomed the conclusion of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF) which was endorsed by the ASEAN Central Bank Governors in December 2014.
9. The ABIF represents a critical milestone for ASEAN towards achieving greater financial and economic integration. The immediate objective of ABIF is to achieve a more integrated banking market, spearheaded by Qualified ASEAN Banks (QABs) that now have the potential for a meaningful presence across ASEAN countries. The ABIF accords priority to the outcome of promoting financial development and higher regional economic growth, and is anchored in principles that emphasise inclusiveness, transparency and reciprocity. With the finalisation of the Framework by all ASEAN central bank governors, any two ASEAN countries may enter into reciprocal bilateral agreements to provide QABs with greater market access, and operational flexibilities consistent with those of domestic banks in the respective host countries. The implementation of the Framework will be accompanied by the strengthening of home-host regulatory and supervisory cooperation arrangements to support the effective surveillance and supervision of QABs. As ASEAN moves closer to the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community, ABIF will strengthen the other initiatives under the ASEAN Financial Integration Framework to provide an important enabling mechanism for ASEAN countries to accelerate the pace of regional financial integration, increase cross border trade and investment flows and thus harness the growth potential of the region.
10. We took note of the continuous efforts by the Working Committee on Payment and Settlement System (WC-PSS) to foster an integrated, safe and efficient payment systems in the region. We also acknowledged the importance of capacity building in achieving

financial sector integration in the ASEAN region. We are pleased with the work of the ASEAN Central Banks through the Steering Committee on Capacity Building (SCCB) to support the capacity building initiatives in the region.

11. We welcomed the achievements of ASEAN Financial Integration as summarized in the document developed by the SLC in Annex I. The document highlights the achievements and benefits of ASEAN financial integration to-date in the areas of financial services and capital account liberalisation, payment and settlement systems, and capital market development, complemented by capacity-building initiatives.

Capital Market Development

12. We welcomed the work of the Working Committee on Capital Market Development (WC-CMD) in deepening and strengthening bond markets in the ASEAN region, particularly towards enhancing the capacity and building critical capital market infrastructures, with the aim of achieving cross-border collaboration among various capital markets in ASEAN. We were pleased that the ASEAN bond market scorecard has continued to be a powerful tool in monitoring the work progress and providing a basis for the other related initiatives.
13. We commend the progress of work of the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum (ACMF) in deepening the regional capital market integration through significant initiatives such as the ASEAN Disclosure Standards for equity and plain debt securities, the Expedited Review Framework for Secondary Listings, the ASEAN Trading Link, the 4th ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard, and the recently entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Streamlined Review Framework for the ASEAN Common Prospectus. These initiatives are significant milestones in meeting the objectives to promote freer flow of capital and greater connectivity of ASEAN capital markets and enhance the accessibility of ASEAN investments. We particularly welcomed the operationalization of the ASEAN Framework for Cross-border Offerings of Collective Investment Scheme (CIS) last August, which would enable cross-

border offerings of CIS products across the signatory countries. We are pleased to note that there has been significant industry response with five (5) approvals already granted under the Framework. We take note of the ACMF's ASEAN Capital Market Development Programme, aimed at extending mutual assistance to all markets within the region. This programme facilitates inclusive regional market development towards achieving ASEAN capital market integration. We welcomed the ACMF's proposal to develop a five year Action Plan from 2016-2020 which will focus on ensuring seamless access to capital as well as investment opportunities within connected regional capital markets.

14. We acknowledged the progress of work of the ASEAN Capital Market Infrastructure (ACMI), especially on the establishment of the ACMI Task Force under the ACMF to further expedite the implementation of the ACMI Blueprint. We further tasked the ACMF, WC-CMD, WC-PSS and Working Committee on Capital Account Liberalization (WC-CAL) to continue to cooperate in the area of clearing, settlement and depository linkages among the ASEAN capital markets in support of the ASEAN Trading Link to further enhance connectivity among ASEAN capital markets.

Financial Services Liberalisation

15. We are pleased that the Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Financial Services Liberalisation under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) has been signed by all ASEAN Finance Ministers. The Sixth Protocol contains the enabling provision for the implementation of the ABIF. We are pleased that the negotiations for the seventh round have commenced and we look forward to the signing of the Protocol to Implement the Seventh Package next year.
16. We welcomed the deliberation on further liberalisation of the insurance sector with the aim to position ASEAN insurance institutions and intermediaries to perform a more meaningful role in supporting trade, investment and economic integration in line with the AEC. We encouraged the Working Committee on Financial Services Liberalisation (WC-FSL) to continue working with the other relevant

sectoral bodies to ensure prudent liberalisation of the financial services sectors in ASEAN.

17. We commended the WC-FSL on the progress of negotiations to review the financial services obligations under AFAS in the form of a chapter in the ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA). We also welcome WC-FSL's active participation in ASEAN's free trade agreements with dialogue partners.

Capital Account Liberalisation

18. We recognised the work of the WC-CAL to achieve freer capital movements across the region, which is essential in increasing greater investment, trade and business activities in the region, and in further integrating our markets with the global economies. We are pleased that the WC-CAL has completed the assessment and identification of the rules for liberalization in capital flows under current account, foreign direct investment and portfolio investment, and that ASEAN Members States (AMS) have regularly updated their individual capital account liberalization heat maps to assess the developments in the capital account regime in the region. We commended the WC-CAL on its efforts to further refine the CAL milestones blueprints and Heat Map methodology going forward.
19. We commended the monitoring of the capital account liberalisation efforts through an agreed monitoring tool for the implementation of the individual milestones blueprints for capital account liberalisation. We also supported the regular conduct of policy dialogue process on safeguard mechanisms for capital account liberalisation to ensure that the liberalization efforts are conducted with strong consideration of each Member's ability and readiness while safeguarding macroeconomic and financial stability. As a support to the capital account liberalization process, we agreed that capacity building efforts should be continuously implemented and intensified.

Strengthening ASEAN Finance Cooperation and Economic Integration Enhancing Regional Surveillance

20. We welcomed the work of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office (AIMO) in

ensuring that the measures under the AEC Blueprint are implemented accordingly, with the development of surveillance reports, monitoring tools, and capacity building programs. We agreed to enhance the capacity and resources of AIMO, and encourage Member States and external partners to continue to support AIMO in implementing its work and fulfilling its mandate.

21. We acknowledged AMRO's parallel but important role in assessing the macroeconomic and financial developments in the region. We noted the progress of elevating the status of the AMRO into an international organization following the signing of the AMRO Agreement on 10 October 2014. In this regard, we pledged to work with our Plus Three partners to support AMRO and to ensure macroeconomic and financial stability in the region.

Infrastructure Financing

22. We are pleased with the developments of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF), whose total fund has now reached USD485.3 million. We welcomed Myanmar as a full-fledged member of the AIF since December last year. We recognised that the AIF is a very crucial component of ASEAN's efforts to strengthen regional physical connectivity, and narrow the infrastructure development gap in the region. We were pleased that the AIF had supported several infrastructure projects last year such as the power transmission and water sanitation projects in Indonesia, and power interconnection project in Vietnam.
23. We supported AIF's efforts to reduce costs of borrowing through improved technical analysis and policy formulation, and more effective administration support. We encouraged AIF to continue the close cooperation with the ADB in expanding project financing in the region.

Cooperation on Customs Matters

24. We agreed to the Protocol on the Legal Framework to Implement the ASEAN Single Window (PLF-ASW), which would expedite the implementation of ASW measures in further facilitating trade in goods within the ASEAN region.

25. We are pleased with the entry into force of the ASEAN Agreement on Customs in November last year. We also welcomed the completion of the signing of Protocol 7 on Customs under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT). These developments would support the free flow of goods across the ASEAN region.

ASEAN Cooperation on Taxation

26. We acknowledged the progress of work of the ASEAN Forum on Taxation (AFT), particularly in the continuous efforts to complete a network of bilateral tax agreements, to improve exchange of information for tax purposes, and to enhance Members' cooperation on capacity-building on taxation matters. We also welcomed AFT's plan to further discuss other areas under taxation, including the feasibility study of the Global Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) scoping proposal, Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) issues, and to explore possible ways on tax harmonization.

ASEAN Cooperation in Insurance

27. We acknowledged the progress achieved under ASEAN cooperation in insurance, particularly in the development of insurance regulatory and supervisory frameworks through observance of the core principles of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) and updates by Member States on developments in their domestic insurance markets. We recognised that capacity building and research are continuously being discussed by the ASEAN Insurance Regulators' Meeting (AIRM), and encouraged that these activities be further intensified.
28. We are pleased that activities and initiatives to improve insurance penetration in the region have been strengthened by developing regulatory frameworks to promote insurance products, and promoting consumer education to increase awareness. We also welcomed the on-going cooperation and dialogue that the AIRM has had with the WC-FSL to further develop and integrate the ASEAN insurance sector.
29. We recognised the progress made in the area of ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and

Insurance (DRFI) to enable policies and institutional environments for risk financing and insurance in Member States as well as to promote multilateral cooperation towards the adoption of regional agreement on DRFI. We are pleased that the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) had agreed to provide support for the first phase of this initiative.

Financial Inclusion

30. We thanked Myanmar for hosting the ASEAN Conference on Financial Inclusion last year, which resulted in the Yangon Outcomes. In accordance with the spirit of the Yangon Outcomes, we agreed to establish a working committee to deliberate and coordinate efforts to enhance financial inclusion in ASEAN. In view of the importance of financial inclusion in accelerating financial integration and inclusive growth, we unanimously agreed that financial inclusion should be a policy priority for ASEAN.

Young Entrepreneurs' Summit

31. We participated in the 1ASEAN Entrepreneurship Gathering aimed at facilitating people-to-people connection and promote economic development and growth in ASEAN. This event was a prelude to Malaysia's effort to organise the 1ASEAN Entrepreneurship Summit (1AES) on the sidelines of the ASEAN Leaders' Summit in November 2015. We understand that the 1AES will involve young entrepreneurs, angel investors, policy makers, venture capitalists, startup companies, public sector, and private entities as well as NGOs across the ASEAN region. We believe that 1AES can encourage entrepreneurial culture and nurture startup entrepreneurs and nascent companies among ASEAN youth. We also noted the 1AES will provide a platform for interaction among entrepreneurs in ASEAN and facilitates networking and fosters collaboration within ASEAN and further enhance the AEC. We look forward to a successful 1AES.

Engaging and Building a Stronger ASEAN

32. We acknowledged the Philippines' hosting of the 10th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Investor Seminar (AFMIS) on 20 May 2014 with a theme of "One ASEAN: Sustaining the Growth Momentum," which aimed to promote ASEAN

as an attractive investment destination. We agreed that the AFMIS is an important platform to intensify effective policy cooperation and coordination in ASEAN.

Acknowledgement

33. We thanked Malaysia for hosting the 1st AFMGM this year and welcome Lao PDR as Chair and Host in 2016.

ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)

Joint Press Statement of the 37th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (37th AMAF)

**Makati City, Philippines,
10 September 2015**

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), held our 37th Meeting on 10 September 2015 in Makati City, the Philippines, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Proceso J. Alcala, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture of the Philippines.

Moving Towards 2015 and Beyond

2. We were encouraged that ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry significantly contributed to the successful realisation of the ASEAN Community 2015, with 90.9% of the measures related to food, agriculture and forestry under the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2015 have been implemented as of today. We are confident that the implementation of the remaining measures will be completed by December 2015.
3. Building upon the achievement of the ASEAN Community, we endorsed the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025 to chart out directions for ASEAN cooperation in these areas in supporting the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. Under this

Strategic Plan, we envisioned “*A competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (FAF) sectors integrated with the global economy, based on a single market and production base contributing to food and nutrition security, and prosperity in the ASEAN Community*”. This vision will be realised with comprehensive action programmes under seven (7) strategic thrusts, namely:

- i. Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, ‘green’ technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre- and post-harvest losses and waste;
- ii. Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access;
- iii. Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution;
- iv. Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks;
- v. Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness;
- vi. Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues affecting the FAF sector;
- vii. Promote sustainable forest management.

We envisioned that the implementation of action programmes under seven Strategic Thrusts will also contribute to the environmental stability.

4. We tasked our Senior Officials (SOM-AMAF) and the subsidiary bodies under AMAF to work out the concrete plans of actions and measures to implement this Strategic Plan. In this regard, we appreciated the contribution and support extended to ASEAN by various Dialogue/Development Partners and International Organisations, including the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the German Government through GIZ, the Swiss Government through the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the European Union through the ASEAN Regional Integration

Support from the EU (ARISE) Programme, in the development of this Strategic Plan.

5. We noted the on-going process of streamlining the existing organizational structure and mechanism under AMAF to support the next stage of ASEAN’s integration efforts beyond 2015, with the objective to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation and realization of *Vision and Strategic Plan of Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025*. We tasked SOM-AMAF to complete the process and present the proposed streamlined structure and mechanism at the next AMAF meeting for our consideration and endorsement.

Food Security Arrangements

6. We reiterated our commitment to ensure sufficient supply of safe and nutritious food for the region through the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Food Security (SPA-FS) 2015-2020. We further acknowledged that ensuring supply of sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary requirements of the increasing population of the ASEAN continues to be a major future challenge for the region. In this regard, we issued the *Statement of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry on Food Security and Nutrition*, which sets out the key strategies for action at both the national and regional levels to effectively address the present and emerging threats to food security and to meet adequate nutrition for all populations in ASEAN.
7. We encouraged closed collaboration and partnership with dialogue partners, development partners and international organisations to foster coordination and implementation of activities under the AIFS Framework and SPA-FS 2015-2020 to address emerging threats of food security and promote a common and unified position to ensure sustainable food security and nutrition in the region.

Cooperation on Sectoral and Priority Issues

8. We commended our officials for further achievements made in the harmonisation

- of standards and development of ASEAN guidelines to ensure safe and good quality agriculture produce and to facilitate ASEAN trade of these produce. In this regard, we endorsed the following documents: (i) Intra-ASEAN Phytosanitary Guidelines for the importation of durian fruit and coffee bean for consumption; (ii) ASEAN Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for 5 pesticides, i.e. carbosulfan in eggplants, carbofuran in eggplant, fipronil in basil leaves, buprofezin in basil leaves, and buprofezin in stinking; (iii) ASEAN standards for dragon fruit, green mustard, spinach, water convolvulus, Chinese cabbage and fresh shiitake mushroom; (iv) Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Animal Health and Zoonosis (ACCAHZ); (v) Certificate of Approval of the Veterinary Biologics Assay Division (VBAD), Pakchong, Thailand; (vi) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animal in ASEAN; and (vii) Template on the Arrangement of the Equivalence of Fishery Products Inspection and Certification Systems; (viii) ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain; (ix) ASEAN Regional Guidelines for Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture Practices; (x) ASEAN Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of the Ochratoxin A (OTA) Contamination in Cocoa Beans. We supported the promotion of organic agriculture in the region and agreed that the activities under the Strategic Plan of Action on Organic Agriculture should continue to be implemented under the existing mechanisms or working group.
9. We were pleased that various activities had been implemented to enhance capacity building and strengthening of agricultural cooperatives through sharing of knowledge, exchange visits, development of marketing chain system, development of business networks through strategic alliances projects, as well as through training and extension activities, such as the Training of Trainers on Meat and Dairy Products held on 14-26 September 2014 in the Small Ruminant Centre, the Philippines; the Seminar on Developing Young Farmers Entrepreneurs towards Commercializing the Agricultural Sector held on 24-28 November 201, in Kajang, Malaysia; and the Exchange Visit of Officials, Trainers and Farmers on Food Safety and Farm Accreditation to be held on 19-24 October 2015 to share information and experiences on food safety and farm accreditation in agriculture production.
 10. We acknowledged the significant progress made in the forestry sector, particularly in (i) Promoting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), (ii) International Forest Policy Process, (iii) Timber Certification Initiative, (iv) Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, (v) Herbal and Medicinal as well as forest products development 9, (vi) Wildlife enforcement sand CITES Cooperation, (vii) Forest and Climate Change, (viii) Social Forestry, and (ix) Capacity Building Activities.
 11. We welcomed the conduct of the Study on Mutual Recognition Models for the ASEAN Agricultural Best Practices under the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II to analyse the best options for the implementation of accreditation and certification mechanisms of the endorsed ASEAN standards and agricultural best practices, namely: ASEAN Good Agricultural Practices (ASEAN GAP), ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices (ASEAN GAqP), ASEAN Good Animal Husbandry Practice (ASEAN GAHP), and ASEAN Standard on Organic Agriculture (ASOA). We encouraged closed collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners for implementation of these ASEAN standards and best practices in the region.
 12. We recognised that following the conclusion of the US-MARKET project in June 2015, Indonesia will serve as an interim secretariat for the ASEAN Public Private Taskforce on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture to continue the work of the taskforce through public private partnership among AMS.
 13. We noted various activities related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) carried out by the existing ASEAN mechanisms under AMAF, AEM, and ASEAN-DP FTAs. The activities are intended to ensure ASEAN agriculture products and commodities are safe and of high quality for consumption, which are key conditions towards ensuring success in both

domestic and international trade, as well as to ensure consumer health.

14. We continued our support to promote competitiveness and to upgrade the quality and safety of ASEAN agricultural and forestry products through the implementation of Memorandum of Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation and Joint Approaches in Agriculture and Forest Products Promotion Scheme (2015-2019).

Moving Together with Partners towards 2015

15. We expressed appreciation to various Dialogue Partners and International Organisations for their valuable assistance and support extended for ASEAN cooperation on food, agriculture and forestry, particularly Australia, China, the European Commission, Germany, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).
16. We were pleased with the progress made in the World Economic Forum (WEF) – Grow Asia Partnerships to enable sustainable and inclusive agricultural development in ASEAN countries through the implementation of annual plan 2015-2016, and requested WEF to collaborate with relevant working groups under AMAF for implementation.
17. We acknowledged the existing collaboration between individual ASEAN Member States and IFAD to support strengthening their integration of agri-food systems at the regional level, promoting co-investment and payments for environmental services and welcomed the collaboration with IFAD at the regional level, especially in supporting the implementation of AIFS Framework and SPA-FS 2016-2020. In this connection, we noted with appreciation EU's support to ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry.
18. We also welcomed collaboration with OECD on the development of regional integrated policies to support policy development in enhancing food security, food safety and trade

of agricultural and forest products between ASEAN and OECD countries.

The 38th AMAF Meeting

19. We agreed to convene the 38th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting in Singapore in 2016.
20. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of the Philippines for hosting the 37th AMAF Meeting and for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

Statement of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry on Food Security and Nutrition

1. While ASEAN Member States have achieved significant economic growth and poverty reduction, the countries continue to face challenges of rapid population growth, urbanisation and industrialisation, increased number of obesity and overweight and widening disparities between the rich and the poor and also among the countries in different economic status. Nearly 65 million people in ASEAN countries are still undernourished with high stunting rate of children under age of five in some countries. Many countries also suffer significant micronutrient deficiencies. The region also faces many present and emerging threats to food security, arising from environmental and climate-related changes, declining natural resource base such as arable lands and water, degradation of ecosystems, frequent occurrence of trans-boundary animal diseases and plant pests, food safety problems, high and volatile food prices, long-term pressures on food production due to conversion of agricultural lands into other purposes and migration of labour from rural areas as well as the negative impacts of globalisation.
2. In 2014, the 36th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry endorsed the revised ASEAN Integrated Food Security

(AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action-Food Security (SPA-FS) 2015-2020, which incorporates a new component on nutrition, to enable ASEAN to address new developments and challenges in the realisation of the common goal for sustainable food security and nutrition. At the 24th ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN Leaders reaffirmed to promote a common and unified position to ensure sustainable food security and nutrition in ASEAN.

3. In order to overcome the challenges and ensure sustainable supply of sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious foods that meet the dietary requirements of increasing populations, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry identified the common position and commit to implement the following key strategies:
 - a) Incorporate nutrition objectives, components, measurable indicators into the design of food and agricultural, trade, food security policies and programmes;
 - b) Build institutional capacity through incorporating nutrition in food and nutrition data collection, management and communication and systematic training;
 - c) Promote agro-biodiversity for improved nutrition and climate change adaptation, including support the conservation of, access to, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources that can diversify available nutritious foods for consumption and also to adapt to changing climate;
 - d) Improve policy coherence supportive to nutrition with special focus on market expansion and improvement of market access for vulnerable groups through food price policies, trade policies, and agricultural land conversion;
 - e) Implement food security and nutrition awareness and education for farmers, traders and food and agriculture policy-makers, programme planners, including integrating nutrition education in agriculture extension services;
 - f) Improve storage, preservation, transport and distribution technologies and infrastructure to reduce food insecurity, food nutrient loss and waste;
 - g) Establish risk management system and tools to identify social safety nets, especially during crises, build adequate emergency food reserves and relief systems as a buffer to natural and man-made disasters as well as mitigate effects of high food prices and price volatility; and
 - h) Undertake research on innovative agricultural technologies focusing on improved production and productivity of non-cereals (pulses, fruits, vegetables, and animal-source foods), reduction of post-harvest losses and food wastage along the entire value chain.
4. It is important that regional as well as global cooperation and partnerships be further strengthened in the implementation of the identified key strategies. In ASEAN, regional cooperation must strive to reduce excessive price volatility, ensure adequate emergency food and reserves and provide timely and accurate market information and trade liberalisation, through the following strategies:
 - a) Strengthening and promoting better inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination mechanisms between ASEAN Sectoral Bodies related to agriculture, health, rural development, education environment, economic, labour, energy, social welfare and others; and
 - b) Forming multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving food security and nutrition, particularly through engaging civil society and farmer organisations in policy dialogues, promoting the role of the private sector in the production of nutritionally enhanced foods and in generating resources or investments in agriculture, engaging training and research institutions in support of research, and human and institutional capacity-building.

ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM)

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 33rd ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (33rd AMEM) – Powering ASEAN towards a Greener Community

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
7 October 2015**

1. The 33rd ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) was held on 7 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. H.E. Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia, chaired the Meeting and H.E. U Zay Yar Aung, Union Minister for Energy of Myanmar, was the Vice Chair. The 12th ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) and the 9th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) were also held back-to-back with the 33rd AMEM.

Opening Ceremony

2. H.E. Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia officiated the 33rd AMEM. In his Opening Remarks, the Minister underscored the theme for this year's meeting where ASEAN Member States will intensify collaboration with its partners to work towards achieving greater energy security and enhancing ASEAN connectivity. The Minister also highlighted the challenges faced in ensuring energy sustainability in the face of rising energy demand against the backdrop of declining oil prices and amidst volatile geopolitical situation in the Middle East. To respond to these challenges, the Minister called for greater support and cooperation from Governments, industries, companies and individuals in order to achieve a sustained and cost-efficient energy supply without depriving future generations.

Achievements in ASEAN Energy Cooperation

3. The Ministers commended the remarkable achievements made in the implementation of ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2010-2015. This is the third cycle of ASEAN energy cooperation action plans which will support the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2015. The Ministers welcomed the completion of the Full Term Report of APAEC 2010-2015, which shows that ASEAN has achieved 90% of the targets and activities under the seven programme areas of the APAEC 2010-2015. In particular, ASEAN Member States have exceeded the aspirational targets of 8% reduction in energy intensity and 15% share of renewable energy in installed power generation capacity.

Powering ASEAN towards a Greener Community

4. The Ministers welcomed the achievements made by the Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities (HAPUA) in the implementation of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), including the successful operationalisation of the high priority Sarawak–West Kalimantan interconnection. The Ministers also noted the efforts to study the constraints of cross border power trade and investments with the completion of two studies on (i) taxation of cross border power transactions and (ii) models, including guidelines, for public-private partnership (PPP) in exploring potential financing modalities for APG projects. The Ministers took note of efforts to build capacity in individual ASEAN Member States with the launch of a handbook on best practices in asset management as well as the completion of various ASEAN reference books on carbon emissions reduction, geothermal development, and power plant efficiency improvement.
5. Recognising that interconnectivity and power trade beyond neighbouring borders can contribute towards energy security, the Ministers reiterated their support for the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP) as a pathfinder to complement existing efforts towards realising the ASEAN Power Grid and the ASEAN Economic Community. The Ministers commended the efforts of the LTMS Working Group (LTMS-WG) and LTMS Technical

Taskforce (LTMS TTF) in examining the feasibility of cross border power trade of up to 100MW from Lao PDR to Singapore using existing interconnections. They noted the 11 official meetings thus far and the plans to continue cooperation in assessing the technical viability of using existing interconnections; exchanging information on existing and planned electricity generation sources and electricity demand within each respective country; identifying the legal and regulatory issues that need to be addressed; and exploring possible commercial arrangements for cross border power trade amongst the parties. The Ministers looked forward to the possible signing of a LTMS Memorandum of Understanding on Power Integration when the parties are ready.

6. On activities related to gas infrastructure development under the ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE), the Ministers welcomed the efforts to complement the physical pipeline connections under the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP) with the virtual pipelines of LNG storage and regasification facilities. The Ministers noted the progress in the development of regional gas infrastructure, such as (i) the new B17 Joint Development Area gas pipeline to Kerteh, Malaysia, which upon commissioning would bring the TAGP total pipeline from 3,270 to 3,673 km; (ii) the development of four LNG terminals in the Philippines, the first of which is expected for completion by 2016; (iii) the ongoing development of Singapore's LNG infrastructure and additional regasification facilities bringing the facility's throughput capacity to 11 million tons per annum (MTPA) by 2017; and (iv) the capacity expansion of the Map Ta Phut LNG Terminal in Thailand to 10 MTPA by 2017.
7. To address emergencies or possible disruptions in oil and gas supplies in the region, the Ministers noted the draft ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA) Manual and Localisation Guideline as a basis for continued work to operationalise the APSA. The Ministers urged that actions be taken to conclude the Manual and Guideline before the Special SOME in January 2016.
8. The Ministers were also pleased with the completion of ASCOPE initiatives to address operational concerns through (i) the development of health, safety, security and environment management system guidelines for ASEAN and (ii) a guidebook for decommissioning oil and gas facilities. The Ministers also noted ASCOPE initiatives to improve the commercial environment for oil and gas through the development of (i) a study on ASCOPE unitisation framework involving resource extraction across national boundaries and (ii) a model for LNG destination flexibility contracts for ASEAN buyers which can provide greater level of flexibility in destination and associated contract costs.
9. The Ministers welcomed the activities of the ASEAN Forum on Coal (AFOC) in moving into a new phase of ASEAN-Japan cooperation in coal, focusing on Clean Coal Technology (CCT)'s potential to contribute towards a sustainable electricity supply in ASEAN. The activities will include (i) an advisory on issues related to coal value chains, with focus on coal power; (ii) a study on barriers and issues to be addressed to enhance and promote coal power development with CCT; (iii) information exchange on coal and coal power; and (iv) an advisory to improve the social perception of coal. The Ministers commended the ongoing efforts to share knowledge and experience within ASEAN Member States in implementing CCTs, to study carbon capture storage/ utilisation (CCS/U), and to share information on coal development in ASEAN.
10. In the area of energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C), the Ministers hailed the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Standards Harmonisation Initiative for Energy Efficiency (ASEAN-SHINE), including the progress made in developing a regional roadmap for minimum energy performance standards in air conditioners, and mutual recognition agreements for energy performance testing. The Ministers also acknowledged the implementation of ASEAN-Japan Energy Efficiency Partnership Program (AJEEP) and ASEAN-Japan Pilot Project on Energy Efficiency Market Transformation with Information Provision Scheme (AJ-EMTIPS)

which support the development of energy efficiency in ASEAN.

11. The Ministers also noted the progress on the cooperative effort to compile ASEAN Energy Intensity Data as well as the initiative to compile data and information on EE&C policies, regulatory frameworks, policy instruments, targets, programmes and action plans through ACE. The Ministers welcomed initiatives from Dialogue Partners/International Organisations, including (i) the regional harmonisation of efficient lighting standards in ASEAN by the UN Environment Programme; (ii) the second Energy Efficient Buildings Workshop in Singapore on 28-29 September 2015, under the auspices of ASEAN-US energy cooperation; (iii) the energy efficiency and climate change mitigation in the land transport sector; and (iv) ASEAN-German energy programme which was supported by GIZ.
12. On activities relating to renewable energy, the Ministers welcomed the initiative under the Renewable Energy Sub-sector Network (RE-SSN) to further explore the potential of ocean renewable energy in the ASEAN region and to initiate a detailed work plan or roadmap to move ocean renewable energy forward. The Ministers similarly noted the study on the development and harmonisation of standards and codes for solar PV in ASEAN which will help develop the region's PV technology market and strengthen consumer protection.
13. The Ministers welcomed the completion of the study on climate change impacts on hydro power production in ASEAN, which produced a framework and screening tool to help identify climate change vulnerabilities and potential adaptation measures. The Ministers noted that this was subsequently tested in two hydropower plants in the Philippines and Viet Nam. The Ministers encouraged other ASEAN Member States to also conduct similar testing on other hydropower infrastructure, to help strengthen the climate and disaster resilience of energy infrastructure in the region.
14. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Regional Energy Policy and Planning Sub-sector Network (REPP-SSN)'s efforts along with all the subsector networks and specialised energy bodies towards the completion of APAEC 2010-2015. In addition, the Ministers noted the adoption of the ASEAN-US Work Plan 2016-2020 and the continued good progress in the ASEAN-IEA energy cooperation. The Ministers welcomed the enhancement of collaboration with international organisations, in particular the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
15. The Ministers welcomed the key findings of the 4th ASEAN Energy Outlook (AEO4) which showed that (i) ASEAN's energy intensity would improve over the period 2013-2035 as its energy requirement is expected increase by only 2.7 times while the GDP grows by 3.7 times, and (ii) coal is expected to take over from oil as the major energy source in ASEAN by 2025. In this regard, the Ministers emphasised the need for the implementation of cleaner coal technologies while continuing to tap the potential of renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency.
16. The Ministers noted the continuing efforts to facilitate information sharing and capacity building for ASEAN Member States considering civilian nuclear energy for power generation as an option to meet their energy needs. The Ministers welcomed the discussions on nuclear energy cooperation with China, Canada, the United States, ROSATOM and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) under the Nuclear Energy Cooperation Sub-Sector Network (NEC-SSN) to support the development of future nuclear cooperation activities. The Ministers welcomed the interest from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to work with the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting for Energy (SOME) and looked forward to establishing collaboration in the areas of nuclear safety.
17. The Ministers also welcomed the efforts of the ASEAN Energy Regulators' Network (AERN) to provide strategic support to the implementation of the action plans of the APG and TAGP projects, including the proposal to establish working groups to support the work of HAPUA on (i) technical and regulatory harmonisation and (ii) legal and commercialisation. The Ministers welcomed

AERN's future plans to focus on capacity building activities to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of energy regulation and to strengthen the network among the regulators. The Ministers agreed that AERN members will work and coordinate closely with the APGCC of HAPUA and ASCOPE on such capacity building.

18. The Ministers were pleased with the ongoing enhancement of ACE, citing the organisation's important role in helping coordinate and implement ASEAN energy cooperation. The Ministers noted that ACE's transformation would focus on the implementation of its Business Plan 2015-2017, which introduces among others a new organisational structure, strategy and programmes, external funding, and newly revised internal rules and procedures.

Strategising the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation Post 2015

19. The Ministers reaffirmed that energy connectivity and market integration play crucial roles in the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, which calls for a well-connected, integrated, competitive and resilient ASEAN. The Ministers agreed that the new ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC 2016-2025), with the strategic theme of "Enhancing energy connectivity and market integration in ASEAN to achieve energy security, accessibility, affordability and sustainability for all", will be the blueprint for ASEAN energy cooperation and integration for the next 10 years and will be implemented in two phases.
20. The Ministers applauded the good work of the APAEC Drafting Committee and adopted the first phase of APAEC 2016-2025 covering the period of 2016-2020 with short to medium-term measures to enhance energy security cooperation and move towards greater connectivity and integration. The APAEC 2016-2025 Phase I builds on the achievements of past APAECs and sharpens cooperation in seven strategic areas, namely in (i) the ASEAN Power Grid by initiating multilateral electricity trade in at least one sub-region in ASEAN; (ii) the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline

by enhancing connectivity within ASEAN for energy security and accessibility via pipelines and regasification terminals; (iii) coal and clean coal technologies by enhancing the image of coal in ASEAN; (iv) energy efficiency and conservation by reducing energy intensity in ASEAN; (v) renewable energy by increasing its share in the ASEAN energy mix; (vi) regional policy and planning by greater profiling of the ASEAN energy sector internationally; and (vii) civilian nuclear energy by building capabilities on nuclear energy.

21. The Ministers emphasised the intention to advance clean energy development in ASEAN, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean technology applications. The Ministers encouraged the Sub-Sector Networks and the Special Energy Bodies to continue advancing the uptake of clean energy technologies in the region and to strengthen cooperation with dialogue partners and international organisations to achieve robust technology transfer in these areas. The Ministers called for a determined pursuit of the integration of energy infrastructure and markets so that the benefits of sharing the region's indigenous resources, expert human and technical resources, and the resiliency of shared energy systems may be fully realised.

Propagating Best Practices in the Region through Energy Awards

22. The Ministers congratulated the 55 awardees of the annual ASEAN Energy Awards recognised in five categories for best practices in (i) energy efficient building; (ii) energy management for building and industries; (iii) green building; (iv) renewable energy project; and (v) excellence in energy management by individual.
23. The Ministers also congratulated 18 awardees of the biennial ASEAN Coal Awards for best practices in six categories of (i) surface coal mining; (ii) clean coal use and technology in power generation; (iii) clean coal use and technology in industry; (iv) coal distribution; (v) corporate social responsibility; and (vi) special submission for innovative application and use of coal.

24. The Ministers commended the Sub-Sector Networks (RE-SSN, EE&C-SSN, AFOC) and ACE for this year's successful ASEAN Energy Awards 2015. The Awards help to engage the private sector in the promotion and development of renewable energies, energy efficiency and conservation, as well as encourage the uptake of clean coal technologies and responsible coal resource development in the region.

34th AMEM

25. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Malaysia for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the 33rd AMEM and associated meetings.
26. The Ministers agreed to convene the 34th AMEM in the third week of September 2016 in Myanmar.

ASEAN MINISTERS FOR ENERGY

Hon. Pehin Dato (Dr.) Mohammad Yasmin Umar, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Ith Praing, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Cambodia; Mr. Jarman, Jr., MSc., Director General of Electricity of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, representing H.E. Mr. Sudirman Said, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia; Hon. Dr. Khammany Inthirath, Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia; H.E. U Zay Yar Aung, Union Minister for Energy of Myanmar; H.E. Mdm. Zenaida Y. Monsada, Officer-in-Charge, Department of Energy of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) of Singapore; H.E. General Anantaporn Kanjanarat, Minister of Energy of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Hoang Quoc Vuong, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin)

Joint Press Statement of the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (5th AMMin)

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 10 September 2015

1. The Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (AMMin) was held on 10 September 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. H.E. Dr. Khammany Inthirath, Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR, chaired the Meeting, and Dr. Ye Myint Swe, Director General of Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration of Myanmar, on behalf of H.E. Dr. Myint Aung, Minister of Mines of Myanmar, was the Vice Chair.

Opening Ceremony

2. H.E. Somsavat Lengsavad, the Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR officiated the 5th AMMin and associated meetings. In his Opening Remarks, H.E. Lengsavad commended the ASEAN Senior Officials on Minerals for the remarkable achievements, particularly in the implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP)-II (2011-2015). He stated that ASEAN cooperation in minerals has played significant role as one of the main engines in driving economic growth and social progress in ASEAN that has contributed greatly to the improvement of livelihood, narrowing development gap within and between ASEAN Member States.
3. He also acknowledged the significant support of the ASEAN cooperation in minerals to the ASEAN community building post-2015 and encouraged ASEAN Member States to undertake concerted efforts to: (i) further enhance Mineral cooperation through the implementation of the ASEAN Mineral Cooperation Action Plan III Phase 1 (2016-2020), once adopted, by prioritising cooperative activities contained in this Action Plan and ensuring financial resources for the implementation; (ii) strengthen the minerals development through exchange of knowledge,

expertise, technical and technology transfer in minerals development in an environmentally friendly manner, promoting the application of green energy, technology and green mining development within ASEAN aiming at ensuring the use of natural resources sustainability; and (iii) enhance cooperation in capacity building for mineral officials and skilled labour development within ASEAN.

ASEAN Minerals Cooperation towards Responsible and Sustainable Mining Development

4. The Ministers recognised the enduringly strong growth prospects of mining, minerals and metals to support socio-economic development in the post-2015 integration of the ASEAN Economic Community. The Ministers were of the view that mining shall be an integral part of ASEAN community development for future decades, bringing about direct and indirect benefits to local, national and regional economies. With this in mind, the Ministers encouraged all ASEAN Member States to implement sustainable mining practices at every stage of mineral development focusing on long-life operations, including earnest consideration of environmental impacts of mining to people, biodiversity, forests and water. In this regard, the Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the first ASEAN Mineral Awards by 2017 which will support the promotion of environmentally and socially sustainable ASEAN mineral sector.

Progress of Implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2011-2015

5. The Ministers commended the work of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Minerals (ASOMM) and its Working Groups in the implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP)-II (2011-2015). The Ministers were pleased to note that four years of implementing the AMCAP-II yielded more than 50 projects/activities and about 10 more measures expected for completion by end 2015.
6. The Ministers noted that the major cooperative programmes/activities undertaken so far to implement AMCAP-II, among others: (i) launch of the ASEAN Minerals Database and Information System (AMDIS) to provide the

public and business community with greater access to information on mineral resources, research and development in minerals, capacity building, regulation, as well as profiles of mineral companies in the region; (ii) capacity building activities under the cooperation framework of ASOMM+3 through series of training courses on geological mapping, ASEAN mining environment and ecological recovery and management capability, minerals database development, and sustainable development of mineral resources; (iii) capacity building activities and events carried out by ASEAN Member States such as on policy mechanisms for mineral mining licensing in ASEAN, mining business and investment opportunities of rare earth minerals, geological survey and resource mapping; (iv) research and studies undertaken by ASEAN Member States such as the Research on Low Grade Bauxite Processing and Study on Sustainability Assessment Tools for Mining and Minerals Production; and (v) establishment of the ASEAN Mining Wiki as an information sharing mechanism on social frameworks, environmental standards and legislation within ASEAN Member States.

Strategising the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Post 2015

7. To align with the ASEAN Post-2015 Vision, the Ministers adopted the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP)-III (2016-2025) Phase 1 (2016-2020). AMCAP-III Phase 1 aims to further enhance ASEAN mineral sector dynamism with revitalised strategies and new initiatives towards boosting trade and investment, closer cooperation, and strengthening capacity in sustainable mineral development for a more prosperous and integrated ASEAN. The latest action plan advances three existing strategic areas, namely on: (i) facilitating and enhancing trade and investment in minerals; (ii) promoting environmentally and socially sustainable minerals development; (iii) strengthening institutional and human capacities in the ASEAN minerals sector; and adopts a new strategic area, namely on: (iv) maintaining an efficient and up-to-date ASEAN minerals database, including the information infrastructure to support a more integrated ASEAN minerals sector.

8. To support the implementation of the ASEAN mineral cooperation programmes, projects and activities, the Ministers endorsed the Rules and Procedures of the ASEAN Minerals Trust Fund (AMTF) to cover sector enhancing policy studies, research/feasibility studies, strategic plans, and capacity building initiatives such as training programmes, workshops and seminars.
9. The Ministers agreed to foster cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, including China, Japan and Republic of Korea – under the ASOMM+3 framework, and relevant international organisation such as with the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), in the promotion of scientific and technological research and development in mineral resources development and geosciences as well as cooperative programmes on technology transfer.
10. The Ministers further agreed that cooperation in ASEAN mineral sector shall continue to intensify private sector participation and public-private sector collaboration in ASEAN mineral cooperation programmes and activities. The Ministers agreed to enhance closer interaction and cooperation with the ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations (AFMA) comprising the national mining chambers/associations in the respective ASEAN Member States.

Next AMMin

11. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the 5th AMMin and Associated Meetings.
12. The Ministers agreed to convene the 6th AMMin in 2017 in Myanmar.

ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2025 (AMCAP-III)

“Create a vibrant and competitive ASEAN mineral sector for the well-being of the ASEAN people through enhancing trade and investment and strengthening cooperation and capacity for sustainable mineral development in the region”

I. INTRODUCTION

1. ASEAN is a region rich in mineral resources with vast potentialities for new discoveries. It will gradually emerge to be one of the main growth drivers in Asia’s economy. The total value of mineral trade in ASEAN has increased by more than three-fold in the past decade, increasing from about USD14 billion in the year 2004 to USD44 billion in 2013¹. This has resulted in socio-economic and infrastructure development to many parts of the region.
2. Today, ASEAN, with more than 600 million consumers, has a large industry base that can offer vast opportunities in intra-investment and trade in the region’s rich mineral resources. This can inevitably lead towards a more integrated ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 as aspired in the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community’s Post 2015 Vision.
3. Total intra- and extra-ASEAN trade in major minerals produced in the region in 2012, namely gold, copper, nickel, tin, iron, bauxite, zinc, coal, and gemstones, was about USD53.5 billion with exports value of USD28.6 billion (1.2% of total ASEAN GDP) and imports value of USD24.8 billion (1.1% of total ASEAN GDP). In 2013, total ASEAN trade increased to USD57 billion, though exports value decreased to USD26.4 billion and imports value increased to USD30.6 billion. During those periods, export value of ASEAN Member States (AMS) for the specified major minerals was dominated by Indonesia (USD10.9 billion in 2012 and USD12.1 billion in 2013), followed by Thailand (USD9.3 billion in 2012 and USD5.3 billion in 2013) and Singapore (USD3.6 billion in 2012

¹ Source: ASEAN Secretariat, based on submission from ASEAN Member States.

and USD3.1 billion in 2013). For import value, Thailand was the major importing country, accounted for USD12.2 billion in 2012 and USD16.4 billion in 2013, followed by Malaysia (USD5.2 billion in 2012 and USD6.9 billion in 2013) and Singapore (USD4.4 billion in 2012 and USD4.3 billion in 2013)².

4. Mining, minerals and metals are important to the socio-economic development of the ASEAN region towards AEC integration. To enhance sustainable mineral development, all AMS need to consider the environmental impacts of mining to people, biodiversity, forests and water. AMS have to ensure that all mining activities in the ASEAN region are conducted sustainably, both during and after mining. Sustainable practices should be undertaken at every stage of mineral development focusing on social and environmental well-being. Mining shall be an integral part of ASEAN community development for future decades, bringing about direct and indirect benefits to local, national and regional economies.
5. In AMCAP-III, AMS shall continue to enhance capacity building to strengthen knowledge of stakeholders including industry players to provide a sound basis for efficient and sustainable mineral development. Emphasis shall be given to exploration, extraction, processing, and rehabilitation techniques. Other areas for capacity building shall include policy formulation, institutional and regulatory framework on mining to ensure proper environmental management, monitoring and enforcement. This can be done through close cooperation and collaboration with the academic fraternity. Thus, all institutions of higher learning in AMS will be encouraged to share knowledge in mineral development by leveraging on smart partnership and shared expertise. The centrepiece of ASEAN capacity building in mineral development will depend on closer public-private-academia partnership and cooperation within the framework of sustainable development.
6. The mineral sector has a crucial role to play in supporting ASEAN to achieve AEC's goal by 2025. It supports ASEAN's economic activity through the provision of primary raw materials necessary for society and industry needs. It would be impossible for infrastructure, construction and manufacturing industries to operate in an economy without an adequate and constant supply of minerals. Hence, economic integration among AMS is vital to meet continued market expansion within the ASEAN as well as to provide for external demand. Such economic integration in ASEAN requires addressing policy issues such as tariff reduction and removal of investment and non-tariff barriers. Economic integration also means AMS connectivity through infrastructure, energy, communications and transportation development. Construction of the ASEAN Power Grid, the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline, the ASEAN Highway Network, the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link and regional telecommunications networks will continue to generate demand for minerals.
7. The AMS should also be committed in providing investors with a competitive and conducive environment for intra-ASEAN investment. This is in line with the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), signed in 2009 and came into effect on 29 March 2012, which aims at enhancing the attractiveness of the ASEAN region as a single investment destination. The ACIA, which also covers mining, is expected to result in a more conducive business environment, attracting investors to do business in the region while providing greater confidence among current investors to continue and expand their investments, and thus increasing intra-ASEAN investment.
8. Private sector inputs and partnerships in developing the ASEAN mineral sector are essential not only in designing regional strategies and initiatives, but also in identifying the common issues in realising regional integration. To achieve measureable success in sustainable mineral development, an effective public-private sector partnership should be enhanced. In this regard, fostering closer public-private sector engagement will also help towards the successful implementation of the various programmes, projects and activities under AMCAP-III.

² Ibid

9. The benefits of having a more inclusive mineral cooperation with various ASEAN Dialogue Partners cannot be over emphasised especially in the exchange of knowledge and best practices in the promotion of scientific and technological research in minerals, geosciences and geological mapping, as well as other aspects of mineral development. Towards this end, the various cooperation programmes, projects and activities under AMCAP 2011-2015 (AMCAP-II) that are on-going will be continued and further strengthened in AMCAP-III.

II. THE ASEAN MINERALS COOPERATION ACTION PLAN, 2016-2025 (AMCAP-III)

10. This is the third implementation plan for minerals since its inception in 2005, namely: AMCAP-I (2005-2010); and AMCAP-II (2011-2015), which serves as a blueprint for ASEAN minerals cooperation to further enhance ASEAN mineral sector dynamism.
11. The AMCAP-III was adopted by the 15th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (15th ASOMM) and endorsed by the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals (5th AMMin) held on 8-10 September 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
12. To align with the ASEAN Post-2015 Vision, implementation of the AMCAP-III is divided into two phases i.e. Phase 1 (2016-2020) and Phase 2 (2021-2025).

A. Vision

13. The AMCAP-III vision is to “Create a vibrant and competitive ASEAN mineral sector for the well-being of the ASEAN people through enhancing trade and investment and strengthening cooperation and capacity for sustainable mineral development in the region”.

B. Objective

14. The objective of the AMCAP-III is to further enhance ASEAN mineral sector dynamism with revitalised strategies and new initiatives towards boosting trade and investment, closer cooperation and strengthening capacity in sustainable mineral development for a more prosperous and integrated ASEAN.

15. Building from the previous AMCAPs, the AMCAP-III will continue to underscore the important supporting role of the minerals sector in the AEC in stimulating and enhancing business and trade integration in the AMS. Within the context of renewed thrust under the AEC, AMS will strive, among others, to implement strategic policies, measures and initiatives to further enhance mineral trade and investment, to attract a robust private sector participation and investment in the exploration and development of mineral resources, and to promote environmentally and socially sustainable mining practices.

C. Policy Agenda and Areas of Cooperation

16. The 5th AMMin held on 10 September 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, noted the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post 2015 Vision issued at the 25th ASEAN Summit on 12 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, to promote an ASEAN Economic Community for 2016-2025 (AEC 2025). This includes an integrated and highly cohesive economy, competitive, innovative and dynamic ASEAN, resilient, people-centred ASEAN, enhanced sectoral integration and cooperation, and a global ASEAN. The Declaration aims, amongst others, to:
 - (a) Create a deeply integrated and highly cohesive ASEAN economy that would support sustained high economic growth and resilience even in the face of global economic shocks and volatilities;
 - (b) Incorporate a sustainable growth agenda that promotes the use of green technology and green energy;
 - (c) Engender more equitable and inclusive growth in ASEAN to narrow the development gaps, with poverty significantly reduced if not eliminated, sustained high growth rate of per capita income of the low and lower middle income within the AMS, and a rising middle class;
 - (d) Promote the principles of good governance, transparency and responsive regulations and regulatory regimes through active engagement with the private sector, community-based

- organisations and other stakeholders of ASEAN;
- (e) Foster robust productivity growth through innovation and technology development, which entails human resource development and intensified regional research and development with commercial application to increase ASEAN's competitive edge to move up the global value chain into higher technology-intensive manufacturing industries and knowledge intensive market services; and
 - (f) Promote wider Asian connectivity through ASEAN and sub-regional cooperation and projects to achieve greater infrastructure connectivity supported by strong institutional and people-to-people connectivity and movement of skilled people and talents.
17. Cooperation in ASEAN minerals sector shall continue to involve partnership in policy development and in programme implementation in the following areas:
- (a) Information exchange and development of the ASEAN Mineral Database;
 - (b) Promotion and facilitation of intra- and extra-ASEAN trade and investment;
 - (c) Promotion of environmentally and socially responsible mineral resources management and development;
 - (d) Intensifying private sector participation and public-private sector collaboration in ASEAN mineral cooperation programmes and activities;
 - (e) Fostering cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and relevant international and regional organisations in the promotion of scientific and technological research and development in mineral resources development and geosciences, as well as cooperative programmes on technology transfer;
 - (f) Coordination and harmonisation of development policies and programmes on mineral resources;
 - (g) Exchange of technical information, experience and good mining practices; and
 - (h) Strengthening cooperation and joint approaches in addressing international and regional issues and concerns of common interest.
- D. Review of AMCAP-II**
18. The AMCAP-II aimed to boost the dynamism of the ASEAN minerals sector with initiatives that could enhance trade and investment, intensify cooperation and increase capacity for sustainable mineral development and prosperity of the ASEAN region.
19. After 4 years of implementation of the AMCAP-II, the following measures have been successfully undertaken:
- Under Strategy 1, Facilitating and Enhancing Trade and Investment in Minerals, 12 measures have been completed, 2 are on-going and 1 measure has been deferred.
 - Under Strategy 2, Promoting Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Mineral Development, 8 measures have been completed, 4 are on-going and 5 measures have been deferred.
 - Under Strategy 3, Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacities in the ASEAN Minerals Sector, 8 measures have been completed, 3 are on-going and 5 measures have been deferred.
 - Under ASOMM+3, 25 projects have been successfully carried out and 4 projects are on-going.
20. The notable achievements include, among others:
- Launching of the ASEAN Minerals Database and Information System (AMDIS) which provides public and business community with greater access to information on minerals concerning mineral resources, research and development in minerals, capacity building, regulation, as well as minerals company profile;

- Implementation of capacity building activities under the framework of ASOMM+3 through a series of training courses on Geological Mapping Capacity Building for AMS, Training Course on ASEAN Mine Environment and Ecological Recovery and Management Capability, with technical assistance from China; and a series of trainings/workshops on ASEAN Minerals Resources Database, Training Courses on Sustainable Development of Mineral Resources with technical support from Japan;
 - Implementation of capacity building activities and events carried out by AMS such as Seminar on Policy Mechanism for Mineral Mining License in ASEAN; Seminar on Mining Business and Investment Opportunities of the Rare Earth Minerals; Training Programme on Geological Survey and Resource Mapping; Workshop on Mine Rehabilitation and Sustainable Development; Workshop on Tin and Industrial Minerals Processing – which were organised by Indonesia; Singapore Iron Ore Week and Asian Mineral Congress – which were organised by Singapore; and First International Conference on Geology and Mineral Resources of ASEAN (GeoASEAN 1) and Symposium on Developing GeoParks within East and Southeast Asia Region: Opportunities and Challenges – which were organised by Viet Nam;
 - Completion of researches and studies undertaken by AMS such as Research of Low Grade Bauxite Processing by Indonesia; Study on Sustainability Assessment Tools for Mining and Minerals Production by Thailand; and
 - Establishment of ASEAN Mining Wiki by Thailand as an information sharing mechanisms on the social frameworks, environmental standards and legislations among AMS.
 - Establishment of the ASEAN Minerals Trust Fund to support the implementation of ASEAN mineral cooperation programmes, projects and activities.
21. To meet the satisfactory implementation of the strategic plans and targets of the AMCAP-III requires mobilisation of adequate financial resources and technical assistance. These aspects have been among the main challenges experienced in the implementation of the two previous AMCAPs.
 22. In time availability of the ASEAN Minerals Trust Fund in the beginning of 2017 to support the projects and activities of ASOMM would, therefore, be beneficial to the implementation of the AMCAP-III. At the same time, enhancing cooperation with Dialogue Partners and International Organisation offer good prospects to meet the AMCAP's target.

E. Implementation Arrangements

23. The ASOMM shall have the overall responsibility in the supervision, coordination and implementation of the AMCAP-III, with the following specific responsibilities:
 - a. Undertake all necessary actions for its implementation, including determining priorities, carrying out periodic reviews, and the approval of the necessary cooperation programmes, projects and activities;
 - b. Serve as the principal coordinating body to address all issues relating to its implementation;
 - c. Identify financial support and assistance, as well as relevant technologies from within and outside ASEAN, to include but not limited to the private sector, the ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and relevant regional and international organisations and educational institutions; and
 - d. Report on the implementation progress to the AMMin.
24. The ASEAN minerals working groups, namely: Working Group on Trade and Investment in Minerals (WGTIM), Working Group on Sustainable Minerals Development (WGSMD), Working Group on Capacity Building in Minerals (WGCBM), and Working Group on Minerals Information and Database (WGMID) shall continue to serve as the ASOMM's implementing arms in the respective programme areas.

25. The ASEAN Mineral Trust Fund shall be utilised to provide funding support to the implementation of AMCAP-III projects and activities, as duly approved by ASOMM. The AMS shall collectively determine the implementation priorities, work programmes, projects and activities under the AMCAP-III for consideration and approval by ASOMM. Technical and financial assistance from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, ASEAN private sector, international and regional organisations and other related institutions are welcome to ensure the successful implementation of the AMCAP-III.
26. The ASEAN Secretariat shall assist ASOMM and its Working Groups in carrying out the above responsibilities, including technical support and assistance in the facilitation, coordination and review of the programmes, projects and activities as well as leverage for funding supports. The ASEAN Secretariat shall prepare regular implementation progress reports for submission to ASOMM and its Working Groups.
27. Mid-Term Review (MTR) mechanism will be pursued to monitor the progress in the implementation of AMCAP-III as well as identify areas that may potentially require intervention to ensure their timely completion by 2025. The MTR for AMCAP-III Phase 1 will be undertaken in 2018 and Phase 2 in 2023.

III. AMCAP-III PHASE 1 (2016-2020)

STRATEGIC AREAS, PROGRAMMES AND ACTION LINES

28. The AMCAP-III Phase 1 consists of 4 Strategic Areas, namely:
- (i) Facilitating and Enhancing Trade and Investment in Minerals;
 - (ii) Promoting Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Mineral Development;
 - (iii) Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacities in the ASEAN Minerals Sector; and
 - (iv) Maintaining An Efficient and Up-To-Date ASEAN Minerals Database, including its infrastructure towards achieving AEC integration in the minerals sector.

29. The 4 Strategic Areas mentioned above covers 15 Programmes and 46 Action Lines, as follows:

Strategy 1: Facilitating and Enhancing Trade and Investment in Minerals

Programme and Actions Lines:

TI1 - Creating trade opportunities and addressing impediments:

- (i) Enhance information sharing mechanism with the view to provide more comprehensive and updated mineral information and data of AMS.
- (ii) Compile information, statistics and publication on mineral exploration, development and consumption as well as value-added activities, including mineral laws and regulations.
- (iii) Collect and collate existing regulations and incentives towards making them readily available to stakeholders.
- (iv) Enhance the role of one-stop mineral trade and investment promotion/ facilitation centre in each AMS.

TI2 - Promote intra- and extra-ASEAN investment in the minerals sector:

- (i) Organise conferences, seminars, forums, and visit programmes.
- (ii) Sharing of information on increasing added value in minerals and precious stones.
- (iii) Regular review of trade and investment in minerals amongst AMS.
- (iv) Formulate and implement programmes on promotion of intra- and extra-ASEAN investment in the minerals sector.

TI3 - Facilitate smart partnership in trade and investment:

- (i) Hold regular public-private sector forums on mineral cooperation in ASEAN.
- (ii) Promote and facilitate business matching or joint venture cooperation between ASEAN private sector companies.

- (iii) Enhance engagement with ASEAN dialogue partners to include advanced mining countries.
- (iv) Regular consultative engagements between private sectors of ASEAN and dialogue partners.

Strategy 2: Promoting Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Mineral Development

Programmes and Actions Lines:

ES1 - Incentives for environmentally and socially sustainable mineral development:

- (i) Share information through mineral information database on existing incentives and laws/regulations pertaining to sustainable mineral resource development.
- (ii) Facilitate regular dialogues and forums to enhance investment and cooperation in sustainable mineral development.
- (iii) Recognise best practices in sustainable mineral development in the form of biennial awards presented in conjunction with AMMin.

ES2 - Enhance sustainable mineral development initiatives:

- (i) Maintain and update information sharing on the social frameworks, environmental standards and legislations.
- (ii) Implement the sustainability assessment framework and guidelines.
- (iii) Continue to conduct training to strengthen capacities of national authorities to ensure safe, responsible and sustainable mineral development.

ES3 - Exchange of knowledge and best practices:

- (i) Identify and document indigenous knowledge and best practices in environmental protection and rational utilisation of mineral resources.
- (ii) Continue programmes on exchange of knowledge on responsible mineral development practices.
- (iii) Continue R&D efforts to enhance value-add of minerals.

ES4 - Rehabilitation of abandoned and closed mines/sites:

- (i) Identify, document and disseminate rehabilitation strategies and measures for abandoned and closed mines/sites for inclusion in ASEAN Mineral Database.
- (ii) Conduct training towards building human and technical capacities in rehabilitation measures for abandoned mines/sites.

ES5 - Engagement and cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners:

- (i) Conduct regular dialogues for greater interaction and exchange of knowledge on sustainable mineral development, green mining and new technologies.
- (ii) Conduct forums, seminars, meetings and visits of experts in research and development on sustainable mineral development.
- (iii) Strengthen and encourage greater cooperation within ASEAN and the Dialogue Partners for mutual capacity building.
- (iv) Enhance cooperative programmes with Dialogue Partners in transfer of technology.
- (v) Sharing of information/exchange of experience on geo-park and geo-heritage.

ES6 - Communication, education and public awareness:

- (i) Exchange information on communication campaigns for public awareness on environment, health and socio-economic benefits of mineral resources development.
- (ii) Develop public relations materials on the benefits of sustainable mineral resources development.

Strategy 3: Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacities in the ASEAN Minerals Sector

Programmes and Actions Lines:

IH1 - Develop regional training programmes:

- (i) Organise training programmes based on the outcomes of the Analysis of Training Needs for ASEAN Mineral Administrations/ Agencies such as trainings for mine managers, mine designers/engineers, project coordinators (exploration and inspection), etc.

IH2 - Enhance institutional, human and technological capacities for research, innovation and technology transfer in minerals and geosciences:

- (ii) Training on geological surveys and mineral exploration and economic geology.
- (iii) Exchange of geological and resource information between AMS through regional conferences, forums and workshops.
- (iv) Training course on analysis of mineral and geological samples.
- (v) Attachment training within AMS.
- (vi) Short term training courses on specialised areas, especially environmental management, minerals processing, rehabilitation, and mineral economics.

IH3 - Promote R&D cooperation in minerals and geosciences as well as technology transfer programmes with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other international agencies:

- (i) Facilitate implementation of cooperative studies and technology transfer.

IH4 - Develop and adopt efficient technologies to ensure sustainable mineral resource development through:

- (i) Intensify R&D on green technology in exploration, mining, processing of minerals and mine rehabilitation.
- (ii) Share and exchange of information and experience on latest green technology and practices through regional conferences, forums, seminars or workshops.
- (iii) Capacity building on geophysics technology in mineral exploration both off-shore and on-shore.

Strategy 4: Maintaining an Efficient and Up-To-Date ASEAN Minerals Database, Including Its Infrastructure Towards Achieving AEC Integration in the Minerals Sector

Programmes and Actions Lines:

MD1 - Providing appropriate hard and soft infrastructural support

- (i) Ensure efficient operation of the ASEAN Mineral Database Information System (AMDIS).
- (ii) Provide support in managing and improving the mineral database contents.

MD2 - Sharing of mineral related information

- (i) Enhance commitment among AMS to provide and update the AMDIS on a regular and timely basis.
- (ii) Organise training courses, workshops and exchange of experts in mineral database information system.
- (iii) Continue and strengthen the AMDIS, including its infrastructure pertaining to information on trade, investment, environment, laws and regulations, capacity building, etc.
- (iv) Promote usage of the AMDIS by the public, relevant stakeholders and investors.

30. The Expected Outputs of each Action Line are described in the Implementation Details of the annexed hereto.

IV. AMCAP-III PHASE 2 (2021-2025)

31. Building upon the progress of implementation of key programmes and actions lines of the AMCAP-III Phase 1, the 15th ASOMM held on 8 September 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR agreed to develop the Phase 2 of AMCAP-III, i.e. for 2021-2025 period, based on the following timelines:

- Start discussion on the draft: 3rd Quarter of 2018
- Initial Draft: 1st Quarter of 2019
- Final Draft: ASOMM 2019
- Adoption/endorsement: AMMin 2019

32. The 15th ASOMM endorsed the appointment of Malaysia as the Lead Country for this undertaking.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST)

Chairman's Statement of the 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, on Science and Technology (AMMST-16)

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 6 November 2015

1. The 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST-16) was held on 6 November 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Boviengkham VONGDARA, Minister of Science and Technology, Lao PDR and attended by Science and Technology Ministers and Senior Officials from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN and his staff were also in attendance.
2. Six (6) Meetings were convened prior to the 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology. These Meetings are (i) The 48th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on S&T Infrastructure and Resource Development (SCIRD-48), 2 November 2015; (ii) the 27th Meeting of the Advisory Body on the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology (ABAPAST-27), 3 November 2015; (iii) the 26th Meeting of the Advisory Body of the ASEAN Science Fund (ABASF-26), 3 November 2015; (iv) the 70th Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST-70), 4 November 2015; (v) the 6th ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Science and Technology, 5 November 2015; and (vi) The 5th ASEAN-US Consultation on Science and Technology, 5 November 2015.

ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025

3. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) for the period 2016-2025. The Ministers highlighted the necessity and urgency for COST activities and programmes to be visible enough to get the attention and appreciation of the ASEAN Leaders. The Ministers further encouraged COST to implement activities and programmes under the APASTI that are supportive of both social and economic developments and consistent with the goals of the Post-2015 ASEAN Community.
4. The Ministers supported the recommendations of the APASTI in restructuring the COST through the merger of the Advisory Body of ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology (ABAPAST) and the Advisory Body on ASEAN Science Fund (ABASF) to form the Board of Advisers to COST (BAC). The Ministers tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to formulate the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the BAC and ensure the BAC shall be a more dynamic and proactive body, and ensure the engagement of ASEAN private sectors.
5. The Ministers agreed that APASTI should be accompanied by an implementation plan that will include the priorities, targets/deliverables, specific actions, timelines, and indicators, to be derived from the work plans of COST subsidiary bodies.
6. The Ministers welcomed the setting up of an ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Platform that would facilitate mobility of scientists and researchers in ASEAN and with partner countries. The Ministers tasked the BAC to develop mechanism on how to operationalise the ATM platform. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance to include specific actions and programmes such as S&T competency and skill framework for industry as part of talent mobility. The Ministers highlighted that the fostering of entrepreneurship for our young generation must be implemented not only to meet the goals of APASTI but also to achieve the post-2015 ASEAN vision.

7. The Ministers noted that the discussion on the proposed establishment of ASEAN-ROK innovation Centre (ARIC) is currently ongoing. The Ministers also noted that the establishment of ARIC shall be a virtual network based.

ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF)

8. The Ministers noted that all ASEAN Member States have completed their contribution of USD 1 million to the fund.
9. The Ministers noted that the BAC shall make appropriate recommendations on the suitable financial instrument for ASTIF that can generate higher income with manageable risk. Meanwhile, the sum of USD 1 million shall be made available to support activities and programmes indicated in the APASTI 2016-2025.

Highlights of the Meetings with Dialogue Partners

European Union

10. The Ministers noted the outcome of the 6th ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Science and Technology held on 5 November 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR which include the updates on various initiatives such as Horizon 2020 priority areas including the new round of calls (2016-2017); Aquaculture, Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R), water research and the report on the Framework Conditions for Research and Innovation; and the upcoming E-READI initiative and the new Horizon 2020 International Cooperation Service Facility.
11. The Ministers also noted the outcome on the ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Study and its recommendation to set up the ATM Platform. The Meeting agreed to synergize the existing activities of EURAXESS and ATM. The Meeting also noted that an ASEAN-EU co-funding mechanism may be explored.

Japan

12. The Ministers welcomed the new initiatives of Japan to conduct the various activities on Japan-ASEAN Joint Research Center (JRC); Japan-ASEAN STI Platform (JASTIP); and

Japan-ASEAN Exchange Program for Young ASEAN Officials Working in STI.

Russia Federation

13. The Ministers noted the outcome of 7th ASEAN-Russia Working Group on Science and Technology (ARWGST-7) which was held on 23 September 2015 in Moscow, Russian Federation. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN-ROK Work Plan shall be developed taking into account APASTI priorities areas including the existing activities and programs implemented through bilateral and multilateral arrangements. The Ministers noted that the Energy Dialogue Workshop between Russia-ASEAN on Renewable Energy and Clean Energy Technologies shall be held on 18-20 November 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Republic of Korea (ROK)

14. The Ministers noted the outcome of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Joint Science and Technology Committee which was held on 19 October 2015 in Daejeon, ROK. The Ministers supported the development of ASEAN-ROK Work Plan taking into account APASTI priorities areas including the existing activities and programmes implemented through bilateral and multilateral arrangements. The Ministers noted the conduct of ASEAN-ROK STI Workshop in 2016 to discuss the ASEAN-ROK work programme and possible areas of cooperation.

The United States (U.S)

15. The Ministers noted the outcome of The 5th ASEAN-US Consultation on Science and Technology held on 5 November 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Ministers further noted with appreciation the progress of the second year implementation of the ASEAN-US S&T Fellow Program. The Ministers also noted the thematic themes for the Fellowship Program 2016-2017 which include: (i) Sustainable Energy; (ii) Climate, Climate Change, Climate Variability; and (iii) Science, Technology and Innovation Policies.
16. The Ministers also noted the proposal from the U.S. to consider a possible institution that could host the Fellows Program after the end of the ASEAN-US PROGRESS project in 2018.

17. The Ministers welcomed and supported the future implementation of (i) ASEAN-US Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative (YSEALI) Innovation Challenge which is designed to give the youth (aged 18-35) the opportunity to identify science and technology (S&T) based solutions to challenges in food-related industries; and (ii) ASEAN-US Prize for Women in Science.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

18. The Ministers noted the outcome of the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Ministerial Forum on STI held on 20 October 2015 as a side event of the OECD Ministerial Meeting in Daejeon, ROK which discussed STI policies and strategies including past efforts and achievements in ASEAN, China, Japan, and the ROK.
19. The Ministers also noted the award giving for two students from Indonesia and Singapore supported by ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science (ACGS) namely first Da Vinci Award and Scholarship given.

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Related Activities/Events

20. The Ministers noted the highlights of the 14th ASEAN Food Conference in Manila, Philippines on 24-26 June 2015; The 4th ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey in Serpong, Indonesia on 24-28 August 2015 as one of the initiatives of the ASEAN Plus Three Center for the Gifted in Science (ACGS); and the ASEAN-Russia cooperation projects on space technology and nano-biotechnologies.
21. The Ministers also noted the following forthcoming events:
 - i. ASEAN Crowdfunding Workshop;
 - ii. ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum in August 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand; and
 - iii. ASEAN-EU STI Days, 10-12 May 2016, Hanoi, Viet Nam.
22. The Meeting welcomed and supported the conduct of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum hosted by Thailand in August 2016. The Ministers noted the forum would create public awareness on the roles of

STI for sustainable development and provide a platform for people-to-people networking in the ASEAN. The innovation eco-system shall not only be limited to scientists and researchers, but also extended to policy makers, business leaders, media leaders, young scientists, SMEs and start-ups. The Forum which will provide a platform for open and informal discussions on science, technology and innovation issues shall discuss regional development challenges. The Meeting further noted that that the forum shall be conducted every two years.

Cross-Sectoral Cooperation in ASEAN

23. The Ministers welcomed the proposed cooperation of ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) and ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management under ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) and tasked the relevant COST Sub-Committees to discuss and explore possible collaboration on relevant issues.
24. The Ministers recognised the importance in defining appropriate STI indicators in the APASTI implementation plan in order to measure the progress of the implementation of APASTI taking into account various activities and programme implemented in the past few years.

Next Meeting of the ASEAN S&T Ministers

25. The Meeting noted that the 9th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (IAMMST-9), the 71st COST and other related meetings shall be held in Cambodia in the second half of 2016.

ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (TELMIN)

Joint Media Statement of the 14th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings

Bangkok, Thailand, 23 January 2015

1. The 14th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT) Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 22-23 January 2015. H.E. Dr. Pornchai Rujiprapa, Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand, chaired the Meeting, and H.E. Nguyen Thanh Hung, Deputy Minister of Information and Communications of Viet Nam was the Vice-Chairman. The Ministers also held consultations with their counterparts from the People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on 22-23 January 2015.

TRANSFORMING ASEAN: MOVING TOWARDS SMART COMMUNITIES

2. The Ministers commended the senior officials and regulators in charge of telecommunications and IT for the good progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM2015), and agreed to further intensify efforts to complete the remaining measures in AIM2015 to facilitate the timely realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015.
3. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the bilateral agreement between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore on the reduction of mobile telecommunication roaming rate, which has been implemented starting 1 January 2015. The Ministers encouraged other ASEAN Member States to take appropriate steps to further reduce mobile roaming charges across ASEAN with the view to facilitate the establishment of single telecommunications market.
4. The Ministers applauded efforts to promote networked society and economy in ASEAN by encouraging innovation in the creation of online services, amongst others, through formulation of enabling policies for online services platforms, promotion of common secure transaction framework, promotion of online public and commercial services, and the holding of annual ASEAN ICT Awards.
5. The Ministers supported several initiatives to improve Information and Communications Technology (ICT) connectivity including the possible use of dynamic spectrum allocation technology to better utilise scarce radio frequencies, strengthening the submarine cable protection regimes to ensure reliability of communications network in ASEAN, and harmonising digital dividend spectrum utilisation.
6. The Ministers also supported continual development of human capital through upgrading of ICT skills, the establishment of ICT scholarship programmes, and development of ICT competency level reference mapping. The Ministers encouraged ICT professionals to utilise the newly established platforms - the ASEAN CIO Association and network of ASEAN ICT Centres of Excellence - to exchange information and share best practices.
7. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of building confidence and security in the use of ICT among ASEAN citizens, public and private sector organisations through development of human and institutional capacity in network and information security, including the framework development activities of the ASEAN Network Security Action Council (ANSAC), information security awareness campaigns, and ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) cooperative activities.
8. The Ministers agreed to build upon the progress made under AIM2015 to chart the course for the post-2015 vision to further enhance innovative utilisation of ICT for a sustainable economic development.
9. The Ministers adopted the Bangkok Statement, entitled "Transforming ASEAN: Moving

towards Smart Communities”, to reiterate ASEAN’s commitments to realise the benefits of regional integration through the use of ICT as an enabler to narrow the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States.

ICT COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

10. The Ministers acknowledged China’s assistance in the successful conclusion of several ICT related activities in 2014 in relation to broadband for driving economic social development, Internet of Things (IoT) technology application in smart city, network security, and telecom interconnection in a converged environment.
11. The Ministers supported in principle China’s proposal for establishing an ASEAN-China CERTs Cooperative Mechanism as an important platform for strengthening cybersecurity cooperation between CERTs of the two sides, and tasked the ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) to finalise the Cooperative Mechanism.
12. The Ministers endorsed the 2015 ASEAN-China ICT Work Plan to exchange and cooperate in the areas of network interconnectivity, e-commerce development, big data technologies and applications, mobile internet services and network security.
13. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for her assistance in a number of areas of cooperation including cybersecurity, human capacity development, disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation, and acceleration of ICT utilisation under the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan for 2015.
14. The Ministers acknowledged the initiation of the projects under “ASEAN Smart Network Initiative” to enhance ICT infrastructure in ASEAN. The Ministers agreed to hold several activities under the ASEAN Japan ICT Fund including policy symposium to discuss ICT policy beyond 2015. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to Japan for the additional contribution of USD 100,000.00 to the ASEAN-Japan ICT Fund.
15. The Ministers recognised that the “ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Framework on Information Security” is progressing well including capacity building for young generation and joint research project. The Ministers endorsed the first edition of ASEAN-Japan Critical Information Infrastructure Protection guidelines that was jointly developed in pursuant to this collaboration framework.
16. The Ministers extended their congratulatory remarks to the Republic of Korea for successfully hosting the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference that was held in Busan in 2014. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Republic of Korea for having successfully implemented a series of cooperation activities with ASEAN in ICT development, focusing on priority areas such as expansion of new technology and services, capacity building and knowledge sharing, ICT infrastructure enhancement, as well as through cooperation with international organisations.
17. The Ministers welcomed Republic of Korea’s proposal for future cooperation on ICT development through strengthening cooperation in disaster response using ICT, cooperating in the development of mobile applications and services, continuing technical cooperation in digital broadcasting, the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, and finally, through developing and promoting projects related to e-Waste recycling.
18. The Ministers recognized the role that the Vitamin Project can play in converging ICT with ASEAN’s conventional industries.
19. The Ministers acknowledged EU’s technical assistance in the development of coherent and harmonised ICT regulatory frameworks, in particular, on frequency spectrum management, through the Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI) Facility. The Ministers welcomed the opportunity to jointly develop cooperation activities under a new facility, Enhanced READI, that is currently under development.
20. The Ministers applauded ITU for their relentless assistance in advancing the development of ICT sector in ASEAN including capacity

building on and development of national ICT indicators; establishment of national statistics portals; study on policy and regulatory issues of social media utilisation in ASEAN and ICT accessibility and assistive technologies.

21. The Ministers acknowledged ITU's valuable support and country actions provided to ASEAN individual members in the areas of telecommunication/ICT policy and regulation, cybersecurity, spectrum management, digital inclusion, and capacity building regulation.
22. The Ministers confirmed their intention to renew this cooperation and plan for the extension of the MOU between ASEAN and ITU on ICT Cooperation that will expire in November 2015.
23. The Ministers reiterated ASEAN's commitment to pursue policy and regulatory dialogue with both dialogue and development partners. The Ministers also called for greater participation from private sector to jointly develop quality ICT infrastructure and skill-based workforce to improve ASEAN's competitiveness as we work towards the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

NEXT MEETING

24. The Ministers agreed to convene the 15th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting and its Meetings with Dialogue and Development Partners in Viet Nam in 2015.
22. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government and the people of Thailand for their warm hospitality accorded to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the 14th TELMIN and Related Meetings.

LIST OF MINISTERS

H.E. Pehin Dato Abdullah Bakar, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia; H.E. Rudiantara, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Indonesia; H.E. Hiem Phommachanh, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Lao PDR; H.E. Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Minister of Communications and Multimedia of Malaysia; H.E.

Myat Hein, Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Myanmar; H.E. Mario G. Montejo, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines; H.E. Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information of Singapore; H.E. Dr. Pornchai Rujiprapa, Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand; H.E. Nguyen Thanh Hung, Deputy Minister of Information and Communications of Viet Nam; H.E. Shang Bing, Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology of People's Republic of China; H.E. Yasuo Sakamoto, Vice Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan; H.E. Dr. Choi Yanghee, Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea; and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 15th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings

Da Nang, Viet Nam, 27 November 2015

1. The 15th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT) Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) was held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, on 26 and 27 November 2015. H.E. Dr. Nguyen Bac Son, Minister of Information and Communications of Viet Nam, chaired the Meeting, and H.E. Dato Mustappa Sirat, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam was the Vice-Chairman. The Ministers also held consultations with their counterparts from the People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

TOWARDS A DIGITALLY-ENABLED, INCLUSIVE, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE ASEAN COMMUNITY

2. The Ministers commended the senior officials and regulators in charge of telecommunications and IT for the successful completion of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM2015) and its contribution to the creation of empowering and transformational Information and Communication Technology

(ICT) for an inclusive, vibrant and integrated ASEAN Community.

3. The Ministers noted that ASEAN has put in tremendous efforts to complete the AIM2015, with 87 projects undertaken to implement the masterplan. These efforts have led to substantial improvements in ICT development and connectivity in the region. In particular, the Ministers were encouraged to note that the cost of accessing fixed broadband as a percentage of GNI per capita in the region has decreased considerably from 37.16% in 2010 to 6.21% in 2013. Further, the number of mobile subscriptions per 100 inhabitants rose from 90.43 in 2010 to 121.75 in 2014.
4. The Ministers applauded the efforts to promote digital economy in ASEAN, including through the formulation of enabling regulatory policies for ICT development, development of a secure transactions framework, promotion of a safe and secure ICT environment, as well as encouraging industry innovation through the ASEAN ICT Awards.
5. The Ministers supported several initiatives to improve ICT connectivity including through the use of dynamic spectrum allocation technology to better utilise scarce radio frequencies, harmonising digital dividend spectrum utilisation, strengthening of submarine cable protection regimes to ensure reliability of communications network, and supporting broadband development in rural communities.
6. The Ministers also supported the continual development of human capital through the development of ICT skills upgrading programmes and the continued development of ICT competency level reference mapping. The Ministers encouraged ASEAN ICT professionals to take advantage of the ASEAN CIO Association and the network of ASEAN ICT Centres of Excellence to exchange ideas and share best practices.
7. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of collective efforts in ensuring a secure ICT ecosystem in ASEAN through the development of human and institutional capacity in network and information security, including cybersecurity awareness campaigns

and the cooperative activities of the ASEAN Network Security Action Council (ANSAC).

8. The Ministers welcomed the launch of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 (AIM2020) to guide ASEAN ICT cooperation from 2016-2020 towards a digitally-enabled economy, which is secure, sustainable, and transformative; and one that would enable the achievement of an innovative, inclusive and integrated ASEAN Community.
9. The Ministers adopted the Da Nang Declaration, entitled "Towards a Digitally-enabled, Inclusive, Secure and Sustainable ASEAN Community", to reiterate ASEAN's commitment to realise the benefits of the ASEAN Community through the use of ICT.

ICT COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

10. The Ministers acknowledged the 10 years of Ministerial dialogues on ICT cooperation and collaboration between ASEAN and China, Japan and ROK, respectively. The Ministers looked forward to deeper cooperation in strengthening ICT policy, adopting emerging technology, and improving the quality of network and information security across the ASEAN region towards achieving the objectives of AIM2020.
11. The Ministers acknowledged China's assistance in the successful conclusion of several China-ASEAN ICT related training activities held in China in the areas of network convergence and interconnection, mobile Internet innovation, electronic commerce, big data technology and application, and network security, and were of the view that the cooperation between the two sides in the ICT field should be further enhanced, particularly given the recent ICT development initiatives of the two sides.
12. The Ministers endorsed the 2016 ASEAN-China ICT Work Plan which includes the activities to exchange and cooperate in the areas of broadband development and USO, Internet-based new business and applications, cloud computing and big data, ICT's role for economic and social development, as well as the Action Plan for Implementing the ASEAN-

China Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) Cooperative Mechanism.

13. In relation to the Action Plan of the newly established ASEAN-China CERTs Cooperative Mechanism, the Ministers noted that the Action Plan would facilitate future ease of implementation by first discussing and developing an agreed list of cyber incident types, information sharing protocols and processes to be covered under the mechanism. The Ministers also noted that the Mechanism would serve as a platform to strengthen cybersecurity cooperation between CERTs in ASEAN Member States and China.
14. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for her assistance in several areas of cooperation in 2015, including the ICT-infrastructure enhancement studies under the “ASEAN Smart Network Initiative”. The Ministers acknowledged Japan’s proposed ASEAN Smart ICT Connectivity Vision composed of a number of potential areas for cooperation.
15. The Ministers agreed to hold several activities under the ASEAN-Japan ICT Fund including policy symposium to discuss ICT policy including IoT and 5G. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for the additional contribution of USD 100,000.00 to the ASEAN-Japan ICT Fund.
16. The Ministers commended the progress made in the implementation of the “ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Framework on Information Security”, including the conduct of the Cyber SEA Game, joint research projects and the development of the ASEAN-Japan Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Guidelines. The Ministers welcomed Japan’s proposal for cooperation in cyber security human resource development. With regard to the establishment of “ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Cooperation Hub”, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to consider the proposal.
17. The Ministers acknowledged the Republic of Korea for having successfully implemented a series of cooperative activities under ASEAN-Korea ICT Partnership 2012-2016, focusing on priority areas such as expansion of new technology and services, capacity building and knowledge sharing, ICT infrastructure enhancement, as well as cooperation with international organizations. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Korea for strengthening ICT cooperation with ASEAN through training programs for 160 ICT government officers, and dispatching 400 Korean ICT experts to ASEAN.
18. The Ministers endorsed the 2016 ASEAN-Korea ICT Work plan to further extend cooperation on establishing an ecosystem for start-ups and supporting SMEs, enhancing Women ICT manpower, building capacity in cyber security, as well as promoting convergence of ICT with different industries by developing mobile applications. The Ministers agreed to start programs for young people and women in ASEAN to become a main driving force for the economic development by supporting their employment and start-ups.
19. The Ministers noted the implementation progress and plan of ASEAN-India ICT Collaboration during 2012-2015, in particular, the project on the set up of Center of Excellences in Software Development and Training (CESDT) for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV) Countries. The Ministers also noted the CESDT activities for 2016 in the areas of cybercrime and e-Governance.
20. The Ministers welcomed the United States’ assistance in the successful conclusion of ICT-related activities in relation to promoting e-commerce and wireless broadband connectivity and dynamic frequency allocation.
21. The Ministers welcomed the proposal presented by the United States during its consultation with Senior Officials for cooperation in the areas of emerging technologies, e-commerce, bridging the digital divide, and capacity building.
22. The Ministers appreciated ITU for its assistance in advancing the development of the ICT sector in ASEAN including capacity building in 2015 on Over-the-Top (OTT) services: business, policy and regulatory trends. The Ministers

also acknowledged the valuable support and direct country actions implemented by ITU in individual ASEAN Member States in the areas of telecommunication/ICT policy and regulation, cybersecurity, spectrum management, digital inclusion, transition from Analogue to Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting (DTTB) and other ICT-related capacity building activities.

23. The Ministers signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ASEAN and ITU on Joint Cooperation in ICT Development and looked forward to continue the valued ASEAN-ITU working relationship and to further strengthen the cooperation and implementation of joint activities in the future within the framework of the MoU.
24. The Ministers reiterated ASEAN's commitment to pursue policy and regulatory dialogue with both dialogue and development partners. The Ministers also called for greater participation from the private sector to jointly develop quality ICT infrastructure and services to improve ASEAN's competitiveness to support the goals of the ASEAN Community.

NEXT MEETING

25. The Ministers agreed to convene the 16th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting and its Meetings with Dialogue Partners and ITU in Brunei Darussalam in 2016.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

26. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government and the People of Viet Nam for their warm hospitality accorded to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the 15th TELMIN and Related Meetings.

LIST OF MINISTERS

H.E. Dato Mustappa Sirat, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia; H.E. Rudiantara, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Thansamay Kommasith, Vice Minister of Post and Telecommunications of Lao PDR; H.E. Azmil Mohd Zabidi, Ambassador

of Malaysia to Viet Nam; H.E. U Zay Yar Aung, Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Myanmar; H.E. Louis Napoleon C. Casambre, Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines; H.E. Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information of Singapore; H.E. Dr. Uttama Savanayana, Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand; H.E. Dr. Nguyen Bac Son, Minister of Information and Communications of Viet Nam; H.E. Chen Zhaoxiong, Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology of People's Republic of China; H.E. Yasuo Sakamoto, Vice Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan; H.E. Choi Jae You, Vice Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea; and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Da Nang Declaration - Towards a Digitally-enabled, Inclusive, Secure and Sustainable ASEAN Community

Da Nang, Viet Nam, 27 November 2015

WE, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT), gathered in Da Nang, Viet Nam on the occasion of the Fifteenth ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (15th TELMIN) on 26 and 27 November 2015;

RECALLING the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II adopted by the ASEAN Leaders on 7 October 2003 at the 8th ASEAN Summit, which put forth the establishment of an ASEAN Community, comprising three pillars, namely, political-security community, economic community, and socio-cultural community;

GUIDED by the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, comprising the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Political-Security Blueprint Community 2025, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN

Summit on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

RECALLING FURTHER the objective of establishing an integrated and seamless regional connectivity by enhancing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure which was set out in the Physical Connectivity Strategy under the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity;

WELCOMING the successful completion of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM2015) to create an empowering and transformational ICT for an inclusive, vibrant and integrated ASEAN, and the final review of the AIM2015 that provided post-2015 recommendations for ASEAN;

REAFFIRMING the commitment to chart a post-2015 ICT vision for ASEAN in the Singapore Declaration which was adopted at the 13th TELMIN on 15 November 2013 in Singapore.

Hereby agreed to:

1. Adopt the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 (AIM2020) which will guide ASEAN ICT cooperation from 2016-2020 towards a digitally-enabled economy, which is secure, sustainable, and transformative; and to enable an innovative, inclusive and integrated ASEAN Community. The AIM2020 is driven by eight strategic thrusts:

- 1.1. Economic Integration and Transformation: Utilise ICT and next-generation technologies for sustainable economic development, especially in key priority areas, in order to strategically transform ASEAN Member States to be linchpins in the digital economy.
- 1.2. People Integration and Empowerment through ICT: Enable ASEAN citizens to form meaningful connections and build a common ASEAN identity through universal and affordable access to ICT.
- 1.3. Innovation: Foster a vibrant ICT sector and encourage more entrepreneurship and idea generation so that the region becomes a leader in ICT and next-generation applications.
- 1.4. ICT Infrastructure Development: Continue to develop and improve a strong

infrastructural backbone to ensure a sustainable digital economy.

- 1.5. Human Capital Development: Equip ASEAN citizens to be digital-literate in the digital economy and continue to strengthen workforce talents through ongoing ICT skills development.
 - 1.6. ICT in the Single Market: Enable an ASEAN digital economy to grow and develop in aid of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) goals to lower the cost of doing business, achieve economies of scale and enable synergies towards sustainable business models within ASEAN.
 - 1.7. New Media and Content: Encourage the development and delivery of ASEAN digital content across ICT channels in order to deepen citizen engagement and create new possibilities of co-creation of services.
 - 1.8. Information Security and Assurance: Build a trusted digital ecosystem to ensure the safety, security and reliability of transactions and information exchange within ASEAN.
2. Encourage ASEAN Member States to cooperate and implement the actions and measures outlined in the AIM2020.
 3. Promote further cooperation with Dialogue Partners and international governmental organisations, and adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, where appropriate, in the implementation of ICT programmes to achieve the intended objectives of the AIM2020.

ADOPTED this Declaration at the 15th TELMIN in Da Nang, Viet Nam, on 27 November 2015.

ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 21st ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (21st ATM)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
5 November 2015**

1. The Twenty-First ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting was held on 5 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. H.E. Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister for Transport of Malaysia, chaired the Meeting and H.E. Mr. Joseph Emilio Aguinaldo Abaya, Secretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines was the Vice-Chairman. The Twenty First ATM Meeting was preceded by the Fortieth ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) and their consultations with dialogue partners held on 2-4 November 2015.
2. The Twenty-First ATM was officially opened by H.E Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. In his Opening Remarks, he called for united efforts in realising the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), in order to achieve the goal of a truly people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN. He underscored the importance of improved connectivity and transport networks to enhance the growth of ASEAN, enrich economic integration and the competitiveness of ASEAN Member States. In this context, he highlighted the main deliverables of the 21st ATM, especially the adoption of Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Action Plan (KLTPSP) 2016-2025, which contains strategic measures in the areas of air, land and maritime transport and aims to support the realisation of the vision of AEC 2025. He also lauded the progress achieved in key components of establishing AEC, such as liberalisation in aviation sector through development of ASEAN Single Aviation Markets (ASAM), the development of land transport infrastructure to achieve greater integration and inter-modal interconnectivity within ASEAN Member States and strengthened maritime connectivity through realisation of ASSM. He further looked

forward to a meaningful and long-lasting economic relationship in the region, as well as with the Dialogue Partners, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Towards Greater Transport Connectivity and Integration

3. The Ministers commended the implementation progress of the Brunei Action Plan (ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan) 2011-2015. They also noted that 145 out of 160 measures due for implementation by 2015 have been carried out both collectively and individually by ASEAN Member States. They further urged for the timely implementation of the remaining measures in 2016.
4. The Ministers adopted the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan) 2016-2025 as the successor to the Brunei Action Plan. Pursuant to the ASEAN Transport Cooperation Post 2015 Vision, the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (KLTPSP) placed greater emphasis for greater connectivity, efficiency, integration, safety and sustainability of ASEAN transport. In particular, it sets out strategic measures in the areas of air transport, land transport, maritime transport, transport facilitation and sustainable transport to support the realisation of the vision of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025.
5. The Ministers tasked senior officials and transport working groups to work closely with stakeholders to ensure that the measures stipulated in KLTPSP are effectively and efficiently implemented.

Intensify Efforts on Establishment of ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM)

6. The Ministers welcomed the entry into force of the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Full Liberalisation of Air Freight Services and its protocols among all ASEAN Member States which will further complement other transport facilitation and liberalisation efforts to facilitate the establishing of an enabling environment for a single and unified aviation market in the region. The Ministers looked forward to the full ratification of the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Air Services and the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the

Full Liberalisation of Passenger Air Services by ASEAN Member States by 2015 in order to fulfill the commitments under the ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM) in support of the ASEAN Economic Community.

7. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made in implementing key measures in the implementation of ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM) Roadmap, amongst others, including sharing of information on economic elements of the ASAM; a framework to align safety regulatory capability and standards; and a database containing information on the operation and planning of air navigation systems in ASEAN.
8. The Ministers lauded the conclusion of Ninth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services and signed the Protocol to facilitate its implementation to further liberalise air transport ancillary services in the region.
9. The Ministers agreed to review the implementation of existing air transport liberalisation agreements and protocols under the ASAM Implementation Framework, and discuss further key economic elements for liberalisation, as the needs arise, for a more competitive and resilient ASEAN.

Towards seamless cross-border and transit movement of passengers and goods

10. The Ministers called for intensified efforts to conclude the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross Border Transport Passenger by Road Vehicles (ASEAN CBTP) in order to facilitate seamless cross-border mobility of passengers between and among ASEAN Member States and support people-to-people connectivity in the region.
11. The Ministers noted the progress made in ratifying and enacting domestic laws and regulations to implement the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT), ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (AFAMT) and ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST). The Ministers urged

officials to speed up the implementation of these transport facilitation agreements, including through accelerating consultations with relevant stakeholders, and take an inclusive approach.

12. The Ministers also noted the progress in the development of pilot project on ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) including the establishment of ACTS Central Management Team within the ASEAN Secretariat to manage the implementation of ACTS upon the completion of the pilot phase. The Ministers underlined the need to enhance coordination between transport and customs officials for successful implementation of ACTS.

Further strengthen efforts on realisation of ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM)

13. The Ministers were pleased with the progress on the implementation of the measures set out in the ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM) Work Programme 2015-2016, which was developed based on the ASSM Implementation Framework. The Ministers also welcomed the establishment of ASSM Coordinating Board to focus on policy coordination and harmonisation of rules and regulations. The Ministers further emphasised that coordinated and intensified efforts work are critical to timely implementation of agreed strategies and measures for realisation of ASSM.
14. The Ministers were also pleased with the progress in the development of Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan which will help to operationalise the MOU on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response. The Ministers looked forward to its completion.
15. The Ministers supported the initiative to develop an ASEAN MOU on the Improvement and Harmonisation of Safety Standards and Ship Inspection for Non-Convention Ship (NCS), which will serve as a common reference for safety standards and ship inspection of non-convention ships' operation in ASEAN region. The Ministers tasked its senior officials to deliberate and expedite the conclusion of the draft MOU.

Enhancing Road Safety in the region

16. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Road Safety Strategy and the ASEAN Regional Road Safety Strategy which marked significant milestones in enhancing road safety cooperation in the region. The ASEAN Regional Road Safety Strategy will provide a framework for road safety strategies at the regional level to reduce road fatalities in ASEAN Member States in accordance with the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

Heighten cooperation with Dialogue Partners

17. The Ministers thanked China, Japan and ROK's for its technical assistance to ASEAN Member States under their respective established transport partnerships. The Ministers also thanked EU and Germany for their continued support to advance regional transport integration process.
18. The Ministers welcomed the entry into force of Protocol 2 of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (AC-ATA), which will further facilitate air connectivity between and beyond both regions. The Ministers looked forward to continued engagement between ASEAN and China in the area of aviation cooperation, including working towards full liberalisation of the AC-ATA in support of the upgrading of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement. The Ministers also welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-China Maritime Education and Training Development Strategy which will enhance capacity building in maritime sector between ASEAN and China.
19. The Ministers lauded on the substantial progress in transport cooperation under the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership, including the launching of Best Approaches Book on Safety and Disaster Prevention, Best Practices on Public Private Partnership (PPP), adoption of Green Logistics Vision and Action Plans, and completion of the Study on Seamless and Integrated Land Bridge. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN-Japan Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements in March 2016 and looked forward to the early conclusion of a more liberal and mutually

beneficial ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement.

20. The Ministers welcomed the implementation progress of the projects and activities under ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Roadmap related to human resources development program, master plan projects, infrastructure feasibility studies and research. The Ministers noted with appreciation ROK's technical assistance to conduct feasibility study developing railway project linking Viet Nam and Lao PDR (Vientiane-Thakek- Mu Gia -Tan Ap-Vung Ang). The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements soon. The Ministers reiterated their heightened expectations for the early conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial air services agreement with the ROK.
21. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN-India Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements for the expeditious conclusion of an ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement based on 'open skies' principles covering both air freight and passenger services.

The Twenty-Second ATM

22. The Ministers agreed to convene the Twenty-Second ATM Meeting in Philippines in 2016.
23. The delegates from ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Malaysia for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

LIST OF MINISTERS (TO BE CONFIRMED)

H.E. Dato Mustappa Sirat, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia; Mr. Sugihardjo, Secretary General, representing H.E. Ignasius Jonan, Minister for Transportation of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Bounchanh Sinthavong, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport of Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Han Sein, Deputy

Minister for the Ministry of Transport of Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Joseph Emilio Aguinaldo Abaya, Secretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Khaw Boon Wan, Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport of Singapore; H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Transport of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Dinh La Thang, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

ASEAN Declaration on Road Safety Strategy

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
6 November 2015**

WE, the Transport Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 21st ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting;

RECALLING the Phnom Penh Ministerial Declaration on ASEAN Road Safety adopted on 23 November 2004;

RECOGNISING the importance of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 which aims to stabilise and then reduce the forecast level of road traffic fatalities around the world;

NOTING the 2013 World Health Organization Global Status Report on Road Safety, which describes that 1.24 million people are killed on the roads a year, of which 53,537 are from ASEAN Member States, causing major threats to public health and development around the globe;

RECOGNISING the need to identify the key strategic directions for ASEAN Member States to reduce the road fatalities by 50% in ASEAN Member States by 2020 and to work towards further decreasing the forecast level of road fatalities in ASEAN by 2030; and

MINDFUL that collective effort must be taken to cope up with rapid growth of motorisation in the region in order to reduce the risk of road crash especially among the vulnerable road users.

DO HEREBY:

1. **ADOPT** the ASEAN Regional Road Safety Strategy that provides a framework for road safety strategies at the regional level in accord with the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.
2. **DIRECT** the ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) to spearhead the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Road Safety Strategy through the ASEAN Land Transport Working Group and the ASEAN Multisector Road Safety Special Working Group.
3. **ENHANCE** cooperation and networking among national road safety centres in ASEAN and acknowledge the role of Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS) as an ASEAN Road Safety Centre in integrating the effort among ASEAN Member States concerning road safety in the region.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sixth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy in the English Language.

Meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM)

Joint Media Statement of the 18th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 25 January 2015

1. The Eighteenth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers was held on 25 January 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2015 (ATF). H.E. Mr. Htay Aung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism of Myanmar, chaired the Meeting and H.E. Mr. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr., Secretary of Tourism of Philippines was the Vice-Chairman.

The 18th M-ATM Meeting was preceded by the Forty-First Meeting of ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) and their consultations with dialogue partners.

2. The Ministers welcomed the large influx of tourists in 2014 where preliminary figure showed that 97.2 million of international tourists visited ASEAN Member States, posting a growth of 3 per cent from 2013. The Ministers were also pleased that the operationalisation of ASEAN Open Skies Agreements help to maintain intra-ASEAN travel as the main source of tourism growth in the region, with record arrivals of 28.05 million, or 53 per cent share of total international tourists visited ASEAN.
3. The Ministers commended the progress made in implementing the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2011-2015 and tasked senior officials to expedite the implementation of remaining measures to support the timely realisation of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015.
4. The Ministers agreed that for the new ATSP 2016-2025, ASEAN should strive to become a quality tourism destination offering a unique and diverse ASEAN experience while committed to responsible, sustainable, inclusive and balance tourism development.

Human Resources in Tourism and Mobility

5. The Ministers endorsed the final text of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Regional Secretariat for the Implementation of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Tourism Professionals in Jakarta, Indonesia to facilitate the implementation of the MRA on Tourism Professionals. Amongst others, this will include supporting the certification of 6,000 ASEAN tourism professionals based on the ASEAN Common Competency Standard for Tourism Professionals (ACCSTP). The Ministers looked forward to the signing of the Agreement during the 26th ASEAN Summit in April 2015 in Malaysia.
6. The Ministers applauded the successful conclusion of the Master Trainers (MTs) and

Master Assessors (MAs) trainings for Food Production, Front Office, and Food and Beverage (F&B) Services Divisions held in Bangkok, Bali and Manila last September, October and December 2014, respectively. The Ministers noted that the region is now supported by 83 MTs and 89 MAs for Housekeeping, Food Production, F&B Services and Front Office Divisions who will now help to conduct training of national trainers and assessors in each ASEAN Member State.

7. The Ministers noted the development of the ASEAN Tourism Professionals Registration System (ATPRS) which will facilitate the registration of tourism professionals and MRA related stakeholders, and matchmaking mechanism between tourism professionals and their potential employers. The Ministers welcomed new projects and activities to be undertaken in 2015, including Toolbox Development for Travel Agencies and Tour Operations, Training and Pilot Projects for national trainers and assessors in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the Government of Australia for their continue support on the establishment of requisite MRA infrastructures through the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme II.

Enhancing the quality

8. The Ministers agreed that it is important for ASEAN to enhance its competitiveness as a single tourist destination through the development and adoption of tourism standards. The Ministers were pleased with the adoption of ASEAN tourism standards and their certification process for green hotel, homestay, spa services, public toilet, clean tourist city and community-based tourism standards, and tasked senior officials to ensure relevant establishments adhere to adopted standards. The Ministers appreciated the new initiative on the development of ASEAN's MICE Venue Standard.
9. The Ministers launched the ASEAN Tourism Security & Safety Guidelines and Online Resource Centre Website (www.aseantssrc.org), which contained guidelines, best practice and background papers on tourism related

security and safety practices in ASEAN Member States. The Ministers also adopted the Tourism and Climate Change Monitoring System and Work Plan, which will be included in the development of the new ATSP 2016-2025.

Promoting ASEAN Tourism

10. The Ministers acknowledged the good progress made in promoting and marketing ASEAN tourism through website, social media marketing, public relations and partnerships with private sector and ASEAN centres. This includes the continued enhancement of ASEAN Tourism website (*www.aseantourism.travel*), ASEAN Member States' NTO websites, Sina Weibo (*www.dongnanya.travel*) website, Travel Channel for Pacific Asia Travel Association's Love Campaign and "ASEAN for ASEAN" activities during 2015-2016.
11. The Ministers welcomed and supported Malaysia's initiative to develop an ASEAN-focused TV travel channel – "GOASEAN", to promote ASEAN as a single tourism destination featuring key areas such as nature-based tourism, culture and heritage tourism, family fun and business tourism. To complement the travel channel, the Ministers also supported the proposal to develop ASEAN Tourism Packages.
12. The Ministers noted the Report on Senior and Long Stay Market Tourism Strategy and welcomed its recommendations to integrate its marketing and communication through existing digital marketing, PR and publicity, and piggybacking NTOs activities.
13. The Ministers were pleased with the outcomes of the activities undertaken by the ASEAN Promotional Chapters for Tourism (APCTs) in Sydney and Mumbai in 2014 to promote ASEAN tourism through participation in the travel industry exhibitions, food festivals and networking events. The Ministers also thanked the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre for their relentless support to promote ASEAN tourism to the Chinese, Japanese and Korean markets through production of advertorial and familiarisation tour by Chinese media,

participation in travel marts in Japan, and ASEAN Culture and Tourism Fair in Korea, respectively.

14. The Ministers noted the progress of updating the ASEAN Crisis Communication Manual (ACCM), which will serve as an effective tool to uphold the credibility of the organizations and/or destinations through the provision of accurate and timely information to key stakeholders. The Ministers tasked the officials to finalize the updated ACCM for adoption at the next ATF.

Developing ASEAN Tourism Product

15. The Ministers noted the progress in developing nature-based tourism products, including the development of the ASEAN Ecotourism Strategic Plan, and tasked the senior officials to align it with the new ATSP 2016-2025. The Ministers also noted the recommendations arising from the study entitled "ASEAN Culture & Heritage Tourism Product Development in ASEAN Member States" and tasked the officials to undertake consultations with the private sector, and conduct familiarisation trip for both tour operators and travel writers. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to Indonesia for the production of a coffee-table book on ASEAN traditional cuisines entitled "Lemon Grass, a Taste of ASEAN".
16. The Ministers welcomed the efforts to develop river-based tourism products, including the recent conclusion of the 3rd Experts Group Meeting on ASEAN-Japan Cruise Promotion Strategy held on 27-28 February 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and technical assistance from UNWTO on River-Based Tourism Development. ASEAN also spearheaded the creation of a monthly online cruise e-newsletter titled "ASEAN Cruise News" that provides key market insights and information on cruise products to strengthen trade capabilities across the ASEAN region.
17. The Ministers acclaimed the successful outcomes of the ASEAN Tourism Investment Forum 2014 held on 18 September 2014 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to promote ASEAN as an integrated investment region based on the collective strengths of ASEAN Member

States. The Forum was attended by 178 participants from governments, tourism investment organisations, private sectors, and other tourism related stakeholders.

Enhancing Connectivity

18. The Ministers commended the enhancement of ASEAN air connectivity through the implementation of the ASEAN Open Skies Agreements and the engagement with Dialogue Partners in air services negotiations, including China, European Union, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The Ministers also welcomed the recent conclusion of the Protocol 2 on the Exchange of 5th Freedom Air Traffic Rights between ASEAN Member States and China under the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement, which will further enhance business and leisure travel within and into the region. The Ministers also noted the outcome from other relevant sectors, which support people-to-people connectivity such as transportation and immigration.

ASEAN Tourism Forum

19. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2015 held on 22-29 January 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, with the theme of “*ASEAN-Tourism Towards Peace, Prosperity and Partnership*” would be attended by 300 buyers and 905 sellers with 527 booths as well as 67 international and 57 local media. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to CNN International as the Official International Cable and Satellite Media Partner of ATF 2015.
20. The Ministers noted that the ATF 2016 will be convened on 18-25 January 2016 in Manila, the Philippines, with the theme of “ASEAN: One Community for Sustainability”. The Ministers also noted that Singapore agreed to host ATF in 2017.

The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Myanmar for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

Agreement on the Establishment of the Regional Secretariat for the Implementation of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professionals

Jakarta, Indonesia, 30 December 2015

The Governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (“ASEAN”) Member States, namely, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, hereinafter referred to individually as “ASEAN Member State” and collectively as “ASEAN Member States”.

REAFFIRMING the commitments of the ASEAN Charter which entered into force on 15 December 2008 and the provisions of the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (20092015) to pursue the comprehensive integration of ASEAN towards the realisation of an open, dynamic and resilient ASEAN Community by 2015;

MINDFUL that ASEAN is committed to working towards the achievement of the goal of regional integration through the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015;

REAFFIRMING that the tourism industry is important for sustainable socio-economic growth of the ASEAN Member States. It is a human resource intensive industry that brings in investment and creates employment. The availability of skilled and trained labour is a crucial element in the success of any tourism industry’s development. Consequently, the limited numbers of skilled tourism professionals in ASEAN has been an impediment to the development of tourism and the services industry in general;

RECOGNISING the objectives of the ASEAN Tourism Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “ATA”), which are to cooperate in facilitating travel into and within ASEAN; to enhance cooperation in the tourism industry among ASEAN Member States in order to improve efficiency and competitiveness;

to substantially reduce restrictions on trade in tourism and travel services among ASEAN Member States; to enhance the development and promotion of ASEAN as a single tourism destination with world-class standards, facilities and attractions; to enhance mutual assistance in human resource development and strengthen cooperation to develop, upgrade and expand tourism and travel facilities and services in ASEAN; and to create favourable conditions for the public and private sectors to engage more deeply in tourism development, intra-ASEAN travel and investment in tourism services and facilities;

RECOGNISING that the ASEAN Tourism Ministers signed the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (“MRA”) on Tourism Professionals (TP) on 9 November 2012, which aims to facilitate the mobility of Tourism Professionals and the exchange of information on best practices in competency-based education and training for Tourism Professionals and to provide opportunities for cooperation and capacity building across ASEAN Member States;

RECALLING the decision of the 13th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers held on 24 January 2010 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, that endorsed the MRA follow-up implementation requirements, including the capacity development for members of related organisations under the MRA at the regional and national level and the establishment of a Regional Secretariat for ASEAN Tourism Professionals to facilitate the implementation of the MRA on Tourism Professionals;

RECALLING ALSO the decision of the 16th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers held on 21 January 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR that supported the establishment of a Regional Secretariat for ASEAN Tourism Professionals, and agreed to select Indonesia as the host of the Secretariat; and

ENCOURAGED by the continuing high economic tourism growth generated by the tourism industry in the ASEAN Member States and the challenges that lie ahead in implementing the MRA TP.

DO HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Establishment of the Secretariat

1. There shall be established a Regional Tourism Professionals (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretariat”).
2. The Secretariat shall have “its seat in Jakarta, Indonesia (hereinafter referred to as the “Host Country”).

Article 2

Objective of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall promote implementation of the MRA on Tourism Professionals by providing support for its operations and management as well as implementation of related projects and activities.

Article 3

Functions of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall :

1. Enhance awareness and provide capacity building on the implementation of the MRA TP including marketing and promotion of the services offered by the Secretariat;
2. Develop, maintain and update the ASEAN Tourism Professional Registration System (“ATPRS”) including its database management and resources for implementation of the MRA;
3. Formulate, update and recommend the necessary mechanisms including certification and assessment to enable the smooth implementation of the MRA TP;
4. Ensure effective and efficient use of human, financial and capital resources of the Secretariat; and
5. Perform such other functions and responsibilities that may be assigned to it by the Governing Council.

Article 4

The Governing Council

1. The ASEAN Tourism Professional Monitoring Committee (“ATPMC”) shall be the Governing Council of the Secretariat.

2. The ATPMC shall consist of ASEAN National Tourism Organisations ("ASEAN NTOs") and appointed representatives from the National Tourism Professional Boards ("NTPB").
3. The roles of the Governing Council shall be as follows:
 - a. undertake the overall supervision of operations, provide policy guidance and give directions to the Secretariat;
 - b. approve the organisational structure and staff requirements of the Secretariat;
 - c. establish the terms and conditions for the position of the Executive Director, and staff members;
 - d. appoint and evaluate an Executive Director in accordance with the terms and conditions for such a position, as established;
 - e. approve the rules, procedures and regulations for the operations of the Secretariat including staff and financial rules and procedures;
 - f. recommend to the ASEAN NTOs the annual business plan, including the annual budget of the Secretariat and monitor its implementation;
 - g. oversee the utilisation of revenue and approve the rules and procedures for the management of such revenue;
 - h. approve the disposal of the property and assets of the Secretariat in case of dissolution of the Secretariat, and on any other matters concerned with the dissolution; and
 - i. perform any other functions necessary to achieve the objective of the Secretariat.

Article 5 Executive Director

1. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Governing Council in accordance with the terms and conditions established by it.
2. The Executive Director shall have a term of office of three (3) years, which may be extended based on the performance of the Executive

Director and the decision of the Governing Council.

3. The Executive Director shall be a national of one of the ASEAN Member States and shall be responsible and accountable for the management of the Secretariat and all other functions as may be assigned by the Governing Council.
4. The Executive Director shall be selected and appointed based on qualifications and experience and suitability to operate and communicate with the Governing Council.
5. The Executive Director shall be supported by Heads of Divisions and staffs to carry out the assigned responsibilities and functions of the Secretariat effectively and efficiently.
6. The Executive Director shall designate one of the Heads of Divisions to serve as the Officer-in-Charge whenever the Executive Director is absent.
7. The Governing Council shall designate an officer to serve as the Acting Executive Director whenever the Executive Director is absent or unable to discharge his duties, or if the office of the Executive Director should become vacant. The Acting Executive Director shall have the capacity to exercise all the powers of the Executive Director pursuant to this Agreement. In the event of vacancy, the Acting Executive Director shall serve in that capacity until the assumption of office by an Executive Director appointed, as expeditiously as possible, in accordance with paragraph 8(d) of Article 5.
8. The role of the Executive Director shall be as follows:
 - a. administer the Secretariat and its programmes with a view to ensuring that the Secretariat fulfils its purpose;
 - b. prepare annual business plans, budgets, financial statements or any other documents for the consideration of the Governing Council;
 - c. report on the implementation of the activities of the Secretariat to the Governing Council;

- d. appoint, subject to the confirmation of the Governing Council, manage and supervise staff members of the Secretariat;
 - e. appoint, subject to the confirmation of the Governing Council, manage and supervise consultants and experts whose role are to assist the Secretariat in the performance of its functions;
 - f. develop and implement strategies to ensure appropriate funding for programmes and institutional activities relevant to the purpose and function of the Secretariat; and
 - g. perform such other duties as may be required by the Governing Council.
2. The ASEAN NTOs shall review and approve the proposed operating budget of the Secretariat through the Governing Council based on the calendar year.
 3. The Annual Financial Statement will be audited by the Auditor appointed by the Governing Council.
 4. Disbursement of the revenue shall be reported to and approved by the ASEAN NTOs as recommended by the Governing Council.
 5. The Secretariat shall generate revenue and resources through contributions from ASEAN Member States and through the provision of related products and services to support implementation of the MRA TP including as follow :

Article 6 Staff Members

1. The staff members shall perform such tasks in accordance with the terms and conditions of their appointments and any other tasks assigned by the Executive Director.
2. Each staff member shall have a contractual term of office of 3 (three) years, which may be extended based on the performance and/or the decision of the Executive Director.
3. Each staff member shall be a national of one of the ASEAN Member States.

Article 7 Host Country Agreement

1. The Regional Secretariat and the Government of the Host Country shall separately enter into a Host Country Agreement which shall specify the modalities and other necessary arrangements to support the establishment and operationalization of the Secretariat in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations of the Host Country. The Host Country Agreement shall not form part of this Agreement.

Article 8 Financial Regulations

1. The ASEAN NTOs shall approve the budget of the Secretariat on an annual basis.

- a) Budget contributions from each ASEAN Member States in the amount of USD 20,000 for the year 2015 and USD 20,000 for the year 2016;
- b) Contributions from the Host Country in the amount of USD 49,500 for the year 2015;
- c) Online registration of Tourism Professionals;
- d) Industry Services (membership/subscriptions);
- e) Training and certification of Master Trainer;
- f) Training and certification of Master Assessor;
- g) Training related to MRA TP implementation activities;
- h) Consulting Services to Industry;
- i) Consulting Services to Government;
- j) Consulting Services to training providers ;
- k) MRA TP Commissions, Employment Placement or Administrative Fees;
- l) Sponsorship;
- m) Organising events;
- n) Assessing and Certification of Master Trainers or Assessors; and
- o) Other sources of revenue and resources as approved by the Governing Council.

Article 9
Legal Personality

1. Subject to the approval of the Governing Council, the Secretariat shall have the legal capacity necessary to do the following:
 - a. conclude agreements with other countries, and local or international organisations;
 - b. enter into contracts;
 - c. acquire and dispose of movable and immovable properties; and
 - d. be a party to legal proceedings.
2. In the exercise of these capacities, the Secretariat shall be represented by the Executive Director who shall comply with the relevant financial rules and procedures approved by the Governing Council.

Article 10
Working Language

The working language of the Secretariat shall be English.

Article 11
Termination

1. This Agreement may be terminated by the ASEAN Member States by written consent. Termination shall take effect on such date as shall be agreed upon by the ASEAN Member States in writing. Termination of this Agreement shall not prejudice any interest, right or obligation of any ASEAN Member State. ASEAN Member States shall consult on how any outstanding matters should be dealt with before the Agreement is terminated.
2. Upon the dissolution of the Secretariat, any accumulated surplus less the costs attendant to the closure and/or any unpaid obligation of the Secretariat shall be deposited to the ASEAN NTOs Fund. In the event of deficit, unpaid financial obligations shall be covered by the ASEAN NTOs Fund.
3. The termination of this Agreement will not affect the implementation of on-going projects and/or programmes or activities which have been agreed upon before the date of the termination of this Agreement.

Article 12
Revision, Modification and Amendments

1. Revision, modification and Amendments to this Agreement, as proposed by any ASEAN Member States, shall be agreed upon by the ASEAN Member States by written consent.
2. Any revision, modification and amendment agreed to by the ASEAN Member States shall be reduced into writing and will form part of this Agreement.
3. Such revision, modification and amendments shall enter into force in accordance with Article 14 (Final Provision) of this Agreement.
4. Any revision, modification or amendment will not prejudice the rights and obligations arising from or based on this Agreement before or up to the date of such revision, modification or amendment.

Article 13
Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute between ASEAN Member States concerning the interpretation or application of, or compliance with this Agreement shall be settled amicably by consultation or negotiation.

Article 14
Final Provisions

1. Each ASEAN Member State shall notify the Secretary-General of ASEAN upon completion of its internal legal procedures for entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of the tenth instrument of notification of the fulfilment of such internal legal procedures with the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
2. This Agreement shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each ASEAN Member States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Jakarta, Indonesia, on the Thirtieth day of December in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in one original text in the English language.

For the Government of Brunei Darussalam:
DATO ALI APONG
Minister of Prime Resources and Tourism

For the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia:
DR. THONG KHON
Minister of Tourism

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia:
DR. ARIEF YAHYA
Minister of Tourism

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
PROF. DR. BOSENGKHAM VONGDARA
Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism

For the Government of Malaysia:
DATO' SERI MOHAMED NAZRI TAN SRI ABDUL AZIZ
Minister of Tourism and Culture

For the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
U HTAY AUNG
Union Minister of Hotels and Tourism

For the Government of the Republic of the Philippines:
RAMON R. JIMENEZ, JR.
Secretary, Department of Tourism

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore:
S. ISWARAN
Second Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand:
KOBKARN WATTANAVRANGKUL
Minister of Tourism and Sports

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
HOANG TUAN ANH
Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism



ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

IV. ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 13th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council

Melaka, Malaysia, 26 March 2015

1. We, the Ministers of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam met on 26 March 2015 at Melaka, Malaysia. Under the chairmanship of Malaysia, our 13th ASCC Council was preceded by the 18th ASEAN Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA) held on 24-25 March 2015 in Melaka.
2. We were mindful that 2015 is a year of utmost significance with the convergence of key community-building initiatives. The ASCC is implementing the remaining actions during this final year of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015). By the end of 2015, the ASCC will be embarking on a new course which will be based on an ASCC Community 2025 vision and strategic planning framework that is currently being finalized through collaborative and consultative processes at the regional and national levels.
3. We are satisfied with the progress that the High Level Task Force for the ASCC has made in the development of the draft ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the draft ASCC Attendant Document. We noted the draft ASCC Attendant Document and it will be subjected to national consultations with appropriate government agencies and stakeholders in April 2015.
4. We appreciated the research by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) leading to an Interim Report on Framing the ASCC Post-2015 which served as a reference to the development of the draft ASCC Attendant Document.
5. We are heartened by the leadership shown by our sectoral ministerial bodies, senior officials and the support provided by our growing number of partners. We called for special efforts to be made by HLTF and SOCA to monitor and facilitate the finalization of the ASCC Attendant Document, in concert with all stakeholders, and with inputs from mechanisms like the ASCC Senior Officials Coordinating Conference Meeting (SOC-COM), and the support of the ASEAN Secretariat.
6. We took steps to enhance the ASCC governance framework by endorsing the Terms of Reference of the SOCA, which effectively clarifies its role in supporting the ASCC Council, in cross-sectoral coordination, in monitoring critical management actions for the ASCC Blueprint and its successor documents, and in its role vis-à-vis the SOC-COM. We also endorsed the Terms of Reference of SOC-COM.
7. We noted the status of implementation of the ASCC Blueprint including various ongoing and pending action. To complement remaining ASCC Blueprint actions for 2015, we endorsed a selection of priority actions designed to complement and further enhance our community-building work. We endorsed that priority work should focus on the Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change; the ASEAN Declaration on “One ASEAN, One Response 2020 and Beyond: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One”; ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change 2015; ASEAN Declaration on Post-2015 Priorities on Civil Service; ASEAN Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons on ASEAN; Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection; and Regional Plan of Actions on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and

Regional Plan of Actions on the Elimination of Violence Against Children. We looked forward to the finalisation of the draft ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers.

8. We endorsed follow-up actions recommended by SOCA to address the relevant recommendations of the HLTF on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs. Several of these recommendations have been incorporated into the ASCC Attendant Document's results framework and strategic measures.
9. We welcomed the development of the draft TOR of ASEAN Institute of Green Economy (AIGE) following its launch at the 25th ASEAN Summit in November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw.
10. We expressed deepest appreciation to Malaysia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements as the host of the 13th ASCC Council.

LIST OF MINISTERS / HEADS OF DELEGATION ATTENDING THE 13th ASCC COUNCIL MEETING

26 March 2015, Melaka, Malaysia

H.E. Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Bin Tan Sri Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia; H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Ith Samheng, Minister of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Sugihartatmo, Permanent Secretary, Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, Indonesia; H. E. Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information and Culture; Lao PDR; H.E. Mr. Aye Myint Kyu, Union Minister, Ministry of Culture, Myanmar; H.E. Mrs. Corazon Juliano-Soliman, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines; Mr. Richard Tan Kok Tong, Director, Communications and International Relations, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore; H.E. Police General Suwat Chanitthikul, Vice Minister of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hoa, Vice-Minister of Labour,

Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam; and H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 14th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
7 October 2015**

1. We, the Ministers of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam met on 7 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Under the chairmanship of Malaysia, our 14th ASCC Council was preceded by the 19th ASEAN Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA) held on 5-6 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.
2. We revisited the priorities for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community for 2015 in consideration of the significance of converging key community-building initiatives in the final year of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015. We are pleased that by the end of 2015, the ASCC has addressed all the action lines in the Blueprint 2009-2015.
3. We noted with satisfaction the work of the High Level Task Force-ASCC with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat in the development and finalization of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 through extensive regional and national consultative processes with ASEAN organs and sectoral bodies, Civil Society Organisations and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). The ASCC Council endorsed the draft ASCC Blueprint 2025 that aims at creating an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the peoples, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic. This Blueprint, which is a component of the ASEAN Community Vision and the Blueprints 2025 for the other Pillars, will be presented for consideration and adoption by the Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015.

4. We recognised the contribution shown by ASEAN sectoral ministerial bodies, senior officials and relevant partners in realising the priorities of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. Through their valuable efforts, important outcome documents were developed to set the directions for Post-2015 encompassing key areas pertaining to Higher Education, Civil Service, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, Ageing, Social Protection, Disaster Response, and Elimination of Violence Against Children and Women. Key activities as well as related events were carried out to fulfill the respective mandates and work programmes of ASCC sectors leading to the formal establishment of the ASEAN Community 2015.
5. We acknowledged the ASCC Scorecard Final Report 2015 developed in cooperation with the ASCC sectoral ministerial bodies and encouraged all the ASCC sectoral ministerial bodies to utilize the report in reviewing and enhancing their respective monitoring and reporting systems.
6. We acknowledged the ASEAN Regional Assessment Report on the MDG Achievements and Post-2015 Development Priorities, a collaborative report by the ASEAN Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The recommendations of this report provided further guidance to all the relevant ASCC sectoral ministerial bodies in their post-2015 work programmes.
7. We noted the follow-up actions taken by the ASCC Council, SOCA, sectoral ministerial bodies and the ASEAN Secretariat to address the recommendations of the HLTF on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs relevant to ASCC.
8. We expressed deepest appreciation to Malaysia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements as host of the 14th ASCC Council and for its effective leadership during its Chairmanship.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)

Chairman's Statement of the 4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia,
16 December 2015**

1. The 4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) were convened as a joint session in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 16 December 2015. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Nhim Vanda, Senior Minister in Charge of Special Mission and First Vice President of the National Committee for Disaster Management of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of disaster management or their representatives from all ASEAN Member States and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
2. The Ministers noted the accomplishments made during the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2010-2015) and the operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). The Ministers expressed their appreciation for ASEAN Dialogue Partners, various partners and stakeholders, the United Nations, civil society organisations, and relevant international organisations that have been supporting the implementation of the priorities under the AADMER Work Programme. To ensure sufficient resources to support the implementation of the Work Programme and

operationalisation of AHA Centre, the Ministers agreed to increase the voluntary contributions of the Member States to the ADMER Fund and the annual and equal contributions for the AHA Centre Fund, and to set up a dedicated team within AHA Centre to mobilise resources from non-traditional and untapped resources to achieve sustainable, predictable and flexible financing in the future.

3. The Ministers commended the accomplishments that have been made by the AHA Centre since its inception four (4) years ago and the strengthened institutional capacities of the Centre. Several milestones that have been achieved by the AHA Centre include the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme; transformation of ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), enhancement of near real-time Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS); implementation of Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA) through the regional warehouse in Malaysia and soon-to-be-established satellite warehouses in other ASEAN countries; institutionalisation of the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) through the ARDEX Handbook; and many other initiatives. Within just four (4) years after its establishment in November 2011, the AHA Centre has responded to thirteen (13) disasters, with systems, procedures, logistic capacity and assessment teams ready to go. The Ministers expressed gratitude to Australia, China, European Union, Japan, New Zealand, and United States of America for their continuing support to the AHA Centre.
4. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN 2025 Vision on Disaster Management as a strategic policy document that will guide ASEAN in the next ten (10) years in the area of disaster management and emergency response. It identifies three (3) key areas to move the implementation of AADMER forward to a people-centred, people-oriented, financially sustainable, and networked approach by 2025. Three mutually-inclusive strategic elements, i.e. (i) Institutionalisation and Communications, (ii) Finance and Resource Mobilisation, and (iii) Partnerships and Innovations, have been identified to guide the direction of AADMER to 2025 and to make ASEAN as the world leader in disaster management. The development of ASEAN 2025 Vision on Disaster Management has been guided by ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit and has taken into account the development of international frameworks, such as Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the recent Paris Agreement under UNFCCC, APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, and the World Humanitarian Summit's consultations.
5. The Ministers commended ACDM's efforts on the development of the draft of eight (8) Priority Programmes that constitute the AADMER Work Programme for 2016-2020, which will be launched at the 28th ACDM Meeting in April 2016 in Indonesia.
6. The Ministers endorsed the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region, for adoption by the ASEAN Leaders at the 28th ASEAN Summit in Lao PDR in 2016. The Declaration is based on the principle of harnessing the individual and collective strengths of different sectors and stakeholders in ASEAN to effectively respond to disasters inside and outside the region.
7. The Ministers agreed to enhance ASEAN's visibility in humanitarian response by carrying both national and ASEAN emblems to underscore that ASEAN is responding together as one. In this regard, the Ministers endorsed the ASEAN Armband Guidelines and supported the use of the ASEAN armband by all personnel of each Member State who take part in HADR operations and exercises, as well as civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders, as authorised by the respective ACDM Focal Points.
8. The Ministers agreed to continue to showcase ASEAN's leadership by actively contributing to strategic policy discussions at the global level. For the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2016, the Ministers agreed to convene an Informal AMMDM and

issue an ASEAN Joint Statement at the said Summit. Following the successful conduct of the Post-2015 AADMER Strategic Policy Dialogue on 2 November 2015 in Singapore, the Ministers agreed to convene a strategic policy dialogue in the region on a regular basis to exercise ASEAN's thought leadership on disaster management.

9. The Ministers commended the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination that has been initiated under the leadership of ACDM, in particular through the ASEAN Joint Task Force on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (JTF-HADR) and the Technical Working Group on Civil-Military Coordination (TWG CIMIC), which have provided good platforms for coordination with other sectors in ensuring ASEAN's collective response to disasters. The Ministers also supported various initiatives in engaging the involvement of various sectors and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of AADMER.
10. The Ministers noted the successful completion of the ASEAN's Strategic Assistance for the Recovery of Yolanda-Affected Areas (ARYA), funded under the ASEAN Development Fund. The Ministers encouraged the replication of good practices coming out from the ARYA Project and further development of the ASEAN Disaster Recovery Toolbox in promoting resilience recovery and planning approach.
11. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the capable leadership of the Royal Government of Cambodia as Chair of the ACDM, the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the COP to AADMER and the AMMDM in 2015. The Chair expressed confidence for the leadership of Indonesia as the Chair of ACDM, the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the COP to AADMER and the AMMDM in 2016, and looked forward to the 4th AMMDM and the 5th Meeting of the COP to AADMER, scheduled in Indonesia the second half of 2016.
12. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Royal Government of Cambodia for hosting the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the AADMER and the Third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management

(AMMDM), and for the excellent arrangements made and hospitality provided.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)

Media Release of the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 28 October 2015

1. Ministers responsible for the environment from ASEAN Member States (AMS) held their 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment on 28 October 2015 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Ministers reviewed regional cooperation on a number of environmental issues, in particular actions taken on environmental sustainability under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint, and discussed new initiatives to further promote regional environmental cooperation.
2. The Ministers expressed concern and sympathy to the people of Philippines following Typhoon Koppu which has brought torrential rains, flooding and landslides, and forced more than 100,000 people into evacuation centres. The Ministers also expressed concern and sympathy to the people of Myanmar suffering from the extreme flood during Komen Typhoon from July to September 2015.
3. The Ministers appreciated the initiative by Viet Nam to develop a Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Agenda for adoption at the 27th ASEAN Summit to reiterate ASEAN's commitment and frame ASEAN's existing and emerging environment and climate change challenges that need to be addressed toward achieving the Post-2015 Vision goals, amidst the current state of the global development.
4. In view of the Post-2015 Vision, the Ministers supported the development of the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on Environmental

Cooperation (ASPAPEC), the Roadmap for Haze-Free ASEAN; the 5th ASEAN State of Environment Report, and the ASEAN-UN Post-2015 Environment and Climate Change work plan.

5. The Ministers endorsed the nomination of Mt. Timpoong Hibok-Hibok National Park in Philippines and Way Kambas National Park in Indonesia as the 36th and 37th ASEAN Heritage Parks respectively. They joined a regional network of national protected areas of high conservation importance preserving a complete spectrum of representative ecosystem to generate greater awareness, pride, appreciation, enjoyment, and conservation of ASEAN's rich natural heritage.
6. The Ministers endorsed the ASEAN Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Performance Monitoring Indicators Framework, to serve as simple performance monitoring tools for ASEAN to use in assessing progress in the achievement of IWRM across the region.
7. The Ministers looked forward to a successful outcome of the UNFCCC negotiation in Paris Climate Change Conference on 30 November-11 December 2015.
8. The Ministers met their counterparts from the People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea at the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting on 29 October 2015 to review current activities and discuss future cooperation on areas such as biodiversity, climate change, environmental education, environmental science and technology, and environmentally sustainable cities.

The Ministers responsible for the environment will meet again in Brunei Darussalam in 2017 on the occasion of the 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment.

Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP)

Media Release of the 17th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Jakarta, Indonesia, 28 July 2015

1. Ministers responsible for the environment from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand met on the occasion of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution on 28 July 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
2. The Ministers noted the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre's (ASMC's) weather outlook of drier than usual weather conditions for the prevailing Southwest Monsoon season (June-October 2015). With the possibility of the prevailing moderate El Niño strengthening in the coming months, the risks of occasional extended periods of drier and warmer conditions, which could lead to increase in hotspot activities and transboundary smoke haze from land and forest fires in the region during the season, are high. The MSC countries agreed to remain vigilant and step up their efforts to minimise any possible occurrence of transboundary smoke haze from land and forest fires in anticipation of the extended drier weather in the coming months.
3. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the substantive efforts by Indonesia in implementing its Plan of Action (PoA) in Dealing with Transboundary Haze Pollution, which include among others the mobilization of armed forces and Manggala Agni to suppress fires, strengthening of law enforcement to address open burning, and enhancement of close and continuous monitoring of hotspots and coordination among local government, national government, private sector and communities to prevent and suppress land

and forest fires. The MSC member states reaffirmed their offer of assistance for emergency response should the situation warrant it.

4. The Ministers welcomed Indonesia as a Party to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution with the deposit of instrument of ratification of the Agreement with H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN, on 20 January 2015. The Ministers commended Indonesia for its efforts and commitment to working collectively with other AMS to address the transboundary haze pollution issues under the framework of the Agreement.
5. The Ministers provided guidance on the implementation of the Strategic Review of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) Programmes and Activities, which covers enhancing haze control management through early warning/monitoring, fire prevention and fire suppression; refinement of the Fire Danger Rating System; operationalisation of Alert Levels and Trigger Points for immediate and expeditious fire prevention and suppression by including them in the existing SOP for Monitoring, Assessment and Joint Emergency Response; and meeting the training needs of ASEAN Member States under the Regional Haze Training Network.
6. The Ministers noted the continued efforts by Indonesia on finalising its respective Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Malaysia and Singapore to address transboundary haze issues, building upon the previous successful experiences in bilateral cooperation in Riau and Jambi provinces. In this regard, Malaysia and Singapore look forward to finalising their respective MOUs with Indonesia soon.
7. The Ministers noted that the Leaders at the 26th ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur on 27 April 2015 had noted the initiatives by the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution (MSC) countries to take the necessary actions in order to operationalize the ASEAN Sub-Regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS). The Ministers also noted the difficulties in sharing the land use and concession maps by the MSC countries. The Ministers noted that in the meantime, the Leaders had encouraged MSC countries to share information on a Government-to-Government basis on hotspot areas that cause transboundary haze.
8. The Ministers noted the discussion of MSC Technical Task Force (MTTF) on developing a set of guidelines to follow-up on MSC's direction. The Ministers noted the constraints faced by the MTTF and directed the MTTF to work further on the technicalities of the information that could be shared.
9. The Ministers noted the intention and steps taken by Indonesia to host the ASEAN Coordinating Centre on Transboundary Haze Pollution Control, and Indonesia's plan to have a Workshop before the next Meeting of Conference of Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, to further establish ACC in consultation with AMS.
10. The Ministers commended the significant achievements made through the local, national and regional activities under the 5-year ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP), which was funded by Global Environment Facility (2009-2014) through International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implemented by ASEAN Member States in coordination with ASEAN Secretariat and Global Environment Centre. The Ministers also commended the good progress being made under the EU-supported SEApeat Project (2011-2015), which has supplemented support for the APFP and expanded activities to the northern ASEAN Member States. Together, APFP and SEApeat projects have demonstrated the value of integrated peatland management and engagement of local communities and the private sector as well as enhancing peatland fire prevention and warning.
11. The Meeting noted the substantive progress of the development of the successor ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems – APSMPE (2014-2020), and the encouraging response and support from ASEAN dialogue and development partners. The Ministers renewed

their commitment to implement this regional Programme through ASEAN mechanisms, enhanced national level efforts and multi-stakeholder partnership.

12. The Ministers recognized the need to develop a Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation. The Ministers welcomed Thailand's offer to host a workshop to draft the Roadmap next year with a view to promote sharing of experiences and lessons learned, enhance institutional capacities, human resources development and technology transfer to achieve a vision of Haze-free ASEAN by 2020.
13. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for organising the 17th MSC Meeting and the excellent arrangements made and hospitality provided.

Media Release of the 5th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 20 August 2015

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (MSC Mekong) was held on 20 August 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and attended by Ministers/representatives responsible for land and forest fires and haze from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and the Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.
2. The Ministers noted the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre's (ASMC) weather and smoke haze situation outlook of the Mekong sub-region for 2015. In the period of August until September, wet weather conditions in the northern ASEAN region is expected to keep hotspot activities generally subdued due to the Southwest Monsoon. Dry weather conditions are expected over the Mekong sub-region from around October onwards with the onset of the Inter and Northeast Monsoon, and this could contribute to an increase in hotspot activities in the region. ASMC has also predicted that there is a 90 per cent chance of the current moderate El Niño conditions to continue and prevail into early 2016 with possible strengthening of conditions. The MSC Mekong countries will continue to be vigilant and take additional preventive measures and immediate fire suppression in the event of any occurrence of transboundary haze in the coming months.
3. The Meeting discussed and shared various initiatives undertaken by the MSC Mekong countries to mitigate land and forest fires and to control smoke haze pollution during the dry season. Cambodia's national action plan for haze control in the dry season includes protected areas and community-based mechanisms while continues to conduct annual fire fighters training of trainers and promote forest fire education and awareness to communities. Lao PDR started using automated ambient air quality monitoring stations in March 2014 and implements public awareness activities on forest fires and sustainable peatland management. Myanmar is developing a Forest Fire Prevention Plan in coordination with relevant ministries, local authority and community-based participation in fire protection by taking into account the possibility, type, time and condition of forest fire hazards. Thailand implements fire and haze prevention and control measures such as using GIS as a management tool, single command approach, open burning prevention and control, and cooperation with private sector, with best practices based on the royal initiatives; as well as implements the Air4ASEAN application for smart phone and tablet to allow quick access to haze situation in the ASEAN countries. Viet Nam implements annual forest fire control work plans at national and local levels and conducts forest fire control activities for monitoring, prevention, and mitigation, including using GIS as a management tool.

4. The Ministers agreed to work towards achieving the target of hotspot reduction which was approved at the 4th MSC Mekong Meeting in 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, i.e., reducing cumulative hotspot count not exceeding 75,000 hotspots (in line with 2008 situation) to be achieved by 2017, with a goal of returning to a cumulative hotspot count of 50,000 (in line with 2006 situation) by 2020. The Ministers tasked the TWG Mekong to strengthen regional cooperation and national efforts in achieving the revised targets by the agreed timeline through capacity building (supported by e.g., Singapore and Thailand) and development of the ASEAN Haze-Free Roadmap.
5. The Ministers commended the significant achievements made through the local, national and regional activities under the 5-year ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP), which was funded by Global Environment Facility (2009-2014) through International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implemented by ASEAN Member States in coordination with ASEAN Secretariat and Global Environment Centre. The Ministers also commended the good progress being made under the EU-supported SEApeat Project (2011-2015), which has supplemented support for the APFP and expanded activities to the northern ASEAN Member States. Together, APFP and SEApeat projects have demonstrated the value of integrated peatland management and engagement of local communities and the private sector as well as enhancing peatland fire prevention and warning.
6. The Meeting noted the substantive progress of the development of the successor ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems – APSMPE (2014-2020), and the encouraging response and support from ASEAN dialogue and development partners. The Ministers renewed their commitment to implement this regional Programme through ASEAN mechanisms, enhanced national level efforts and multi-stakeholder partnership.
7. The Ministers recognized the need to develop a Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation towards a vision of Haze-free ASEAN. The Ministers welcomed Thailand's offer to host a workshop next year to draft the Roadmap with a view to promote the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, enhance institutional capacities, human resources development and technology transfer.
8. The Meeting expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for hosting the 5th MSC Mekong Meeting and the excellent arrangements made and generous hospitality provided.

Media Release of the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 29 October 2015

1. Ministers responsible for the environment from ASEAN Member States (AMS) held their 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution on 29 October 2015 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Ministers reviewed regional cooperation on a number of haze-related issues, in particular actions taken under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, and discussed new initiatives to further promote regional cooperation in addressing transboundary haze pollution.
2. The Ministers expressed concern over the unprecedented severity and geographical spread of the recent smoke haze affecting various ASEAN countries. They also expressed sympathy to the millions of people affected by the haze. The Ministers noted and appreciated the collaborative efforts undertaken by Indonesia, the neighbouring ASEAN countries and the international community to address the forest fires and the associated smoke haze.

3. The Ministers noted the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre's (ASMC) weather outlook in which the strong El-Nino conditions that currently prevail are likely to extend into early-2016. In the northern ASEAN region, hotspot activities are likely to increase with the onset of the traditional dry season in November/December 2015. For the southern ASEAN region, with the Inter-Monsoon season expected in late October/early November followed by the Northeast Monsoon season in December 2015, an increase in showers activities may help to subdue hotspot activities in region. The ASEAN Member States pledged to remain vigilant and continuously monitor and implement haze preventive measures in anticipation of the strong El-Nino conditions.
4. The Ministers reaffirmed the commitment to the objectives and principles of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution and agreed to step up cooperation to effectively implement this Agreement in its entirety. The Ministers reviewed national, sub-regional and regional activities to address land and forest fires in the region and its associated transboundary haze pollution. The Ministers welcomed the significant progress in the implementation of the Work Programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, including concrete on-the-ground activities such as multi-national cooperation to fight fires; and implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (2006-2020). The Ministers also encouraged ASEAN Member States to enhance bilateral and multi-national collaboration among the ASEAN Member States. ASEAN Member States agreed to share information, subject to respective national laws and policies and international obligations. The Ministers also agreed to institutionalise the possible activation of international assistance by AMS early in the haze season at the appropriate alert level.
5. The Ministers recognized the need for ASEAN Member States to revisit their respective national plan of action (POA) in order to effectively address the land and forest fires that cause haze in the region. The Ministers are committed to develop an ASEAN Haze-Free Roadmap which is an action-oriented and time-bound framework for ASEAN Member States to achieve the vision of Haze-Free ASEAN by 2020.
6. The Ministers endorsed the revised Standard Operating Procedure for Monitoring, Assessment and Joint Emergency Response under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, where the Alert Levels, Trigger Points and Actions on Fire Suppression adopted by COP-10 was incorporated. The Ministers urged AMS to operationalize the Alert Levels and Trigger Points and Actions to prevent recurrence of transboundary haze pollution.
7. The Ministers endorsed Indonesia's intention to host the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control and further tasked Indonesia to continue to work towards timely establishment of the Centre. In the meantime the Ministers suggested for Indonesia to explore using the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) to ensure efficient and quick response towards fire suppression.
8. The Ministers called for ASEAN Member States to utilise the mechanism under the AATHP to mobilise the Panel of ASEAN Experts on Fire and Haze Assessment and Coordination to assess the fire situation on the ground and further recommend the external fire assistance required.
9. The Ministers noted that majority of ASEAN Member States have contributed to the ASEAN Transboundary Haze Pollution Control Fund towards realising the pledge of providing an initial seed contribution of US\$500,000 for the Fund. The Ministers welcomed contributions from other partners to the Fund.
10. The Ministers endorsed the ASEAN Guidelines on Peatland Fire Management, which was developed to serve as a reference for ASEAN Member States in applying holistic Integrated Fire Management (IFM) approach coupled with Community-Based Fire Management (CBFiM) in peatland fire management which includes prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR).

11. The Ministers commended the significant achievements made through the local, national and regional activities under the 5-year ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP), which was funded by Global Environment Facility (2009-2014) through International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implemented by ASEAN Member States in coordination with ASEAN Secretariat and Global Environment Centre. The Ministers also commended the good progress being made under the EU-supported SEApeat Project (2011-2015), which has supplemented support for the APFP and expanded activities to the northern ASEAN Member States. Together, APFP and SEApeat projects have demonstrated the value of integrated peatland management and engagement of local communities and the private sector as well as enhancing peatland fire prevention and warning.
12. The Ministers noted the substantive progress of the development of the successor ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems – APSMPE (2014-2020), and the encouraging response and support from ASEAN dialogue and development partners. The Ministers renewed their commitment to implement this regional Programme through ASEAN mechanisms, enhanced national level efforts and multi-stakeholder partnership.
13. The Ministers noted the initiatives by Sub-regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution (MSC) countries to take the necessary actions in order to operationalise the ASEAN Sub-regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS). In the meantime, the Ministers encouraged MSC countries to share hotspot areas that cause transboundary haze on Government-to-Government basis.
14. The Ministers responsible for the environment will meet again in 2016 in Malaysia on the occasion of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP-12).

ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE)

Joint Statement of the 9th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (9th AMRDPE)

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 17 October 2015

1. The Ninth ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (9th AMRDPE) was held on 17 October 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and preceded by the Twelfth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (12th SOMRDPE) on 13-14 October 2015; Eighth ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (8th SOMRDPE+3) on 14 October 2015; and the Fourth ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication on 15 October 2015. The 9th AMRDPE adopted the theme. Public, Private and People Partnerships (4Ps) for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development in ASEAN.
2. The 9th AMRDPE was opened by H.E. Somsanith SUDVANNALATH, Vice Minister to the Government's Office and Vice Chair of the National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication of Lao PDR. In the Opening Remarks, HE Somsanith SUDVANNALATH congratulated the outgoing Chair from the Indonesia for the effective leadership during his term highlighting the key accomplishments of the sector along rural development and poverty eradication. H.E. Somsanith SUDVANNALATH enjoined the support and continued cooperation of the ASEAN Member States in furthering the work in line with the ASEAN Community Vision and ASCC Blueprint 2025 and post-2015 priorities for the rural development and poverty eradication.
3. The 9th AMRDPE was attended by the ASEAN Ministers responsible for rural development and poverty eradication or their

representatives. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The list of the Ministers or their representatives is enclosed.

Progress of Implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2009-2015

4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the overall achievement in implementing the relevant action lines in the ASCC Blueprint. They expressed appreciation for the initiative, commitment and hard work of the ASEAN Member States and its partners in ensuring that rural development and poverty eradication figures prominently in the continuing work of community development in ASEAN. The Ministers were pleased to note that a significant portion or sixty percent of the regional initiatives went into developing capacities of member states while thirty-six percent went into formulation of regional policy initiatives. They highlighted that this is an indication of the improved mechanism of working together in ASEAN with respect to rural development and poverty eradication.
5. The Ministers acknowledged the qualitative assessment report on Framing the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Post-2015 conducted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and enjoined the member states to consider the findings and recommendations in the report in developing the 2016-2020 Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication. They considered the report recommendations highlighting the need to focus attention on the rural poor in terms of enhancing productivity and raising incomes, providing social services and social protection, improving access to and quality of important rural infrastructure, providing incentives and expanding remunerative employment for farmers and fisher folks.
6. The Ministers also noted the quantitative assessment report of the ASCC Blueprint 2009-2015 or the ASCC Scorecard Report 2015. The Ministers exchanged views on the assessment report and agreed on ways forward in enhancing the monitoring and evaluation of its framework action plan

towards a more results-oriented and outcome-based assessment of its work in accordance with its mandate and aspirations in support of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASCC Blueprint 2025.

Progress of Implementation of the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015)

7. The Ministers exchanged views on national strategies, good practices, and experiences in implementing national and regional initiatives on rural development and poverty eradication. They noted the progress of implementation of regional initiatives contained in the 2011-2015 Framework Action Plan on RPDE and acknowledged the successful completion of projects. The Ministers tasked their senior officials to continue the initiatives and consider carrying forward to the next framework action plan those that are relevant to the post-2015 objectives of rural development and poverty eradication.
8. The Ministers noted with appreciation the report on the ASEAN Regional Assessment on MDG Achievements and Post-2015 Development Agenda, an initiative by the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) completed under the SOMRDPE Chairmanship of the Philippines and prepared with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in coordination with the ASEAN senior officials on social welfare and development (SDMSWD), education (SDMED), health (SOMHD), women (ACW), environment (ASDEN) and statistics (ACSS). The report provided an overall picture of the ASEAN region's MDG achievement as of 2015 and highlighted recommendations on post-2015 development priorities for consideration by relevant ASEAN sectoral ministerial bodies.

Development of the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2020

9. The Ministers deliberated and adopted in principle the 2016-2020 Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication. They expressed appreciation to the member states and the ASEAN

Secretariat in the development of the framework action plan, noting the priority it accorded to vulnerable groups and poor households' access and control to productive natural resources, financial and support services, social protection and participation in socio-economic opportunities. The Ministers were also pleased with the greater efforts in strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration to achieve convergence of rural development and poverty eradication initiatives at the local, national and regional levels through improved coordination mechanism, policy coherence and effective localisation of ROPE programmes and actions.

Engagement with Stakeholders

10. The Ministers were pleased to note that the Fourth ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication was successfully convened on 15 October 2015 with the theme "Public, Private and People Partnerships (4Ps) for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development in ASEAN" that appropriately captured the significance of public, private and people partnerships to promote poverty reduction and sustainable development of the communities especially in the rural areas. The Ministers were pleased that the ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication continues as a regular platform for dialogue and sharing of information among governments, non-government organisations/civil society organisations and now with the inclusion of the private sector, towards closer relations and cooperation on shared ROPE agenda.
11. The Ministers congratulated the NGOs/CSOs from ASEAN Member States that received the Second ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards on 16 October 2015, namely: The Council of Women Brunei Darussalam; Australian Catholic Relief/ Caritas Australia (ACR/CA) of Cambodia; Yayasan BITRA Indonesia; Poverty Reduction Fund Project (PRF) of Lao PDR; Angkatan Zaman Mansang (AZAM) of Malaysia; Network Activities Group (NAG) of Myanmar; Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) of the Philippines; Lions Befrienders Service Association of

Singapore; Promotion of Human Resources for Community Development Foundation (PHRCDF) of Thailand; and The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) of Viet Nam. The Awards were presented as a recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions to rural and community development and to improve the livelihood of the poor and vulnerable groups in their respective communities or countries.

Cooperation with China, Japan and Republic of Korea

12. The Ministers expressed appreciation to China, Japan and Republic of Korea for their continued support and cooperation in implementing regional initiatives of mutual interest geared towards addressing rural poverty and development in the Plus Three Countries. The Ministers exchanged views on key priority areas for collaboration with China, Japan and Republic of Korea for post-2015 highlighting on the theme of "Public, Private and People Partnerships (4Ps) for the Post 2015 Sustainable Development in ASEAN" as well as in the context of the ASEAN Community's aim to strengthen its role as an active partner in regional and global affairs especially in light of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
13. The Ministers noted the significant exchange of views among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries relevant to the theme and expressed appreciation on the wide acceptance and support on promoting 4Ps as an inclusive approach in promoting rural development and poverty eradication in the region. The Ministers were pleased to note the current and planned 4Ps initiatives in the AMS particularly those that promote engagement of the private sector in areas such as social insurance and social protection, promoting economic empowerment through enhanced infrastructure, access to finance and markets and support to product development of the peoples.
14. The Ministers were also pleased to note that the exchange of views manifested a strong commitment of ASEAN Plus Three Countries to the principles of people empowerment, enhancing people's meaningful participation

in development, promoting people's ownership, putting people at the centre of the development process and supporting the regional initiatives that involve 4Ps as an inclusive approach toward rural development and poverty eradication.

The 10th AMRDPE

15. The Ministers noted with appreciation Malaysia's readiness to host the Tenth ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (10th AMRDPE) in 2017.
16. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of the Meeting. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for the assistance rendered.

LIST OF MINISTERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE NINTH ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

H.E. Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Affendy bin POKSM DSP Haji Abidin, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Sao Chivoan, Secretary of State, Minister of Rural Development, Cambodia; H.E. Irmawan Emir Wisnandar, Indonesian Ambassador to Lao PDR, Coordinating Minister of Human Development and Culture Indonesia; H.E. Somsanith Souvannalath, Vice Minister to the Government's Office, Vice Chair of the National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi, Deputy Minister of Rural and Regional Development, Malaysia; H.E. Utin Ngwe, Deputy Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, Myanmar; H.E. Florencia Casanova Dorotan, Undersecretary of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, Office of the President, The Philippines; H.E. Chan Heng Kee, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Social and Family Development, Singapore; H.E. Markboon Sutee, Deputy Minister of Interior, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Le Quoc Doanh, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam; and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN, The ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)

Joint Statement of the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)

**Makati City, the Philippines,
23 October 2015**

WE, the ASEAN Ministers/Heads of Delegations, responsible for gender equality and women's empowerment, gathered in Makati, the Philippines, on 23 October 2015 for the Second ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women with the theme "Accounting for Results on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025";

AFFIRMING our adherence to the goals and aspirations of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 as reiterated in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, and our commitments under ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region (1988), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Declaration on Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children, Sustainable Development Goals, and related regional and international instruments that promote, protect and fulfill the human rights of women and girls;

ACKNOWLEDGING the finalisation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence Against Women;

FURTHER AFFIRMING the commitment made at the First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women held in October 2012 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, including the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Gender Perspective and ASEAN Women's Partnership for Environmental Sustainability;

TAKING NOTE of the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan 2011-2015, the gains that have been achieved and the remaining gaps and challenges that need to be addressed to realise

our goals and aspirations towards gender equality and the empowerment of women;

RECOGNISING that gender equality and women's empowerment are integral principles in the ASEAN community building process, and that realising these principles requires the commitment of all ASEAN Member States, sectoral bodies under the three pillars of ASEAN, and stakeholders including civil society, academia, media and private sectors;

DO HEREBY:

1. ENCOURAGE ASEAN Member States to adopt and implement the ACW Work Plan 2016-2020 and to collaborate among themselves as well as with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and international organisations to progressively achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women;
2. STRONGLY URGE the three pillars of ASEAN, the political-security, economic, and socio-cultural, to work towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls by mainstreaming gender perspective in their respective policies, plans and programmes;
3. TASK the ACW to develop a strategy for gender mainstreaming mechanism in the three pillars of ASEAN;
4. ENCOURAGE the development and operationalisation of multi-sectoral mechanisms to monitor progress on gender equality and the empowerment of all women through the use of sex disaggregated data for evidence-based analysis of the situation of women and girls;
5. STRENGTHEN our commitment to take concrete steps to address gender inequalities in the political-security, economic, and socio-cultural spheres and contribute to realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 in complementarity with the Sustainable Development Goals.

ADOPT IN PRINCIPLE the ACW Work Plan for 2016-2020 to guide future efforts in sustaining the gains and overcoming the persistent and emerging challenges in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women.

AGREED by the Ministers/Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Member States on this Twenty Third Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen in Makati City, the Philippines.

**LIST OF MINISTERS/HEADS OF DELEGATIONS
ATTENDING THE SECOND ASEAN
MINISTERIAL MEETING ON WOMEN**

H.E. Datin Paduka Malai Hajah Halimah Malai Yussof, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Kantha Phavi Ing, Minister of Women's Affairs, Cambodia; Mdm. Sri Danti Anwar, MA Senior Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia; H. E. Bundith Prathoumvanh, Deputy Minister, Vice-President of the Lao Women's Union, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Munirah Abdullah Bajanuddin, Director General, Department of Women Development, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia; Dr. San San Aye, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar; H.E. Remedios I. Rikken, Chairperson of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), The Philippines; H.E. Muhammad Faishal Bin Ibrahim Khan Surattee, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore; Mdm. Anusree Tubsuwan, Attached to the Secretariat of Prime Minister, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand; H.E. Dao Hong Lan, Vice Minister, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam; and H.E. Dr. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary-General for Community and Corporate Affairs, The ASEAN Secretariat.

**ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on
Youth (AMMY)**

**Joint Ministerial Statement
of the 9th ASEAN Ministerial
Meeting on Youth (AMMY IX) –
Young People – Building ASEAN
Community**

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 4 June 2015

1. The Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY IX) was convened on 4 June 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. AMMY IX was preceded by the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting

on Youth (Prep-SOM for AMMY IX) held on 2 June 2015 in Siem Reap.

2. The theme of Cambodia's AMMY/SOMY Chairmanship is "Young People – Building ASEAN Community", reflecting the acknowledgement and recognition of the role of youth in the realisation of a prosperous ASEAN Community, where at the same time it is in line with the directions given by the AMMY VIII held on 22 May 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan.
3. The Meeting was officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of Kingdom of Cambodia. In his opening address, he further emphasised the role of SOMY towards youth development and engagement in the process of ASEAN integration and community building. To that aim, the ASEAN youth sector will continue to promote a Community that recognizes the importance of youth as the future of ASEAN, and one with an enhanced awareness of ASEAN as a region. He further affirmed the readiness of Cambodia to guide SOMY to achieve closer and greater partnership with youth towards an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and people-centered.
4. The Ministers further stressed that the policy made today shall influence and enable future leaders to contribute to socio-economic development. Therefore, ASEAN must adopt a more holistic approach toward the development of young people in the productive workforce and civic engagement at national and regional level. In addition, ASEAN Member States should keep track on the evaluation of the outcomes and effectiveness of youth initiatives through the establishment of a youth development index, and provide the right environment for young people to participate in, and benefit from ASEAN Community building.
5. The Ministers acknowledged the progress made under the ASEAN Cooperation in Youth in support of the 15 action lines that have been identified in the ASCC Blueprint to ensure that the youth sector would contribute to the ASEAN Community building process. In this regard, they highlighted the promotion of ASEAN Awareness, strengthening entrepreneurship skills and values for youth, leadership development and education, and youth volunteerism remain as the cornerstones of youth development in ASEAN.
6. The Ministers acknowledged that 2015 is a landmark year for ASEAN and noted the importance of having an ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020 to deepen and widen existing activities/initiatives on youth in the region and beyond, based on the SOMY/ AMMY Post 2015 key elements. In this regard, they noted the indicative time line for the formulation of the Work Plan by conducting the workshop prior to submission to SOMY for endorsement and AMMY for the adoption within this year.
7. The Ministers reiterated their endorsement and noted the progress of the establishment of an ASEAN Youth Programme Fund (AYPF) to further support ASEAN youth development and partnership.
8. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to SOMY's continuous effort to facilitate and promote greater awareness of ASEAN amongst youth, and engage them through various platforms, thus contributing to greater understanding and closer ties within the ASEAN Community. With regard to volunteerism, they noted with appreciation the conduct of the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Programme (AYVP) initiated by Malaysia and ASEAN Young Professionals Volunteer Corps (AYPVC) initiated by Brunei Darussalam in accordance with the spirit of ASEAN cooperation and cordiality.
9. The Ministers noted that various youth projects/ programmes related to people-to people connectivity are continuously implemented with the support and participation of ASEAN Dialogue Partners.
10. The Ministers welcomed Indonesia as the forthcoming Chairman and agreed to meet again at AMMY X in Indonesia in 2017.
11. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Kingdom of Cambodia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made in hosting the AMMY IX and its related Meetings.

Heads of Civil Service Meeting for the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM)

Media Statement of the ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Retreat

**Cyberjaya, Malaysia,
17 November 2015**

The ASEAN Heads of Civil Service signed today the Putrajaya Joint Declaration on ASEAN Post-2015 Priorities Towards an ASEAN Citizen-Centric Civil Service. The Declaration embodies ASEAN's recognition of the need for civil service reform and greater engagement of the peoples to meet their needs, welfare and expectations as a people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community. The Declaration also acknowledged the importance of good governance in promoting sustainable development in ASEAN. It stipulates concrete actions to be taken by ASEAN Member States collectively and individually including strengthening good governance, integrity and cooperation in civil service, capacity building, technical cooperation, prioritising good regulatory practices (GRP) and promoting the highest standards of professionalism, efficiency, effectiveness, participatory approach, responsiveness, transparency and accountability in the civil service.

Prior to the signing ceremony, the ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Retreat was held on 17 November 2015 in Cyberjaya, Malaysia. The Retreat was officiated by H.E. Tan Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa, Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia and was chaired by H.E. Alicia dela-Rosa Bala, the 18th ACCSM Chair and Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission of the Philippines. The Retreat deliberated on strategies to heighten the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) in post-2015. Actions to strengthen the institutional arrangement of ACCSM were deliberated, including the adoption of new themes for the six ASEAN Resource Centres (ARCs) notably: Managing Civil Service Competency (for the ARC led by Brunei Darussalam), Public Service Delivery (Cambodia), ASEAN Pool of Experts on Civil Service (Indonesia), Strategic Collaboration through National Blue Ocean Strategy (Malaysia), ASEAN Leaders in

Strategic Human Resource Programme – Building a Future-Ready Public Service (Singapore), and Supporting Public Service Reform (Viet Nam). The current themes of the other four ARCs are Civil Service Performance Management (Lao PDR), Training for Trainers for Civil Service (Myanmar), Examination and Testing (Philippines), and Leadership Development (Thailand).

The ASEAN Heads of Civil Service agreed to rebrand the ACCSM to become “ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters” to appropriately reflect the collaboration and coordination among ASEAN Member States. They also agreed to continue the ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Retreat biennially in future, and to streamline meetings under ACCSM for efficiency. Strategies to promote ASEAN awareness among civil servants and inter-sectoral cooperation on cross-cutting issues of civil service and good governance were deliberated. The ASEAN Heads of Civil Service also agreed to expand the ACCSM cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners. Currently, the ACCSM is cooperating with the Plus Three Countries through joint projects in the ACCSM Plus Three Work Plan 2012-2015.

In conjunction with the Retreat, the ASEAN Civil Service Games are held from 16 to 19 November 2015 participated in by over 600 civil servants from ASEAN Member States in friendly yet competitive sports of golf, badminton, futsal, table tennis, and bowling. Games were held in various sport centers in Klang Valley. The ASEAN Civil Service Games aimed to strengthen networking and solidarity among civil servants across the region and to build their awareness of ASEAN and sense of regionality.

As part of the week-long series of ASEAN civil service events, the ASEAN Civil Service Innovation Conference was held with the theme “Towards an ASEAN Citizen-Centric Civil Service” will be held from 18 to 19 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Conference will provide a platform for exchange of views and information on strategies to strengthen civil service performance and quality of service delivery to the people. Jointly organised by the Public Service Department of Malaysia and the Razak School of Government, the Conference is expected to be attended by around 300 participants from the region.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS)

Joint Statement of the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS-3)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
13 August 2015**

1. The Third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS-3) was held on 13 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was preceded by the Fifth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS-5) held on 12 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.
2. The Meeting was officially opened and chaired by H.E. Khairy Jamaluddin, Minister of Youth and Sports, Malaysia. The Meeting had a strategic deliberation on the ASEAN approach in pursuing closer and greater regional partnership for sports at the regional level and beyond towards the realization of an ASEAN Community that is people-centred and people-oriented. Moving forward, the Ministers tasked the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS) to consider the issuance of the Joint Statement/Declaration by the ASEAN Leaders on sports to enrich the work of SOMS/AMMS in the near future.
3. The Ministers were pleased to note the progress made under the ASEAN Cooperation in Sports in fostering social inclusion of ASEAN citizens and mutual understanding among them. The year 2014 is considered dynamic as it saw a number of initiatives introduced and sports programmes successfully delivered. Exchange programmes on sports with youth participation dominated the year which involved a combination between students and young athletes in ASEAN and Dialogue Partner Countries.
4. At the strategic level, given the fact that the sports sector has a cross cutting element in its nature of work, the Ministers further indicated the need for greater interaction and dialogue with other ASEAN sectoral bodies, regional and

international, educational organisations, and Dialogue Partners, and other parties with an interest in sports, to ensure synergy, minimise any overlapping areas of cooperation, and to maximize efficiency in the allocation of resources.

5. The Ministers expressed support to Malaysia's initiative to conduct feasibility studies towards a credible bid for the hosting of FIFA World Cup in 2034. It is necessary to get strong support from all stakeholders and not just governmental level. This includes football associations, media, general public and private sectors.
6. The Ministers welcomed the idea of organizing the ASEAN Super League initiated by the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF), which they believe will be a game changer for the sport in the region.
7. The Ministers noted with appreciation Malaysia's proposed initiative of holding an ASEAN Sports Day to be conducted annually in all ASEAN Member States. The meeting tasked the SOMS to further coordinate and work out the details for its implementation.
8. The Ministers thanked the Lao PDR and Malaysia for hosting the Expert Group Meeting on Sports (EGMS) in May and August 2015 respectively to finalise the ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Sports 2016-2020. The development of the Work Plan was guided by the following AMMS/SOMS Post 2015 key elements:
 - Promote awareness of ASEAN through sporting activities that bring the ASEAN peoples together and engages and benefits the community;
 - Foster the sense of an ASEAN Community through mutually beneficial sports exchange programs;
 - Strengthen ASEAN people's sense of resilience with healthy lifestyles;
 - Increase sports dynamism, competitiveness and competencies through capacity building and skills programs.

9. In finalizing the Work Plan and pursuant to the Vientiane Declaration on Sports Cooperation in ASEAN at the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS-2), the Ministers urged ASEAN Member States to exert more effort to avail national resources to implement programmes and activities of the ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Sports 2016-2020.
10. To promote ASEAN Sports For All, the programmes/activities of the ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Sports 2016-2020 highlight and support sporting activities and events with greater involvement of local community and other relevant sectoral bodies, as well as academia and private sector through partnership.
11. The Ministers welcomed further engagement with Japan in light of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and noted Japan's proposal for an ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS+Japan) to be launched in 2017. To move forward, the Ministers tasked the SOMS to draft a Terms of Reference (TOR) of AMMS+Japan and look into the necessary coordinating mechanisms with Japan in finalising the said TOR.
12. The Ministers welcomed Myanmar as the forthcoming Chairman and agreed to meet again at the AMMS-4 in Myanmar in 2017.
13. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Malaysia for the warm hospitality and arrangements in hosting the AMMS-3 and to the ASEAN Secretariat for the assistance rendered.



External Relations

V. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Sessions with the Dialogue Partners

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 5 August 2015

1. The ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC)+1 Sessions with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America were held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 5 August 2015.
2. The PMC sessions serve as a platform for ASEAN and the Dialogue Partners to review and take stock of the progress in the respective dialogue relations, including progress in implementing the respective Plans of Action (PoA). The Ministers welcomed the strong cooperation between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners and reiterated their commitment to further strengthen the existing relationship.
3. The Ministers also took the opportunity to exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual concern. Recognising the long-standing relationship between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners, the Ministers reaffirmed their strong commitment to work closely together to promote peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region and explore ways to further enhance and deepen cooperation in addressing various regional and global challenges of mutual concern, such as climate change, environmental sustainability, natural disasters and disaster preparedness, pandemic diseases, and transnational crimes including irregular movement of persons.
4. The Ministers underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN unity and centrality in the evolving regional architecture and welcomed the on-going progress with regard to the development of the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision and its attendant documents.
5. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Australia was co-chaired by H.E. Albert F. Del Rosario, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia.
6. The Meeting welcomed the Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations and the elevation of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations to a Strategic Partnership which was formally adopted by Leaders at the ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, November 2014. In recognition of the Strategic partnership, the Meeting agreed to convene biennial Leaders' Summits, beginning in 2016.
7. The Meeting appreciated the role of Australia in promoting peace, security, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region through its active participation in regional and international fora.
8. The Meeting welcomed the progress report on the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia Plan of Action (2015-2019) and looked forward to the ongoing effective implementation of commitments outlined in the Plan of Action and the Progress Report for the next five years.
9. The Meeting expressed appreciation for Australia's active participation in ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting (ADMM)-Plus, Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), and East Asia Summit (EAS), as well as its support for ASEAN Centrality. Both sides reaffirmed the commitment to work together in strengthening these mechanisms and in promoting a rules-based and norms-based regional architecture.
10. The Meeting shared the concern over the territorial of Islamic State (IS) also known as Daesh and condemned the acts by IS which had cost many innocent lives and threatened regional and international security. Both sides

viewed that the issue of international terrorism should be addressed in a comprehensive manner, including through moderation.

11. The Meeting supported the strong determination to jointly tackle the imminent threat of international terrorism and violent extremism, intensify cooperation in search and rescue at sea including through the on-going tripartite project (among Australia, Indonesia, and Malaysia) on a standardised global flight tracking system, and further promote business and people-to-people linkages.
12. The Meeting looked forward to the early implementation of the First Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA), which will assist in improving administrative efficiency and encourage enhanced business utilization of the AANZFTA. The Meeting welcomed the strong growth in two-way trade, which totalled over US\$ 81 billion in 2014.
13. The Meeting noted the benefits of deeper regional economic integration and appreciated Australia's broader ongoing support to prepare for and implement the forthcoming establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and maximise the benefits of the AANZFTA to all of its parties, through development cooperation, trade promotion and economic diplomacy activities.
14. The Meeting noted Australia's regional aid program closely aligned with ASEAN's priorities of supporting regional economic growth, human security and empowering women and girls. The Meeting noted Australia's support to the Mekong Water Program to help manage the region's water resource for greater economic opportunities. The Meeting noted Australia's support to women's rights organisation to support women's leadership in the AEC. Ministers welcomed Australia's support to combat human trafficking through the A\$50 million Australia-Asia Program in Trafficking in Persons.
15. The Meeting welcomed Australia's current ASEAN cooperation programmes, especially those focused on ASEAN economic integration. In particular, the Meeting noted agreement to

extend AADCP II from 2015-2019, allowing for assistance with institutional strengthening of ASEAN Secretariat and supporting regional mechanisms and capacities to implement the AEC Blueprint. The Meeting welcomed Australia's substantial support of \$A8 million for the WEF's Grow Asia Initiative developed in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat.

16. The Meeting supported efforts to intensify people-to-people links especially in education. ASEAN Ministers welcomed the pilot program of the New Colombo Plan and its expansion to all ASEAN Member States from 2015. The Meeting noted Australia's commitment of more than A\$100 million over five years to implement the New Colombo Plan, which supports young Australian undergraduates to study and undertake internships in the Indo-Pacific region, and noted that around 2,250 young Australians were now working and studying in the region through the New Colombo Plan. The Meeting also acknowledged Australia's soft-diplomacy approach through the promotion of education under the New Colombo Plan.
17. The Meeting reiterated the importance of ASEAN Leadership advancing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations towards a high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's FTA Partners.
18. The Meeting underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. The Meeting noted ASEAN Member States and China commitment to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China (DOC) in its entirety, and welcomed ASEAN Member States and China recent agreement to proceed to the next stage of consultations and work towards the early establishment of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).
19. The Meeting welcomed the continuous efforts in narrowing the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and its successor

documents, as well as alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development in order to realise ASEAN Community and regional integration.

20. The Meeting welcomed Australia's decision to contribute an additional A\$1 million to support the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) for the period from June 2015 to December 2016. Australia looked forward to continuing its partnership with ASEAN through relevant regional such as the ADMM-Plus to enhance military-military and military-civilian coordination in rapid disaster response.
21. The Meeting thanked Philippines as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Myanmar as the incoming Country Coordinator.

Canada

22. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Canada was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. K Shanmugam, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Law of the Republic of Singapore and H.E. Mr. Daniel Jean, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada.
23. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the significant progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action (PoA) to implement the Joint Declaration of ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2010-2015), in areas such as combating transnational crime and international terrorism, trade and investment, disaster risk management and capacity building support for ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.
24. The Meeting adopted the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2016-2020), which provides a robust framework for cooperation in support of ASEAN's Post-2015 priority areas.
25. The Meeting welcomed Canada's ongoing preparations for the establishment of its Mission to ASEAN in 2015, to be headed by a new dedicated Ambassador to the organization. The Meeting also noted Canada's preparations to open new diplomatic offices in Cambodia and Lao PDR, which will provide

Canada with a resident diplomatic presence in all 10 ASEAN Member States.

26. The Meeting agreed to expand and deepen cooperation to realise the full potential of their partnership and further contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The Meeting agreed to explore further opportunities in areas such as trade and investment, energy including clean and renewable energy, agricultural innovation, food security, Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) development, science and technology, public health, education, tourism and people-to-people connectivity, disaster management, and promoting sustainable development. The Meeting welcomed Canada's commitment to support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and discussed opportunities for further collaboration between ASEAN and Canada in this area, including the promotion of Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) projects.
27. The Meeting recognised terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalisation as serious threats and agreed to cooperate in combating these threats through measures such as information sharing, preventing terrorism financing and enhancing collaboration at the regional and international levels through mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the United Nations.
28. The Meeting reiterated Canada's commitment to assist ASEAN in areas of common interest, including its pledge of CAD\$ 14 million in additional funding at last year's ASEAN-Canada Ministerial Meeting to address regional security and connectivity issues. The Meeting also highlighted its initiatives in support of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment, including the successful organisation of the ASEAN Next Generation CSR and Anti-Corruption Forum in February 2015, and the 2nd ASEAN-Canada Business Forum held in Bangkok in March 2015.
29. The Meeting thanked Singapore as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Philippines as the incoming Country Coordinator.

China

30. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with China was co-chaired by H.E. General Tanasak Patimapragorn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and H.E. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.
31. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity for the period 2011-2015 and looked forward to the adoption of the Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity for the period of 2016-2020.
32. The Meeting welcomed continuing efforts by both sides to intensify their dialogue and consultations to further enhance trust and confidence in each other and in the region.
33. The Meeting welcomed China's continued support to ASEAN Community-building efforts as well as to give priority to ASEAN's unity and centrality in the evolving regional architecture.
34. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress made on China's initiatives under the 2+7 Cooperation Framework for ASEAN-China relations, and looked forward to working closely with China to realise cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual respect, benefit and consensus.
35. The Meeting underscored the value of regional economic integration and expressed a desire to upgrade the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) with a view to achieving the two-way trade of USD 1 trillion and two-way investment of USD\$ 150 billion by 2020.
36. The Meeting noted that the year 2016 marks the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and emphasised the need to in outlining concrete activities and projects as well as substantive deliverables to commemorate the milestone.
37. The Meeting expressed appreciation on China's continued support to the implementation of the

Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and welcomed the successful establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to promote regional connectivity.

38. The Meeting appreciated China's continued commitment to sub-regional cooperation in support of ASEAN Community building by its active participation in the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation and other sub-regional cooperation frameworks. The Meeting underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment of ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China (DOC) in its entirety: to build, maintain and enhance mutual trust and confidence; to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities; to not to resort to threat or use of force; and for the parties concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with international law including 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Meeting welcomed the recent agreement between ASEAN Member States and China to proceed to the next stage of consultations towards the establishment of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) and looked forward to the expeditious negotiations on the framework, structure and elements of the COC.
39. The Meeting noted China's initiative of building a closer ASEAN-China community of common destiny, and synergizing China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative with development strategies of ASEAN Member States to promote common development and prosperity.
40. The Meeting thanked Thailand as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Singapore as the incoming Country Coordinator.

European Union

41. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with the European Union (EU) was co-chaired by H.E. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam and H.E. Federica Mogherini, High Representative

of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

42. The Meeting took note the progress in the implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017). The Meeting also took note the outcome of the Informal ASEAN-EU Leaders' Meeting held in October 2014 in Milan as well as the 23rd ASEAN-EU SOM in July 2015 in Brussels.
43. The Meeting agreed to intensify efforts towards greater headway in the ASEAN-EU relations, including the possibility of establishing an ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership embracing all aspects of mutual interest. In this connection, ASEAN welcomed the interest of the EU in furthering engagement with the region through all ASEAN-led processes.
44. The Meeting appreciated EU's commitment to further strengthening ASEAN-EU relations as highlighted in the Joint Communication "The EU and ASEAN: a Partnership with a Strategic Purpose" adopted by the European Commission on 18 May 2015, and the conclusions of the Council of the European Union on EU-ASEAN relations, adopted at the Foreign Affairs Council of 22 June 2015.
45. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of EU's dedicated diplomatic mission and appointment of EU's dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN.
46. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed EU's continued support for the ASEAN Community Building efforts, as well as ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture.
47. The Meeting appreciated the EU's contribution to the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) through co-hosting and co-chairing the ARF Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation Training with Brunei Darussalam in Bandar Seri Begawan in October 2014, the 2nd ARF Workshop on Space Security in Tokyo in October 2014 and, the 9th ARF EEPs Meeting with in Helsinki in March 2015.
48. The Meeting agreed to further strengthen efforts to tackle transnational crime challenges particularly in the areas of terrorism, trafficking in persons and cyber-crimes through the effective implementation of ASEAN-EU Work Plan to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2014-2017) adopted in December 2014 and EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme II (EA-MBMP II) signed in June 2015.
49. The Meeting agreed to promote maritime cooperation including through the ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation as a useful platform to share best practices, experiences and lessons learned from both ASEAN and the EU's efforts to build integrated regional strategies and capacities on maritime security. The Meeting underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. The Meeting noted ASEAN Member States and China commitment to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China (DOC) in its entirety, and welcomed ASEAN Member States and China recent agreement to proceed to the next stage of consultations and work towards the early establishment of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).
50. The Meeting also welcomed the 4th ASEAN-EU Business Summit to be held on 23 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur and the EU-ASEAN Days with B2B meetings to be held in Milan on 29-30 September 2015 as opportunities to enhance business relations between Europe and ASEAN.
51. The Meeting highlighted the importance of connectivity as a key priority for ASEAN-EU cooperation and welcomed the EU's commitments to support the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). Recalling the inaugural meeting between the EU and the ACCC held in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 September 2014, the Meeting discussed opportunities for further collaboration between ASEAN and the EU in this area, including by sharing lessons learnt at both national and EU-level deriving from the European integration process and promoting private-public partnership (PPP) projects.

52. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the progress made in strengthening cooperation in the area of climate change, environment and disaster management. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the political and public interest in the Regional Forum on Climate Change (RFCC), co-organized by ASEAN, the French Government and the EU and hosted by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) from 1 to 3 July 2015 in Bangkok. The Meeting also welcomed EU's continued support to the development and implementation of the successor AADMER Work Programme and the work of AHA Centre.
53. The Meeting also appreciated the EU's interest in promoting exchange of best practices on narrowing the development gap and trans-boundary cooperation between countries in the Danube regions.
54. The Meeting thanked Viet Nam as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Thailand as the incoming Country Coordinator.

India

55. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with India was co-chaired by H.R.H. Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam, and H.E. General (Retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India.
56. The Meeting also expressed satisfaction with the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015). The Meeting adopted the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2016-2020) to serve as an action-oriented document to further deepen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership as well as ASEAN Community building and integration.
57. The Meeting expressed appreciation for India's engagement and support in the ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM) and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) to address the regional and international issues faced by the region.
58. The Meeting welcomed India's "Act East Policy" within the framework of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership, particularly in supporting the ASEAN Community Building process covering the three pillars of ASEAN Community, Connectivity, and strengthening ASEAN centrality for regional growth, prosperity and global peace and security.
59. The Meeting agreed to further address the transnational security challenges particularly in the areas of combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and cybercrime. The Meeting reiterated their commitment to strengthen cooperation in implementing the ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism. The Meeting welcomed India's interest and support for the recently established ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation.
60. The Meeting agreed to strengthen maritime cooperation through existing mechanisms in order to maintain peace and stability in the region. The Meeting agreed to further enhance the close cooperation between ASEAN and India on maritime issues, with a particular focus on maritime security and addressing the emerging challenges at sea.
61. The Meeting looked forward to the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) in New Delhi that would pave the way to the early operationalization of the AIC.
62. The Meeting welcomed the recent entry into force of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreement on 1st July 2015 and expressed confidence that these Agreements would serve as catalyst for a strategic economic partnership between ASEAN and India. The Meeting encouraged the remaining ASEAN Member States to expedite their internal requirements for the entry into force of both Agreements, and accelerate efforts to promote trade linkages and economic integration.

63. The Meeting agreed to pursue a modern, comprehensive, balanced and mutually beneficial Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement that will cover trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property, competition, dispute settlement and other issues. The Meeting underscored the need to expedite the on-going RCEP negotiations and the timely implementation of the ASEAN-India FTA.
 64. The Meeting expressed appreciation for India's support and role for the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and highlighted the importance of building physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity between ASEAN and India. The Meeting noted the progress made on the establishment of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral highway and plans for its possible extension to Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam and looked forward to its completion. The Meeting welcomed India's proposed special facility to facilitate project financing on connectivity that would further integrate both regions. ASEAN Member States promised to provide necessary support for the success of the initiative.
 65. The Meeting expressed appreciation for India's strong support and commitment to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) through its assistance in promoting human resources development, infrastructure development and ICT development in the CLMV countries.
 66. The Meeting welcomed India's expression of interest to further strengthen cooperation in disaster management through the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), and to support the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).
 67. The Meeting welcomed ongoing cooperation between ASEAN and India in science & technology, including space, as well as on global issues of concern such as food security, energy security and climate change.
 68. The Meeting thanked Brunei Darussalam as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Viet Nam as the incoming Country Coordinator.
- Japan**
69. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Japan was co-chaired by H.E. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia and H.E. Minoru Kiuchi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.
 70. The Meeting welcomed the advancement of the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership under the Joint Declaration for Enhancing ASEAN Japan Strategic Partnership for Prospering Together (Bali Declaration), the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and the Joint Statement "Hand in hand, facing regional and global challenges" and reiterated its commitment to work together on regional and global challenges as stated in the Joint Statement adopted by ASEAN and Japan Leaders at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo in 2013.
 71. The ASEAN Ministers commended Japan's continuing support for ASEAN Community building, including the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II. The ASEAN Minister further welcomed Japan's initiative of "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure: Investment for Asia's Future" in collaboration with other countries, international organizations including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other financial institutions.
 72. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed Japan's current efforts under "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation which will enable Japan to contribute more proactively to peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the international community.
 73. The Meeting reiterated its commitment to strengthen cooperation under the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime,

emphasising the importance of promoting moderation in order to counter violent extremism which poses a serious threat to the region. In this regard, the Meeting noted the successful convening of the 12th ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)+Japan Consultation held on 10 June 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia which agreed to develop a SOMTC+Japan Work Plan.

74. The Meeting appreciated Japan's support for the convening of the Regional Seminar on the Establishment of an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) on 2-3 November 2014 in Siem Reap, Cambodia through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 2.0.
75. The Meeting welcomed the progress of cooperation in disaster management between ASEAN and Japan including Japan's support to full operationalization of the ASEAN coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and looked forward to further enhancing cooperation on the Implementation of the Work Programme for the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the successful convening of the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015, including the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
76. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of people-to-people contacts by establishing networks among ASEAN Member States and Japan, in particular in the areas of tourism and cultural exchanges to strengthen mutual trust and heart-to-heart understanding. The Meeting commended the steady implementation of exchange programmes under various initiatives such as Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2015, "WA-Project" and Sport for Tomorrow, which aims to spread sporting values and promote the Olympic movement toward the success of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.
77. Recognizing that urgent and concrete action is required to address climate change, the Meeting reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation in climate change and environment protection through ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation. Furthermore, the Meeting agreed to closely cooperate toward the adoption of an effective legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all Parties under the UNFCCC at COP21 in Paris to be held at the end of 2015.
78. The Meeting recognized the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability of the Korean Peninsula, and called for the denuclearization of the Peninsula through peaceful dialogue including creating the conditions for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. The Meeting shared concerns over North Korea's continued development of nuclear and missile programs. The Meeting urged North Korea to refrain from any further provocation, including any launch using ballistic missile technology, and to fully comply with its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. The Meeting reiterated commitment to full compliance with the UNSC resolutions. The Meeting also emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.
79. The Meeting underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. The Meeting shared the concerns over recent and on-going developments in the South China Sea, which has eroded trust and confidence amongst parties, and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea. The Meeting emphasised the need for ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China (DOC) in its entirety, and welcomed ASEAN Member States and China recent agreement to proceed to the next stage of consultations and work towards the early establishment of

an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

80. The Meeting thanked Cambodia as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Brunei Darussalam as the incoming Country Coordinator.

Republic of Korea (ROK)

81. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with ROK was co-chaired by H.E. Retno L.P. Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and H.E. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.
82. The Meeting acknowledged the successful convening of the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit, held in Busan, ROK, on 11-12 December 2014, which has renewed ASEAN and the ROK's commitment to bring ASEAN-ROK relations to new heights. In this connection, the Meeting expressed satisfaction with the progress in implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015) and adopted the ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity for the period 2016-2020.
83. The Meeting noted the trade performance between ASEAN and the ROK and reaffirmed the commitment to achieve the target of two-way trade of USD 150 billion by 2015 and USD 200 billion by 2020. In this regard, the Meeting commended efforts made by ASEAN and the ROK to effectively implement and maximize utilization of the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area (AKFTA) for greater mutual benefit.
84. The Meeting looked forward to the endorsement of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement at the upcoming ASEAN-ROK Economic Ministerial Meeting, August 2015 and endeavour to improve market access by, among others, further liberalisation in line with the discussions at SEOM-ROK Consultations, in order to maximise FTA utilisation.
85. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of creating a people-oriented, people centred partnership through the enhanced participation

of the business sector and welcomed the ASEAN-ROK Business Council and the ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit established during the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in 2014. The Meeting further agreed that the ASEAN-ROK Business Council should be utilised to promote the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

86. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the ROK for its commitment and continuous efforts in promoting cooperation in the areas of culture and arts, mass media, youth, and education through the Future Oriented Cooperation Program (FOCP).
87. The Meeting noted the ASEAN-Korea Centre's activities to further promote a mutually beneficial relationship in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and culture, and to raise the awareness of ASEAN in the ROK, particularly through people-to-people exchange programs, in line with the Centre's vision to build a genuine partnership between the ROK and ASEAN.
88. The Meeting encouraged the ROK to support the work and full operationalization of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center) as well as the implementation of the second phase of the Work Programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) 2013-2015.
89. The Meeting underlined the impact of climate change, and underscored efforts made to implement projects in the area of forestry to support sustainable forest management through the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) Agreement. The Meeting noted the ongoing dialogues towards the establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO).
90. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, particularly in the area of physical infrastructure, information and communications technologies (ICT) development, maritime, people-to-people connectivity and Public-Private-

Partnership (PPP). The Meeting took note on the importance of ameliorating cooperation within the ROK-Mekong framework in enhancing connectivity and integration in ASEAN. In this connection, the Meeting welcomed ROK's official announcement of its financial assistance for the implementation of projects: Feasibility Study on the construction of missing link section of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link in Viet Nam and Lao PDR" and the "Development Study for the Inland Waterway Improvement in Thailand and CLMV countries".

91. The Meeting further reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the region and expressed support for the early denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. In this regard, the Meeting expressed concern over the DPRK's ongoing nuclear and ballistic missile-related activities and urged the DPRK to refrain from any further provocations and fully comply with relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution. The Meeting called for early resumption of the Six-Party Talks so as to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. The Ministers expressed their support for the Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula and the Initiative for Peaceful Unification of the Korean Peninsula of the Republic of Korea as well as the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI) in promoting lasting peace on the Korea Peninsula and cooperation and trust in Northeast Asia.
92. The Meeting thanked Indonesia as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Cambodia as the incoming Country Coordinator.

New Zealand

93. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with New Zealand was co-chaired by H.E. Thongloun SISOULITH, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, and the Hon. Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.
94. The Meeting appreciated the substantive progress of ASEAN-New Zealand cooperation, particularly in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration for ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Partnership 2010-2015 and the Four Flagship Initiatives as well as the activities under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).
95. The ASEAN Ministers appreciated New Zealand's continued support and recognition to ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and recognised New Zealand's increased engagement in the region through ASEAN-led mechanisms, namely ARF, EAS and ADMM-Plus. In this regard, the Meeting agreed to deepen cooperation in those mechanisms to further contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
96. The Meeting welcomed 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations and look forward to the convening of the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015. In this regard, the Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to enhance the dialogue relations and agreed to elevate the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations from a Comprehensive Partnership to a Strategic Partnership.
97. The Meeting looked forward to the adoption of ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action for 2016-2020 and a Joint Statement of the Leaders at the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit, with a view to setting strategic direction for future ASEAN-New Zealand cooperation. In this connection, the Meeting welcomed New Zealand's commitment to continue the Four Flagship Initiatives beyond 2015 and focus on two key strategies in the areas of Education and Leadership, and Agriculture and Trade in the next five years.
98. The Meeting expressed appreciation to New Zealand for its valuable support to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), education, disaster risk management, and agriculture cooperation. The Meeting also welcomed New Zealand's interest to enhance cooperation on connectivity and encouraged New Zealand to support ASEAN in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), particularly sharing with ASEAN its expertise and experiences in attracting investment in infrastructure/connectivity projects.

99. The Meeting noted the importance of deepening trade and economic relations through supporting the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) and advancing the negotiations towards a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
 100. The Meeting emphasized the need to further strengthen cooperation in other areas such as education, business-to-business interaction, SMEs development, technology innovation, agriculture, food productivity, safety and sanitary, connectivity, people-to-people contacts, and disaster management.
 101. The Meeting also appreciated New Zealand's role as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council in contributing to efforts towards international peace and security.
 102. The Meeting thanked the Lao PDR as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Indonesia as the incoming Country Coordinator.
- Russian Federation**
103. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with the Russian Federation was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, of Malaysia, and H.E. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.
 104. The Meeting emphasized the significance of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership as an important element in contributing towards peace, stability and security in the region. In this context, the Meeting reaffirmed Russia's role in continuing its support for ASEAN's Community Building efforts, as well as ASEAN's unity and centrality in the evolving regional architecture. The Meeting also welcomed the enhanced engagement of Russia in the region through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting (ADMM)-Plus, and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).
 105. The Meeting noted that the year 2016 marks the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations. The Meeting looked forward to the successful convening of the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit in 2016 and welcomed the proposal to conduct commemorative activities throughout 2016.
 106. Recognizing the importance of further broadening and deepening the existing ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations, the Meeting welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-Russia Eminent Persons Group (EPG). The Meeting agreed that the ASEAN-Russia EPG shall take stock of the current ASEAN Russia Dialogue Relations and make recommendations on the future direction of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations. The Meeting agreed that these recommendations and strategies shall be submitted in the form of a report for the consideration of the Leaders of ASEAN and Russia during the proposed ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit in year 2016.
 107. The Meeting reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Comprehensive Programme of Action to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation (2005-2015). The Meeting further encouraged both sides to step up efforts to implement pending activities and programmes expeditiously before the end of 2015.
 108. The Meeting noted the on-going negotiations of the successor document to the current Comprehensive Programme of Action to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation (2005-2015). The Meeting underlined the importance for this successor document to be finalised by November 2015.
 109. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the ASEAN-Russia trade volume growth and commended efforts made by ASEAN and Russia to effectively implement and maximize utilization of the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap for greater mutual benefits.
 110. The Meeting welcomed various initiatives to promote people-to-people connectivity. These initiatives among others include the convening of ASEAN-Russia Youth Summit in 2015. The Meeting looked forward to organizing

more activities to enhance the awareness of ASEAN through education, sports and culture exchanges. The Meeting commended ASEAN Member States for its successful ratification of the ASEAN-Russia Agreement on Cultural Cooperation which enables the implementation of the various initiatives under the Agreement.

111. The Meeting agreed to designate the Year 2016 as the ASEAN-Russia Year of Culture. In this regard, the Meeting emphasised the need to work closely together in coming up with concrete activities/projects as well as substantive deliverables in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership.
112. The Meeting thanked Malaysia as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Lao PDR as the incoming Country Coordinator.

United States of America

113. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with the United States of America was co-chaired by H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Hon. John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States of America.
114. The Meeting discussed the progress and future direction of ASEAN-U.S Dialogue Relations and the intention to elevate the status of relations between ASEAN and the United States from a comprehensive to a strategic partnership. The Meeting reinforced reciprocal intentions to promote closer engagement through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus), as well as the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). The Meeting underlined the importance of the United States' continued support to ASEAN Community building, and ASEAN integration efforts through various programs including through sub-regional initiatives such as the Lower Mekong Initiative.
115. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the substantial progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action on the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015) and an understanding was reached an understanding on the goals of the next Plan of Action for 2016 to 2020.
116. The Meeting pledged to work together to promote the rule of law, good governance, democracy, and human rights and to address traditional and non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism, maritime security, cybercrime, wildlife trafficking, and trafficking in persons through greater engagement, information and exchange and cooperation. ASEAN welcomed the United States' support program, the ASEAN-U.S. Partnership for Good-Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (ASEAN-U.S. PROGRESS), particularly in regard to providing technical assistance related to good governance, human rights and counter-human trafficking. The United States commended ASEAN for its work on a prospective regional anti-trafficking convention and for holding an emergency ASEAN meeting on irregular migration, and establishing a regional trust fund to respond to the migrant crisis.
117. The ASEAN Ministers appreciated the U.S.'s continued support for the ASEAN's Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and ASEAN Community building, and recognized the U.S.'s role in promoting regional cooperation to address security challenges through its active participation in ASEAN-led mechanisms.
118. The Meeting looked forward to the early accession of the Nuclear Weapons States (P5) to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Protocol, which will contribute positively to keeping the region free of nuclear weapons.
119. The Meeting agreed to push forward the implementation of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiative, as well as underscoring joint support for the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI) program. The Meeting pledged to build a stronger foundation for economic ties, create more job opportunities in both regions, and further complement ASEAN's

efforts in building the ASEAN Economic Community. The Meeting also acknowledged the outcomes of cooperation among the ASEAN-US Business communities, including the successful organization of the annual ASEAN-U.S. Business Summit, which has also contributed to the further enhancement of the ASEAN-U.S. relations.

120. The Meeting highlighted the importance of addressing socio-cultural issues and promoting sustainable development that requires a coherent and multi-faceted approach. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed the U.S.'s proposal to further strengthen cooperation in fisheries and marine conservation, education, health, climate change, environment and cultural exchanges.
121. The Meeting also took note of the need to come forward with strong Intended Nationally Determined Contributions well in advance of COP-21 to fulfil the commitment from the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Statement on Climate Change last year and to inject important momentum into the climate negotiations.
122. The Meeting recognised that unsustainable human activities pose a great threat to biodiversity, in particular to wildlife, pushing some species to the brink of extinction, and decided to work together to conserve biodiversity, sustainably manage ecosystems and protect wildlife and natural habitats in the region.
123. The Meeting recognized the continued success of the English Language Program being jointly organized by the U.S. and Brunei Darussalam, the ASEAN-U.S. Fulbright initiative, the Young Southeast Asia Leaders Initiatives (YSEALI), ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme and the ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Fellows Pilot Programme. The Meeting also agreed to further promote people-to-people exchanges and nurture young leadership in the ASEAN region.
124. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the current status of ASEAN-U.S. cooperation that has been contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The Meeting also welcomed the enhanced engagement

of the U.S. in the region through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as ARF, EAS, EAMF and ADMM Plus.

125. The Meeting underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. The Meeting shared the concerns over recent and on-going developments in the South China Sea, which has eroded trust and confidence amongst parties, and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea. The Meeting took note of a number of proposals put forward by various parties to address current and ongoing developments in the South China Sea. The Meeting emphasised the need for ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China (DOC) in its entirety, and welcomed ASEAN Member States and China recent agreement to proceed to the next stage of consultations and work towards the early establishment of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).
126. The Meeting thanked Myanmar as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Malaysia as the incoming Country Coordinator.

ASEAN-Canada

Joint Media Statement of the 4th AEM-Canada Consultations

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
25 August 2015**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and the Canadian Deputy Minister of International Trade met on 25 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Fourth AEM-Canada Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade of Malaysia and Industry and Ms. Christine Hogan, Deputy Minister of International Trade of Canada.

2. The Meeting noted the developments in economic relations between ASEAN and Canada. According to Canadian statistics, two-way trade has grown significantly, reaching CAD 18.8 billion in 2014, which represents an increase of 10.9 per cent from the previous year, and the highest level of two-way trade since the launch of the official Ministerial level dialogue between ASEAN and Canada. The stock of known Canadian foreign direct investment abroad in 2014 was CAD 7.96 billion. Canadian direct investment in ASEAN continues to exceed that in neighboring economies such as China, Hong Kong, Japan, and India.
3. The Meeting was pleased with the progress made in achieving the objectives of the 2014-2015 Work Plan to Implement the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment (JDTI). The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation for Canada's successful organisation of the ASEAN Next Generation CSR and Anti-Corruption Forum in February 2015 in Bali, which included private sector participation from ASEAN Member States. The Meeting noted on-going contributions to initiatives in support of the JDTI, such as the Singapore-based ASEAN Infrastructure Centre of Excellence.
4. The Meeting endorsed the 2016-2020 Work Plan to implement the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment. With the new Work Plan, ASEAN and Canada aim to double bilateral trade in goods, services and investment between the two Parties by 2020, through various activities in trade, investment and support of private sector initiatives.
5. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed Canada's on-going preparations for the establishment of its Mission to ASEAN in 2015, to be headed by a new dedicated Ambassador. The ASEAN Ministers also noted Canada's preparations to open new diplomatic offices in Cambodia and Lao PDR, which will provide Canada with a resident diplomatic presence in all ten ASEAN Member States.
6. A dialogue with the Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) was held during the Consultations. The Meeting commended

the Council for its contribution to promoting ASEAN-Canada trade and investment, and noted the successful organization of the 2nd ASEAN-Canada Business Forum in Bangkok in March 2015. The Meeting looked forward to the CABC's active engagement in the Work Plan of the ASEAN-Canada Trade and Investment Joint Declaration for 2016-2020.

7. The ASEAN Ministers expressed appreciation for Canada's continued support of ASEAN's regional integration efforts, in particular the ASEAN Economic Community, and for its commitment to sectoral cooperation under the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership Program.

LIST OF MINISTERS

Ms. Tutiatty Abdul Wahab, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam (representing The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam); H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State for Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia); Ms. Christine Hogan, Deputy Minister of International Trade, Canada; Mrs Sondang Anggraini, Adviser to the Minister on Trade and Diplomacy, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; Ms Sulaimah Mahmood, Director, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore); Mr Thawatchai Sophastienphong, Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam); H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN-China

Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020)

This Plan of Action aims at implementing the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity signed on 8 October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia to enhance and elevate the strategic partnership, friendly relations, mutually beneficial cooperation, and good neighbourliness between ASEAN and China for the period of 2016-2020. The POA also aims to address emerging regional and global challenges over the next five years.

This POA builds upon the significant achievements made in the relations between ASEAN and China that began in 1991 and the successful implementation of the POA 2011-2015, promotes the establishment of a peaceful, stable, integrated, prosperous, and caring ASEAN Community and contributes to the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision.

This POA also affirms China's support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and all ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora.

ASEAN and China hereby endeavour to pursue cooperation in conformity with their obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies.

1. POLITICAL AND SECURITY

1.1 Regular High-Level Contacts, Visits, and Interactions

- 1.1.1 Enhance regular high-level contacts and make good use of all available opportunities to exchange views on ASEAN-China relations and regional as well as international issues of common interest and concern.

1.2 Political Dialogue and Cooperation

- 1.2.1 Deepen ASEAN-China consultations and cooperation through the following ASEAN-led fora: ASEAN-China

Summit, ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with China (PMC+1), ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations (SOC) and the ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) and other ASEAN-led fora, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus);

- 1.2.2 Deepen existing ASEAN-China cooperation by further exploring areas of cooperation through proposals and initiatives noted by ASEAN Leaders, such as China's proposed 2+7 Cooperation Framework for ASEAN-China relations and China's initiative to build up ASEAN-China Community of Common Destiny. Take note of China's proposal to explore the possibility of a treaty of good neighborliness, friendship and cooperation between China and ASEAN Member States.

1.3 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia

- 1.3.1 Uphold the purpose and principles of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia (TAC) to enhance regional peace, security and prosperity as well as to promote mutual confidence and trust, including, among others, supporting ASEAN in convening workshops and seminars to assess the progress of the implementation of the TAC.

1.4 Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone

- 1.4.1 Support ASEAN's efforts to preserve Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in accordance with the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANFWZ), including through the implementation of the Plan of Action to strengthen the SEANFWZ Treaty (2013-2017).
- 1.4.2 Intensify the on-going efforts of States Parties to the Treaty on the

Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) and the nuclear weapon States to resolve outstanding issues pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol to that Treaty.

1.5 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and towards a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC)

- 1.5.1 Push forward the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety in order to maintain regional peace and stability and to promote mutual trust, dialogue and cooperation in the South China Sea, including through the regular convening of the ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on the Implementation of the DOC and the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC (JWG).
- 1.5.2 Work together to intensify substantive discussions towards the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) on the basis of consensus.
- 1.5.3 Carry out agreed joint cooperative projects and activities, as well as mutually agreed Early Harvest-Measures which contribute to the promotion of mutual trust and confidence in the South China Sea in accordance with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC.
- 1.5.4 Continue to work together and cooperate on enhancing maritime security and maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea, including to ensure safety and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.
- 1.5.5 Undertake to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability, and have

Parties concerned undertake to resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force, through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

- 1.5.6 Promote trust, confidence building and encourage concerned parties to prevent incidents at sea in accordance with the principles of the DOC.
- 1.5.7 Adhere to universally recognised principles of international law including the 1982 UNCLOS and other relevant instruments of the International Maritime Organisation.
- 1.5.8 Promote joint cooperation and dialogue in areas such as marine scientific research, protection of the marine environment, safety of navigation and communication at sea, search and rescue operation, humane treatment of all persons in danger or distress, fight against transnational crimes, as well as cooperation among military officials.

1.6 Human Rights

- 1.6.1 Support ASEAN's effort to implement the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and other relevant human rights declarations and instruments to which all ASEAN Member States are party.
- 1.6.2 Collaborate to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms through regional dialogues, seminar and workshops, education and awareness raising activities, as well as exchanges of best practices and other capacity building initiatives. This includes supporting the work of the ASEAN

Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), as well as the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

1.7 Non-Traditional Security

- 1.7.1 Increase the exchange of visits and enhance cooperation under the framework of ASEAN-China Ministerial and Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes (AMMTC and SOMTC+China) Consultations and ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial and Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crimes, as well as other relevant frameworks to strengthen cooperation in the field of non-traditional security including the ASEAN-China MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues, and enhance dialogue on law enforcement and security.
- 1.7.2 Promote sharing of information and enhance exchange of experiences and best practices, as well as capacity building measures through mutual visits, training courses, workshops, seminars, and video conferencing between relevant agencies of ASEAN and China on non-traditional security challenges, such as natural disasters, counter-terrorism, cyber-crimes and transnational crimes, where possible.
- 1.7.3 Enhance capacity building efforts between ASEAN and China in the area of combating trafficking in persons and promote cooperation on the exchange of information between concerned agencies in ASEAN Member States and China so as to effectively prevent and combat human trafficking, prosecute offenders and protect victims, including by initiating victim support programmes in order to assist and repatriate victims to the origin countries.
- 1.7.4 Promote cooperation and participation in activities in the region, including within the framework of the Bali

Process on People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process), as the region-wide forum that involves source, transit and destination countries.

- 1.7.5 Explore the possibility to link activities within the POA and the Bali Process, such as capacity building and exchange of information between concerned agencies, where appropriate, and with a view to ensure complementarities and avoid duplications.
- 1.7.6 Collaborate to enhance competency and explore further cooperation in drug control and drug trafficking, criminal forensic technology, border control management, anti-money laundering, countering terrorism including its financing, investigation into international economic crimes and cybercrimes, including through exchange of best practices, experiences, and capacitybuilding. This includes promoting cooperation in accordance with their respective laws in fields such as evidence gathering, tracing of crime proceeds, asset recovery, apprehension and investigation of criminal fugitives and encourage each other to enter into bilateral legal arrangements therein.
- 1.7.7 Promote closer cooperation and coordination of law enforcement agencies between ASEAN and China through, among others, use of existing regional and international facilities and mechanism, where applicable, including cooperation between maritime law enforcement agencies on combating transnational crimes at the sea in line with respective laws and regulations.
- 1.7.8 Strengthen cooperation on criminal investigation and prosecution in accordance with domestic law and policies.
- 1.7.9 Promote mutual visits and exchange among police academies, law enforcement agencies and law

enforcement academies in ASEAN and China.

- 1.7.10 Promote linkages and increase exchange of visits of experts and scholars on specific areas and support joint research in the field of nontraditional security and share research results.
- 1.7.11 Promote cooperation on law and legal matters, including among relevant judicial and prosecutorial authorities, where applicable, through the ASEAN-China Prosecutors-General Conference.
- 1.7.12 Promote cooperation in addressing humanitarian aspects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region through the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) including financial and technical supports, where appropriate, to the Centre.
- 1.7.13 Strengthen cooperation in combating extremism.

1.8 Military Exchanges and Cooperation

- 1.8.1 Promote dialogue and strengthen practical cooperation in areas including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security, counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, military medicine and humanitarian demining through the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) framework including through the ASEAN-China Defense Ministers' Informal Meeting, so as to enhance mutual trust and confidence building and maintain regional peace and stability.
- 1.8.2 Continue to strengthen exchanges involving high-level military personnel, professional groups and academies, and vigorously conduct joint training and personnel exchanges at appropriate levels.

2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.1 ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA)

- 2.1.1 Implement the ACFTA agreements and outcomes from upgrading the ACFTA agreements to further strengthen ASEAN-China relations, with an aim to improve trade balance between ASEAN Member States and China, and endeavor to achieve the Leaders' goal of two-way trade of USD 1 trillion and two-way investment of USD 150 billion by 2020.
- 2.1.2 Actively implement trade facilitation measures and address non-tariff barriers.
- 2.1.3 Monitor problems arising from the implementation of ACFTA agreements and resolve them amicably and constructively through consultations.
- 2.1.4 Assist enterprises of both sides to take advantage of the benefits arising from the various ACFTA agreements to enhance trade, investment, and tourism between ASEAN and China by optimizing the role of the ASEAN-China Centre, and encouraging the effective use of ASEAN-China Free Trade Business Portal.
- 2.1.5 Actively undertake cooperation in trade and investment facilitation, transport infrastructure connectivity and construction, human resources development through strengthening exchange of expertise and economic and technical cooperation.
- 2.1.6 Explore the possibility of establishing economic and trade cooperation zones between China and interested ASEAN Member States, use various trade and investment promotion activities in ASEAN and China such as the ASEAN-China Expo, ASEAN-China Business and Investment Summit, Western China International Fair, and China Kunming Import and Export Commodity Fairs as platforms and, among others, make good use of ASEAN-China Investment Cooperation Fund to promote mutual understanding, cooperation and

expansion of two-way trade and investments.

- 2.1.7 Promote exchanges and cooperation among chambers of commerce and industry associations of ASEAN and China, in coordination with the ASEAN-China Business Council and ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), through workshops and other mutually agreed activities.

- 2.1.8 Consider adopting concrete measures to carry out safety checks on food and agricultural products.

2.2 Finance

- 2.2.1 Deepen cooperation under the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), by improving the Operational Guidelines through test runs and Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD) frameworks to further enhance the operationalization and effectiveness of the CMIM.

- 2.2.2 Support the development of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Office (AMRO), improve the quality of its surveillance activities and analysis of the regional macroeconomic and financial situation, strengthen its institutional capacity and ensure effective CMIM decision-making and operation, as well as actively support the economic review and policy dialogues by the ASEAN+3 parties.

- 2.2.3 Support the establishment and operation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), in accordance with the Articles of Agreement of the AIIB, and support cooperation between AIIB and other multilateral financial institutions including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to facilitate regional connectivity.

- 2.2.4 Support the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)'s contribution to the development of the local currency bond markets across the region, to allow the region's large savings to be channeled to finance its own

investment needs and promote the issuance of and facilitating the demand for local currency denominated bonds, improving the regulatory framework and related infrastructure for the bond markets, as well as continue exploring the viability of starting with bilateral linkages and ultimately developing and making transition into an integrated solution to advance regional settlement infrastructure that promotes cross-border securities transactions in the region.

- 2.2.5 Continue to study possible enhancement of regional financial cooperation and explore future key areas in strengthening financial cooperation under the ASEAN+3 framework.

- 2.2.6 Explore possibility of the local currency usage in trade settlements.

- 2.2.7 Promote human resource development and capacity building in banking and financial sectors including through the ASEAN-China Inter-Bank Association, if appropriate.

- 2.2.8 Support greater financial inclusion for sustainable growth, through the promotion of initiatives to improve access to financial services and products for individuals and Small and Medium Enterprises. This includes areas such as capacity building and technical assistance in financial literacy, effective intermediary and distribution channel, various finance facilities, consumer protection, national and other existing credit guarantee mechanisms, where applicable, and enhanced dialogues among regulators and stakeholders.

- 2.2.9 Strengthen cooperation to improve financial infrastructure development in the region.

2.3 Food, Agriculture and Forestry

- 2.3.1 Continue strengthening dialogue and exchanges of information in agricultural sector under the ASEAN Plus Three Framework through

- consultations, training, and sharing of best practices.
- 2.3.2 Further implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ASEAN and China on Food and Agriculture Cooperation and MOU between ASEAN and China on Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation.
- 2.3.3 Continue implementing the Agreement on ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and organise regular ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Cooperation Strategic Roundtable Conference to explore the channel and mechanism for strengthening strategic cooperation in food security.
- 2.3.4 Enhance cooperation related to crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries, and strengthen exchange of advanced applicable technology and capacity building, including through the ASEAN-China Action Plan on Comprehensive Food Productivity Enhancement.
- 2.3.5 Enhance cooperation in R&D through providing training courses on agricultural technology and food safety.
- 2.3.6 Promote responsible fishing practices and to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly in order to sustain fisheries resources, ensure food security, alleviate poverty and to optimise the benefit of the people and economies in the region.
- 2.3.7 Enhance cooperation on preventing and controlling cross-border animal and plant diseases by exchanging information, techniques and experiences on early warning, epidemic surveillance and development of vaccine to improve animal and plant disease prevention, control system and disease notification system.
- 2.3.8 Explore possible cooperative initiatives on management of forest areas including wildlife protection

and implementation of wildlife-related multilateral agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

2.4 Maritime Cooperation

- 2.4.1 Continue to promote dialogue and exchanges in maritime cooperation through relevant platforms on the basis of the principles of inclusiveness and mutual benefit. This includes further exploring initiatives such as China's proposed Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century.
- 2.4.2 Make use of resources available for ASEAN-China cooperation and conduct cooperative projects in maritime economy, maritime connectivity, maritime science and technology promotion and application, maritime environmental protection, maritime security, maritime cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

2.5 ICT

- 2.5.1 Continue to strengthen policy dialogue and exchanges through the ASEAN-China Telecommunications and IT Ministers' Meeting and other mechanisms.
- 2.5.2 Further implement the MOU between ASEAN and China on Cooperation in Information and Communications Technology, and the Plan of Action to Implement the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development.
- 2.5.3 Implement the ASEAN-China Computer Emergency Response Teams Cooperative Mechanism, optimise network security incidence response and procedures, promote information and data sharing, and conduct capacity building and project cooperation.
- 2.5.4 Work together to improve ASEAN-China information and communication infrastructure connectivity.

2.5.5 Strengthen cooperation in developing rural telecommunications, expanding networked applications and advancing e-commerce applications.

2.5.6 Support the implementation of ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2020.

2.6 Science, Technology and Innovation

2.6.1 Build closer cooperation in science, technology and innovation through mechanisms such as the ASEAN-China Joint Science and Technology Committee and ASEAN Plus Three Science and Technology Senior Officials' Meeting, as well as the ASEAN-China Science and Technology Ministers Meeting.

2.6.2 Vigorously implement the ASEAN-China Science and Technology Partnership Programme (STEP), which includes conduct of joint research and development, including through the building of joint laboratories, technology demonstration, promotion and transfer, including through the ASEAN-China Technology Transfer Centre and networking of centres of excellence, capacity building and personnel exchange, including through the Talented Young Scientists Visiting China Programme.

2.6.3 Strengthen the cooperation, academic exchange and scientific research in the field of agriculture between ASEAN and China.

2.6.4 Strengthen exchange and cooperation in new and renewable energy technologies and discuss the formulation of an action plan on new and renewable energy.

2.7 Space Cooperation

2.7.1 Encourage the peaceful uses of outer space and cooperation in areas such as the transfer of technologies, joint technological research and development, capacity building efforts in space technology and its applications in accordance with international laws, national law and regulations of the participating states.

2.8 Transport

2.8.1 Further strengthen policy dialogue and exchanges through the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Meeting and other relevant mechanisms.

2.8.2 Continue to implement the MOU between ASEAN and China on Transport Cooperation and the Agreement on Maritime Transport between ASEAN and China, making use of, among others, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and consider using the China-initiated special China-ASEAN infrastructure loan, where appropriate, for cooperation in transportation infrastructure connectivity.

2.8.3 Continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan 2011-2015 and its successive strategic plan.

2.8.4 Enhance cooperation in maritime transportation and development of seaports and promote cooperation among port cities with the objective of improving connectivity in all ASEAN Member States and China.

2.8.5 Promote cooperation in aeronautical and maritime search and rescue.

2.8.6 Support smooth operationalisation of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (ATA) and its protocols at an early date, and strengthen comprehensive civil aviation cooperation between ASEAN and China.

2.8.7 Continue engagement between ASEAN and China in the area of aviation cooperation, and eventually putting in place a liberal and substantial air services framework in support of the upgrading of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement.

2.8.8 Continue the efforts to improve the use of the Kunming-Bangkok highway and accelerate the completion of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) missing links for early ASEAN-China railway infrastructure connectivity.

- 2.8.9 Further strengthen cooperation in human resources development in the field of transport.

2.9 Tourism

- 2.9.1 Strengthen policy dialogue and cooperation through the ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and strengthen cooperation in implementing ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 and the ASEAN Plus Three Memorandum of Cooperation on Tourism Cooperation.
- 2.9.2 Strengthen ties and cooperation among tourism authorities and enterprises of ASEAN and China at all levels, encourage exchange of tourism-related statistics and information, encourage joint development of tourism products, and conduct relevant cooperation projects.
- 2.9.3 Encourage each other's participation in tourism-related events, such as the annual ASEAN Tourism Forum and the China International Travel Mart.
- 2.9.4 Promote inclusive tourism development in accordance with ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP 2016-2025).
- 2.9.5 Encourage cooperation and explore the development of measures to facilitate coordination during emergency and crisis situations and to cushion impacts of unforeseen circumstances on tourism.
- 2.9.6 Promote the role of ASEAN-China Centre in supporting tourism in the region.
- 2.9.7 Train professionals in tourism management for ASEAN countries.

2.10 Energy and Mineral Cooperation

- 2.10.1 Strengthen policy exchanges and dialogue on energy particularly on hydropower, mineral and geosciences and share information and experiences on clean energy development, particularly on

hydrology, hydropower, coal and clean coal technology, and gas-fired power plant, latest mineral exploration and conservation technology, and geothermal energy, among others, through regional fora and seminars.

- 2.10.2 Enhance energy cooperation and encourage investment in energy infrastructure development in resource exploration, power generation, power trade and interconnection between interested ASEAN Member States and China, downstream oil and gas industry, renewable and alternative energy, civilian nuclear energy for peaceful use while giving careful and due regard to the security, environmental, health and internationally recognised safety standards of the energy source, for mutual benefit, while at the same time also respecting national's domestic obligatory standards.
- 2.10.3 Enhance information sharing, joint research and development and technical exchange in the development of new and renewable energy sources and technologies such as bio-energy, hydropower, wind, solar, clean coal technology, gas-fired power plant, hydrogen and fuel cell.
- 2.10.4 Boost cooperation in the promotion of energy conservation and sharing best practices and capacity building in energy efficiency and conservation as well as explore joint research in energy conservation policy, where possible.
- 2.10.5 Encourage enterprises from both sides to actively participate and invest in mineral resource exploration and development for mutual benefit while ensuring environmental protection and sustainable development.
- 2.10.6 Enhance geological and mineral cooperation through joint study, capacity building programmes, development of database and information exchange and sharing of experiences for mutual benefit.

- 2.10.7 Strengthen cooperation in research and development, sharing of experience, and capacity building in sustainable mining.

2.11 Quality Inspection

- 2.11.1 Implement the MOU between ASEAN and China on Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation.
- 2.11.2 Hold regular ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine to enhance the exchanges and cooperation between relevant authorities at different levels.
- 2.11.3 Continue regular dialogue between ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standard and Quality (ACCSQ) and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ), improve website of SPS cooperation to facilitate information sharing and to explore and undertake joint study and capacity building projects.

2.12 Customs

- 2.12.1 Deepen exchange and cooperation in customs including through the ASEAN-China Customs DG Consultation Meeting and Customs Coordinating Committee Meeting.
- 2.12.2 Continue to implement cooperation projects and activities under the areas of cooperation identified in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China on Customs Cooperation.
- 2.12.3 Promote trade facilitation cooperation between ASEAN and China through development of customs techniques and application of ICT in customs cooperation.
- 2.12.4 Support efforts to achieve the entry into force of and promote the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement with a view to

push for cooperation in trade facilitation for faster clearance of goods.

- 2.12.5 Promote Implementation of the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards by considering, among other things, sharing of best practices and experience and mutual recognition of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes, as appropriate.

2.13 Intellectual Property

- 2.13.1 Strengthen policy dialogue and exchange including through ASEAN-China Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Meeting.
- 2.13.2 Continue to implement the MOU between ASEAN and China on Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property.
- 2.13.3 Strengthen cooperation in the field of intellectual property and enhance capacity building, technical assistance and training of intellectual property professionals on the creation, acquisition, utilisation, commercialisation, protection, management and enforcement of intellectual property.
- 2.13.4 Strengthen information sharing and best practices in protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

2.14 SMEs

- 2.14.1 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025) including sharing best practices, experiences, and capacity building on the development of SMEs and convening of seminars, workshops, and symposiums.
- 2.14.2 Strengthen policy consultations and exchange of expertise between the concerned authorities including relevant stakeholders on SMEs and pragmatically advance SMEs cooperation.

- 2.14.3 Support closer ties between SME-support institutions of ASEAN countries and China, and cooperate in SME trade and investment, personnel training and the building of industrial parks.
- 2.14.4 Strengthen SME cooperation in traditional areas including trade, agriculture and tourism, and explore relevant new areas of cooperation.
- 2.14.5 Encourage active participation of ASEAN Member States in the China International SMEs Expo, as well as encourage participation of ASEAN Member States and China in other relevant trade shows and activities to promote SMEs of both sides to expand their markets.

2.15 Industrial Cooperation

- 2.15.1 Enhance productivity by promoting cooperation in upgrading production facilities, particularly in fields of advance technology, green and creative industries where applicable.
- 2.15.2 Encourage industry clusters by promoting supply chain linkages of industry sectors with mutual interests by both sides.
- 2.15.3 Promote innovation cooperation by encouraging exchanges of key technology and its application to business innovation.
- 2.15.4 Encourage further cooperation and consultation on ASEAN-China trade issues where necessary.

3. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION

3.1 Public Health

- 3.1.1 Enhance policy dialogue and exchanges through ASEAN-China Health Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development and other relevant mechanisms.
- 3.1.2 Implement the ASEAN-China MOU on Health Cooperation, and support relevant cooperation programmes including through the use of ASEAN-China Public Health Cooperation Fund.
- 3.1.3 Deepen cooperation in preventing and controlling emerging and reemerging infectious and communicable diseases, especially on early detection, report, prevention, control and treatment, and conduct exchanges of technologies, personnel and experiences to enhance response capability.
- 3.1.4 Cooperate in preparedness and responses against pandemic influenza and Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs).
- 3.1.5 Strengthen exchange and cooperation in chronic disease prevention and control, reduce the burden of chronic diseases, and improve health conditions and living standard of people in the region.
- 3.1.6 Promote cooperation and exchanges of information and expertise on non-communicable diseases including mental health.
- 3.1.7 Promote exchanges on occupational medicine including diagnosis, treatment and prevention of occupational diseases.
- 3.1.8 Strengthen cooperation on traditional medicine, complementary and alternative medicines (TM/CAM) focusing on its protection, development and integration to healthcare system, subject to the individual member state's priorities and domestic regulations.
- 3.1.9 Strengthen cooperation in the areas of health promotion, including through the use of information and communication technologies for the continued development of public health, and the promotion of healthy cities and sustainable sanitation management.
- 3.1.10 Continue to cooperate in training of health executives and professionals.

3.2 Education

- 3.2.1 Promote cooperation to increase exchange of visits by high-level educational authorities. Make good use of the ASEAN-China Education Exchange Week and the ASEAN-China Center to conduct comprehensive, multi-level, and wide-ranging exchanges and cooperation to promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and China.
- 3.2.2 Continue to promote student mobility and the provision of Chinese Government scholarships to ASEAN Member States, including the Double 100,000 Students Mobility Programme, and encourage the creation of mechanisms to facilitate mutual recognition of academic degrees, where appropriate.
- 3.2.3 Continue to deepen practical cooperation between tertiary institutions with emphasis on talent cultivation, student mobility, and joint research and language teaching, where appropriate.
- 3.2.4 Promote cooperation and exchanges among schools and vocational institutions.
- 3.2.5 Continue to promote youth exchanges in the fields of languages, culture, art and heritage with a view to enhancing mutual understanding and further deepen friendship.
- 3.2.6 Continue to hold training courses for professionals at different levels and in different areas by using relevant educational institutions.
- 3.2.7 Promote and encourage academic exchanges and the co-hosting of academic conferences including through the Network of ASEAN-China Thinktanks.
- 3.2.8 Explore promoting Chinese language classes/courses including in technical and vocational institutions through providing/increasing the number of Chinese-speaking teachers.

3.3 Culture

- 3.3.1 Continue to enhance policy communication and exchanges among authorities in charge of culture, and encourage further the role of ASEAN-China Center in promoting cultural exchanges.
- 3.3.2 Implement the ASEAN-China MOU on Cultural Cooperation and the Plan of Action on ASEAN-China Cooperation in Culture (2014-2018).
- 3.3.3 Conduct active exchanges and cooperation in literature, libraries, archival materials, museums, performing arts, visual arts, art education, other relevant public cultural facilities and cultural/creative industry.
- 3.3.4 Encourage and support cooperation between departments of historical relics, archaeology and cultural heritage preservation, museums, archives, libraries, and cultural institutes.
- 3.3.5 Cooperate to explore markets for cultural products and vigorously develop cultural/creative industry.
- 3.3.6 Endeavour to support each other in hosting high-profile traditional and/or contemporary cultural and art events.
- 3.3.7 Jointly preserve and promote national and traditional festivals as well as encourage and support exchanges and cooperation in traditional games and sports.
- 3.3.8 Continue to hold ASEAN-China Cultural Forum, and explore ways of jointly hosting the Forum.
- 3.3.9 Strengthen cooperation on human resources development and training in the cultural field, including through the exchange of experiences on the hosting of large scale activities.
- 3.3.10 Promote the exchange of experts and expertise in culture, traditional and contemporary art, heritage and emerging industries (e.g. digital media and online games).

- 3.3.11 Encourage the existing China Cultural Centers in ASEAN Member States to promote regular cultural exchange and cooperation.

3.4 Human Resource and Social Protection

- 3.4.1 Implement human resources development plans, conduct training for civil servants and encourage exchange of experiences and joint cooperation in human resources market building, labour market information, vocational skill development, labour law and regulations and social security policies.
- 3.4.2 Continue to strengthen policy exchanges, dialogue, and technical cooperation through ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers' Meeting (ALMM+3) and ASEAN Plus Three Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3).
- 3.4.3 Encourage public and public and private sectors to participate in human resources development and exchanges.
- 3.4.4 Explore ways to establish social welfare and social protection cooperation mechanism between ASEAN and China which may include, among others, exchanges of policy, information and experiences in these areas.
- 3.4.5 Strengthen cooperation on social welfare, especially on that of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, women and children, including through supporting efforts to share experiences/studies on social welfare and protection policies.
- 3.4.6 Promote the exchange of information, sharing of experiences, training and cooperation between government agencies and Disabled People's Organisation (DPOs) on issues concerning persons with disabilities, including measures to strengthen family and community support for persons with disabilities.

- 3.4.7 Continue to strengthen policy exchanges, dialogue and technical cooperation through ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD+3).

- 3.4.8 Promote cooperation in the work for the elimination of violence against women and elimination of violence against children.

3.5 Poverty Reduction

- 3.5.1 Promote exchange and cooperation among relevant authorities in implementing relevant poverty alleviation initiatives including the ASEAN-China Social Development and Poverty Reduction Forum and China's proposed initiative on poverty alleviation in East Asia.
- 3.5.2 Strengthen cooperation in building the capacity of ASEAN+3 village leaders and further enhance the rural community development in ASEAN+3 countries.
- 3.5.3 Continue to hold a series of seminars on poverty reduction policy and practices and offer academic degree in education on poverty reduction and rural development for ASEAN Member States, strengthen cooperation on human resources development in this area.
- 3.5.4 Continue to strengthen policy exchanges, dialogue, and technical cooperation through ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRPDE+3).
- 3.5.5 Facilitate poverty reduction authorities to establish cooperation through mutual visits of personnel, knowledge sharing, information exchanges and joint study.
- 3.5.6 Render policy consultations and technical support and participate in the design of poverty reduction projects and formulation of national poverty reduction strategies in

accordance with the needs of ASEAN Member States.

- 3.5.7 Support rural and community development by encouraging relevant agencies of ASEAN Member States and China to explore exchange of information and expertise in land use, planning and development, and management.

3.6 Environment

- 3.6.1 Continue to promote environmental cooperation including through the eventual conclusion and effective implementation of the ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation 2016-2020, strengthen environmental high-level policy dialogue, including through the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum and promote environmental cooperation through the work of the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre.
- 3.6.2 Support the Implementation of the ASEAN-China Cooperation Framework for Environmentally Sound Technology and Industry, strengthen exchange and cooperation on environmentally sound technologies and explore the possibility of demonstration projects based on ASEAN-China Demonstration Base for Environmental Technology and Industry Cooperation to support ASEAN and China's endeavor in pursuing green and environmentally sustainable development.
- 3.6.3 Strengthen dialogue and exchange experiences in managing urban and rural environmental protection and implement demonstration projects on cooperation in urban and rural environment to improve living environmental quality in the region, and explore partnership for ecologically friendly urban development.
- 3.6.4 Explore cooperation in environmental data and information sharing,

including, where appropriate, the possibility of establishing a joint platform on environmental information sharing.

- 3.6.5 Enhance environmental capacity building and environmental education cooperation, carry out joint-training courses, joint research, and staff exchange programmes to enhance capacity and raise the level of regional environmental management and enhance public environmental awareness in the region.
- 3.6.6 Carry out cooperation in co-beneficial areas such as joint study/research, capacity building experience sharing in the field of air and water quality management, and health and environmental protection and management.
- 3.6.7 Promote cooperation to provide the peoples of ASEAN access to clean water, clean air, basic healthcare, and other social services so that they may lead healthy and productive lives and thereby contribute to ASEAN and the global community.
- 3.6.8 Promote cooperation on environmental protection and preservation with the objective of attaining environmental sustainability.
- 3.6.9 Explore possible cooperative initiatives to support the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).
- 3.6.10 Promote cooperation which supplement activities under the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC) of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC).
- 3.6.11 Explore possible cooperative initiatives, among others, on management of priority biodiversity conservation areas such as ASEAN Heritage Parks and implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3.7 Media

- 3.7.1 Continue to strengthen policy communication and dialogue through the ASEAN-China Ministers Responsible for Information Meeting.
- 3.7.2 Enhance exchange and discussion between mainstream media of ASEAN countries and China, promote mutual visits and exchanges of journalists and strengthen cooperation in news reporting, expand areas of news coverage and increase the depth of content.
- 3.7.3 Strengthen cooperation on news network.
- 3.7.4 Promote Cooperation in producing films; facilitate co-production and exchanges of films and TV programmes as well as marketing of TV programmes.
- 3.7.5 Encourage exchanges of hosting and active participation in films and TV festivals and exhibitions and relevant trade events.
- 3.7.6 Promote exchange and cooperation between technicians and professionals in television, film, and broadcasting.
- 3.7.7 Engage and encourage the mainstream media to promote a positive international image of ASEAN-China relations.

3.8 Disaster Management

- 3.8.1 Effectively implement the MOU on Disaster Management Cooperation between ASEAN and China.
- 3.8.2 Strengthen technical cooperation in disaster management, disaster prevention, disaster risk monitoring and disaster risk reduction, early-warning, relief and rehabilitation, conduct emergency response and rescue skills training, and the sharing of good practices, experiences and information.
- 3.8.3 Strengthen cooperation in earthquake and tsunami early warning.

3.8.4 Improve hardware and software infrastructure on disaster management through projects and exchanges involving experts.

3.8.5 Continue to support the implementation of the second phase of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme for 2013-2015 and beyond, continue cooperation with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and promote capacity building in disaster management.

3.8.6 Promote capacity building on Emergency Medical Service (EMS), through information sharing, exchanging experiences and knowledge and providing workshops and training courses on EMS administration and support, among others.

3.9 Local Government Cooperation and People-to-People Exchanges

3.9.1 Promote dialogue, exchange of visits and sharing of experiences among local governments, including governors and mayors.

3.9.2 Continue to promote people-to-people exchanges through exchange programmes among various groups, including women and youth, and through cooperation in elderly persons affairs and active aging, and among people-to-people friendship organisations.

3.9.3 Promote people-to-people exchanges through various platforms and programmes, such as ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Meeting on Youth, ASEAN-China Youth Camp, GMS Youth Friendship Programme (also known as Lancang-Mekong Youth Friendship Exchanges¹), and encourage both sides to use other platforms/programmes such as

¹ As referred to in the ASEAN-China Plan of Action (2011-2015)

ASEAN-China Youth Exchange and Activity Center, China-ASEAN Youth Friendship Association, and China-ASEAN Women Training Center.

- 3.9.4 Encourage cooperation between local governments in ASEAN and in China on the improvement people's quality of life and livelihood in less developed areas.
- 3.9.5 Explore the establishment of a network of sister cities/provinces between ASEAN Member States and China.

4. CONNECTIVITY

- 4.1 Enhance cooperation on ASEAN Connectivity, including through capacity building and resource mobilization for the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity.
- 4.2 Continue to enhance the mechanism between the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Chinese Working Committee of the China-ASEAN Connectivity Cooperation Committee (CWC-CACCC) to forge cooperation and develop flagship projects in enhancing ASEAN Connectivity.
- 4.3 Strengthen cooperation to improve infrastructure development in the region, by encouraging sustainable and efficient infrastructure investment through public and private partnership and other modalities to mobilise private sector investment, where appropriate.
- 4.4 Explore ways to Improve connectivity between ASEAN and China by synergising common priorities identified in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the Post-2015 Agenda for ASEAN Connectivity, and China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

5. INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI) AND NARROWING DEVELOPMENT GAP

- 5.1 Intensify support and assistance, financially and technically, for ASEAN's narrowing development gap between ASEAN Member States and integration efforts by implementing the IAI Work Plan II and its successor documents through enhancing infrastructure development, human resource development,

information and communication technology and regional and sub-regional development.

6. MEKONG RIVER BASIN AND SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 Continue to strengthen cooperation under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) frameworks, as well as under the Mekong River Commission (MRC) in various areas including law enforcement and security, transportation, sustainable development, environment and climate change, information communications, water quality, sustainable usage and management of water resource, health, tourism, food and agriculture to support ASEAN Community building efforts.
- 6.2 Implement the Framework for Economic Cooperation between BIMP-EAGA and China by strengthening cooperation in the priority sectors identified for BIMP-EAGA development, namely agriculture, transport, infrastructure, ICT, natural resources, tourism and SMEs as well as providing technical and capital assistance for BIMP-EAGA programmes and projects.

7. COOPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

7.1 East Asia Cooperation

- 7.1.1 Remain engaged in discussions and continue coordination on an inclusive and rules-based regional architecture and support ASEAN efforts in promoting norms and principles enshrined in among others, the ASEAN Charter and other ASEAN relevant instruments such as the TAC and the EAS Declaration on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles) towards the development of a more rules-based regional architecture.
- 7.1.2 Continue to support ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as a main vehicle to realise the long-term objective of establishing an East Asian community with ASEAN as the driving force, including through effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus

Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017.

- 7.1.3 Work closely to strengthen the EAS, with ASEAN as the driving force, as a leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region.
- 7.1.4 Promote common interests in East Asia and cope with common challenges through the East Asia Forum, Network of East Asia Think Tanks (NEAT), Network of ASEAN-China Think-tanks (NACT), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and other mechanisms.

7.2 Promotion of Moderation

- 7.2.1 Support the principles of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates to promote peace, security, upholding rule of law, sustainable and inclusive development, equitable growth and social harmony.
- 7.2.2 Encourage cooperation on interfaith and inter-civilisation dialogues and further contribute internationally and regionally to the promotion of tolerance and understanding through initiatives including the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) and promoting moderation as a core value to counter extremism and acts of violence in all aspects.

7.3 Inter-regional Cooperation

- 7.3.1 Maintain cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).
- 7.3.2 Actively promote the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) process.
- 7.3.3 Strengthen cooperation in G20-related matters.
- 7.3.4 Further promote dialogue and mechanism in South-South

Cooperation such as the G-77 and China, as well as other inter-regional frameworks such as the Forum of East Asia and Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), Asian- African Conference and New Asian-African Strategic Partnership.

7.4 Cooperation in the UN

- 7.4.1 Continue to enhance cooperation at the United Nations on issues of mutual interest and common concern, inter alia, UN reform, matters affecting international peace and security, counter-terrorism, climate change, and development agenda.
- 7.4.2 Enhance closer communication and coordination among the Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States and China at the UN.

7.5 Cooperation within Other International Organization

- 7.5.1 Promote cooperation on WTO issues, including, but not limited to, securing a full and balanced implementation of all elements of the Bali Package as well as formulating a Post-Bali Work Programme, with the aim of concluding the remaining Doha Development Agenda issues and making the multilateral trading system more responsive to the priorities of developing and least developed countries.

8. ASEAN INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- 8.1 Support ASEAN's efforts to implement measures aimed to build capacities in the ASEAN Secretariat as well as in other ASEAN institutions and bodies, particularly in corporate development and project management, in order to increase support to all ASEAN-centred institutions.

9. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 9.1 This Plan of Action will be implemented under the appropriate funding support through ASEAN Member States and China, including the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF) and other funds.

- 9.2 Concerned sectoral bodies in ASEAN and agencies in China will jointly draw up specific work programmes/projects to implement the actions and measures outlined in this Plan of Action.
- 9.3 Review of this Plan of Action will be made through appropriate ASEAN-China mechanisms, including through the relevant ASEAN-China Ministerial Meetings, ASEAN-China SOC and ASEAN-China JCC. Progress report of the implementation of this Plan of Action will be submitted through PMC Session+1 with China to the annual ASEAN-China Summit.

Joint Media Statement of the 14th AEM-MOFCOM Consultations

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
23 August 2015**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and Minister of Commerce of China met on 23 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Fourteenth AEM-MOFCOM Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade & Industry of Malaysia and H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce of China.
2. The Ministers noted the strong economic relationship between ASEAN and China, and were pleased that China maintained its position as ASEAN's largest trading partner. By the end of 2014, ASEAN total trade with China reached USD 366.5 billion and accounting for 14.5 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. In 2014, ASEAN received USD 8.9 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows from China, accounting for 7.1 per cent of total inflows to ASEAN. According to China's statistics, trade volume between China and ASEAN reached USD 480.4 billion in 2014, an increase of 8.3 per cent year-on-year, accounting for 11.2 per cent of China's total trade.

ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement

3. The Ministers noted the progress made in the negotiations on Upgrading of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area Agreement (ACFTA), and welcomed the finalization of the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (CPTF) provisions. The Ministers underscored the importance of maintaining the momentum and urged officials to expedite the negotiations toward the conclusion of the ACFTA Upgrading by November 2015. The Ministers agreed that any remaining elements of the Upgrading shall be included as a built-in agenda of the ACFTA.

Others

4. The Ministers noted China's proposals to translate its "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" initiative into action in the field of trade and economic cooperation, including exploring areas of common interests between the initiatives and economic development strategies in ASEAN. The Ministers further noted China's proposed measures for strengthening ASEAN-China trade and economic cooperation, including the enhancement of the level of bilateral trade and investment relations to achieve the goal of USD 1 trillion worth of bilateral trade and USD 150 billion worth of incremental investment to ASEAN by 2020; the upgrading of the ACFTA; the China-ASEAN Expo; the infrastructure and connectivity cooperation; the production capacity and equipment manufacturing cooperation; the sub-regional and regional cooperation; and assistance provided to support the development of ASEAN Community.

Utilization of China's RMB 50 million grant to support the ASEAN integration process

5. The ASEAN Ministers thanked China for the RMB 50 million grant to support the ASEAN integration process and projects needed by the less-developed ASEAN Members States.

China-ASEAN Expo

6. The ASEAN Ministers congratulated China for the successful conclusion of the 11th China-ASEAN Expo 2014 held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on 16-19 September 2014 which has drawn

great interest from business communities on various economic initiatives being pursued by both ASEAN and China including the ACFTA, and the opportunities arising from these initiatives. The Ministers looked forward to the 12th CAEXPO to be held in Nanning, Zhuang Autonomous Region on 18-21 September 2015.

ASEAN-Hong Kong, China FTA Negotiations

7. The Ministers welcomed the progress of the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Area (AHKFTA) negotiations and noted the outcomes of the Fourth AHKFTA Trade Negotiation Committee meeting held in Singapore from 21-23 July 2015.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State for Commerce, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia); H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce, China; Mrs Sondang Anggraini, Adviser to the Minister on Trade and Diplomacy, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; Mrs Ow Foong Pheng, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore); Mr Thawatchai Sophasienphong, Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam); and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Statement of the 4th ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (4th AMMTC+China) Consultation

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
30 September 2015**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China responsible for handling transnational crime matters convened the Fourth ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (4th AMMTC+China) Consultation on 30 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, Singapore and H.E. Chen Zhi Min, Deputy Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the Thirteenth ASEAN Plus China Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (13th SOMTC+China) Consultation held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 10 June 2015.
3. We took note of the significant progress of ASEAN and China cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues such as combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, arms smuggling, sea piracy, money laundering, international economic crime and cybercrime; and law enforcement capacity building under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues signed in 2004 and renewed in 2009.
4. We welcomed the intention of ASEAN and China to develop a new MOU between ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues for the period of 2015-2021 to further strengthen the existing

security cooperation between ASEAN and China.

5. We noted with appreciation China's dedication in developing law enforcement cooperation, including China's proposal to host the "Security for Prosperity" China-ASEAN Law Enforcement & Security Cooperation Ministerial Dialogue on 23 October 2015.
6. We tasked the Senior Officials responsible for handling transnational crime matters from ASEAN and China to expeditiously work on and develop the plan of activities to implement the MOU which would be beneficial to both ASEAN and China particularly for law enforcement personnel. In this regard, we mandated the SOMTC+China to finalise and oversee the successful implementation of activities annually.
7. We adopted the Joint Statement of the 4th AMMTC+China Consultation.
8. We welcomed the kind offer by Myanmar to host the 5th AMMTC+China Consultation in 2017.
9. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government and people of Malaysia for their warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 14th ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting (14th ATM+China)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
5 November 2015**

1. The Fourteenth ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting (14th ATM+China) was held on 5 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport of Malaysia and H.E. Mr. Yang

Chuantang, Minister of Transport of the People's Republic of China. The Meeting was preceded by the Fourteenth ASEAN and China Senior Transport Officials Meeting (14th STOM+China) held on 3 November 2015.

2. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to enhance transport connectivity between and among ASEAN Member States and China and urged the senior officials to continue their effort to move forward the priority areas and major projects/activities in railway, highway, civil aviation and waterway transport cooperation in order to facilitate regional trade and investment flows.
3. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN-China Maritime Training and Education Development Strategy which aims to enhance the capacity of maritime training and education in ASEAN Member States and China, particularly in the areas of maritime management and seafarers education, training and development. The Ministers also acknowledged the importance of this initiative towards improving the quality of human resources for the development of regional and global shipping industry.
4. The Ministers welcomed the entry into force of Protocol 2 of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement, tasked and encouraged senior officials and relevant working groups to make more active and intensive engagement between ASEAN and China in the area of aviation cooperation, and eventually put in place a liberal and substantial air services framework in support of the upgrading of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement.
5. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in the implementation of Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) project, particularly the completion of construction of missing link section from Aranyaprathet to Klongluk by Thailand which include the railway bridge connection between Cambodia and Thailand. The Ministers also look forward to the completion of missing link section from Poipet to Sisophon in Cambodia by end 2016.
6. The Ministers also welcomed the progress made in several projects/activities including ASEAN-China Joint Maritime Search and

Rescue Table and Operational Exercises; ASEAN-China Maritime Emergency and Rescue Assistance Hotline; Feasibility Study for Further Improvement of the Navigational Channel of Lancang-Mekong River; Capacity Building of Aids to Navigation; Capacity of Oil Spill Monitoring in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore; ASEAN-China Port Cities Cooperation Network; and ASEAN-China Workshop on Civil Aviation Safety Capacity Building.

7. The Ministers welcomed new initiatives in ASEAN-China transport cooperation including coordinating, where appropriate, between China's "Belt and Road" initiative and ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025, enhancing ASEAN-China cooperation in transport technology, facilitating ASEAN-China logistics information cooperation, promoting ASEAN-China cooperation in maritime training and education, and elevating the level of waterborne safety in this region.
8. The Fifteenth ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting will be held in the Philippines in 2016.

LIST OF MINISTERS (To Be Confirmed by ASEAN Member States & China)

H.E. Dato Mustappa Sirat, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Yang Chuantang, Minister of Transport of China; Mr. Sugihardjo, Secretary General, representing H.E. Ignasius Jonan, Minister for Transportation of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Bounchanh Sinthavong, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport of Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Han Sein, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Transport of Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Joseph Emilio Aguinaldo Abaya, Secretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Khaw Boon Wan, Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport of Singapore; H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Transport of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Dinh La Thang, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

Chairman's Statement of the 18th ASEAN-China Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015**

1. The 18th ASEAN-China Summit, chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, was held on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Li Keqiang.
2. China welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Community, which is a culmination of a five-decade long effort of region-building towards a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged China to contribute towards the realisation of the visions and goals outlined in the *ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together*.
3. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated China's continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum as well as China's support for the strengthening of the East Asia Summit as it commemorates its 10th anniversary in 2015.
4. We noted with satisfaction the achievements within the framework of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015). We noted the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020).
5. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated China's continued support for the implementation

- of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and looked forward to the imminent establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). We looked forward to its role in facilitating regional connectivity, along with China's continuing support for the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and its post-2015 agenda.
6. The Leaders also recognised that regional integration and narrowing the development divide are priorities in the ASEAN community-building process and towards that end, looked forward to China's continued cooperation and support for narrowing the development divide in the region, including through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and its successor document as well as the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.
 7. The Leaders underscored the importance of strong economic relations between ASEAN and China towards achieving greater regional economic integration. China continues to be ASEAN's largest trading partner since 2009 while ASEAN has remained China's third largest trading partner since 2011. We noted that two-way trade reached US\$366.5 billion in 2014, accounting for 14.5 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. ASEAN received US\$8.9 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows from China, accounting for 7.1 per cent of total inflows to ASEAN in the same year.
 8. We welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations to upgrade the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) and the signing of the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Certain Agreements between ASEAN and China, and looked forward to its early entry into force. We reaffirmed our commitment to complete our Future Work Programme expeditiously in order to achieve the twin goals of two-way trade and investment of US\$1 trillion and US\$150 billion respectively by 2020. We instructed our officials to address the remaining technical issues as soon as possible as well as the issue of strengthening production capacity cooperation for mutual benefit.
 9. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership, consolidate our strategic relations and maintain close high-level exchanges while continuing to deepen mutual trust and confidence. ASEAN Leaders noted China's initiatives including the 2+7 framework of cooperation and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and looked forward to working together for mutual benefit.
 10. We noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of the ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation 2009-2015 and reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen our cooperation on environment. In this regard, we looked forward to the early adoption of the ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation 2016-2020.
 11. We took note of the outcome of the ASEAN-China Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting, which was held in Beijing, China on 15-16 October 2015. Among others, the Meeting explored avenues of practical cooperation and welcomed the forging of closer ties, to be carried out within the existing ADMM-Plus framework.
 12. We welcomed the endorsement of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the ASEAN-China Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation, which would further strengthen public health cooperation including preparedness and response on emerging infectious disease health threats such as Ebola and MERS CoV.
 13. We underscored the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability as well as upholding freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea.
 14. We reaffirmed our commitment to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety: to build, maintain and enhance mutual trust and confidence; to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities; to not resort to threat or use of force; and for the sovereign states directly concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means,

including through friendly consultations and negotiations, in accordance with international law including United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS 1982).

15. We welcomed the outcomes of the 15th ASEAN-China JWG on DOC and the 10th ASEAN-China SOM on DOC held in Chengdu, China on 19-20 October 2015 and agreed to maintain the momentum of regular official consultations and work towards the early conclusion of a COC on the basis of consensus.
16. We expressed appreciation to the ASEAN-China Centre for its continued role in promoting trade, investment, tourism, education and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and China.
17. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue relations in 2016, we agreed to convene a commemorative summit and hold a series of commemorative activities that are jointly agreed upon between ASEAN Member States and China with a view to promoting closer cooperation in various fields encompassing political, economic and socio-cultural cooperation. Thus far, we have jointly agreed to the following:
 - i. exchange congratulatory messages between equivalent leaders of China and Laos, as ASEAN Chair for 2016, and between China's Minister of Foreign Affairs and the ASEAN Secretary-General;
 - ii. hold receptions in Beijing and Jakarta;
 - iii. hold an ASEAN-China Joint Cultural Performance;
 - iv. organise the Second ASEAN-China Youth Exchange Visit; and
 - v. organise an ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneur Forum.
18. We also took note of 2016 being designated as the Year of Educational Exchange.

The Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation and Certain Agreements thereunder between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015**

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to collectively as "ASEAN Member States", or individually as "ASEAN Member State"), and the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "China"), hereinafter referred to collectively as "Parties" or individually as "Party";

RECALLING the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the "Framework Agreement") signed on 4 November 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

RECALLING the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "TIG Agreement") signed on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR;

RECALLING the Agreement on Trade in Services of the Framework Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "TIS Agreement") signed on 14 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines;

RECALLING the Agreement on Investment of the Framework Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Investment Agreement") Signed on 15 August 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand;

RECALLING the Joint Statement of the 16th ASEAN-China Summit held on 9 October 2013, taking note of

the positive role that the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) has played in promoting economic and trade relations and welcoming the initiative for the upgrading of the ACFTA by, among others, improving market conditions and trade balance among the Parties as well as expanding the scope and coverage of the Framework Agreement;

DESIRING to improve the ACFTA to better respond to the evolving global economic architecture through reaffirmation of the commitment, and to deepen economic linkages between ASEAN and China through the progressive liberalisation of trade in goods and trade in services, more trade-facilitative rules of origin, better customs procedure and trade facilitation measures, improved investment liberalisation, protection, promotion, and facilitation, enhanced economic and technical cooperation; and

CONFIDENT that an upgrade of the ACFTA would contribute to increasing the depth and expanding the scope of cooperation, and promoting trade, services and investment among the Parties.

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER 1

AMENDMENT TO THE TIG AGREEMENT SECTION A: RULES OF ORIGIN

ANNEX 3 on the Rules of Origin (ROO) of the TIG Agreement shall be substituted by ANNEX 1 of this Protocol.

SECTION B: CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND TRADE FACILITATION

This Section on the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (CPTF) shall be incorporated into the TIG Agreement:

Article 1 Objectives

The objectives of this Section are to:

- (a) ensure predictability, consistency and transparency in the application of customs law of the Parties;
- (b) promote efficient, economical administration of customs procedures, and the expeditious clearance of goods;

- (c) simplify and harmonise customs procedures to the extent possible; and

- (d) promote co-operation among the customs administrations of the Parties.

Article 2 Scope

This Section applies, in accordance with the Parties' respective domestic laws and regulations, to customs procedures applied to goods traded and the movement of means of transport among the Parties.

Article 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this Section:

customs administration means:

- (a) in relation to China, the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China; and
- (b) in relation to ASEAN, the customs administration of each ASEAN Member States and/or competent authorities¹ that are responsible under the law of a Party for the administration of customs law.

Customs law means the statutory and regulatory provisions relating to the importation, exportation, movement or storage of goods, the administration and enforcement of which are specifically charged to the customs administrations, and any regulations made by the customs administrations under their statutory powers;

Customs procedures means the treatment applied by the customs administration of a Party to goods and the means of transport, which are subject to that Party's customs law;

Customs Valuation Agreement means the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, contained in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement; and

¹ The list of competent authorities and any future changes should be conveyed to all the Parties in a timely manner.

Means of transport means various types of vessels, vehicles, aircraft and pack-animals which enter or leave the territory of a Party carrying persons, goods or articles, where applicable under each Party's domestic laws and regulations.

Article 4 Facilitation

1. Each Party shall ensure that its customs procedures and practices are predictable, consistent, transparent and trade-facilitating, including through the expeditious clearance of goods.
2. Customs procedures of each Party shall, where possible and to the extent permitted by its respective customs law, conform with the trade-related instruments and recommended practices of the World Customs Organisation to which that Party is a contracting Party.
3. The customs administration of each Party shall review its customs procedures to facilitate trade.
4. Customs control shall be limited to that which is necessary to ensure compliance with customs law of the respective Parties.

Article 5 Customs Co-operation

To the extent permitted by its domestic laws and regulations, the customs administration of each Party may, as deemed appropriate, cooperate with the customs administration of each other, in relation to:

- (a) the implementation and operation of this Section;
- (b) such other issues as the Parties mutually determine.

Article 6 Use of Automated Systems

1. The customs administration of each Party, where applicable, shall endeavour to have its own system that supports electronic customs transactions.

2. In implementing initiatives, the customs administration of each Party, taking into consideration the available infrastructure and capabilities of each Party, shall take into account the relevant standards and best practices recommended by the World Customs Organisation.

Article 7 Customs Valuation

The Parties shall apply Article VII of GATT 1994 and the Customs Valuation Agreement to goods traded among them.

Article 8 Tariff Classification

The Parties shall apply the International Convention on the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System to goods traded among them.

Article 9 Risk Management

1. The Parties shall use risk management to determine control measures with a view to facilitating legitimate trade, and expediting customs clearance and release of goods.
2. In applying a risk management approach to customs control, the customs administration of each Party shall regularly review the performance, effectiveness and efficiency of its systems.

Article 10 Advance Rulings

1. Each Party, through its customs administration, to the extent permitted by its domestic laws and regulations, on the application of a person described in Paragraph 3(a), shall provide in writing, advance rulings in respect of tariff classification and origin of goods.
2. In addition to Paragraph 1, the Parties are encouraged to provide advance rulings on the appropriate method or criteria, and the application thereof, to be used for determining the customs value under a particular set of facts.

3. Each Party, in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations, shall adopt or maintain procedures for advance rulings, which shall:
 - (a) provide that an importer or an exporter or a producer, authorised by the importing Party, may apply for an advance ruling before the importation of the goods in question;
 - (b) require that an applicant for an advance ruling provide a detailed description of the goods and all relevant information needed for the issuance of an advance ruling;
 - (c) provide that its customs administration may, at any time during the course of an evaluation of an application for an advance ruling, request that the applicant provide additional information within a specified period;
 - (d) provide that any advance ruling be based on the facts and circumstances presented by the applicant, and any other relevant information in the possession of the decision-maker; and
 - (e) provide that the advance ruling be issued to the applicant expeditiously on receipt of all necessary information.
4. A Party may reject requests for an advance ruling where the additional information requested by it in accordance with Paragraph 3(c) is not provided within the specified period.
5. Subject to Paragraphs 1 and 6, each Party shall apply an advance ruling to all importations of goods described in that ruling within three (3) years from the date of that ruling or such other period as specified in that Party's respective domestic laws and regulations.
6. A Party may modify or revoke an advance ruling:
 - (a) upon determination that the ruling was based on an error of fact or law, or the information provided is false or inaccurate;
 - (b) if there is a change in its domestic laws and regulations consistent with this Agreement; or
 - (c) if there is a change in a material fact or circumstance on which the ruling is based.
7. Subject to the confidentiality requirements of a Party's domestic laws and regulations, each Party may publish its advance rulings.
8. Where an importer claims that the treatment accorded to an imported good should be governed by an advance ruling, the customs administration may evaluate whether the facts and circumstances of the said importation are consistent with the facts and circumstances upon which a ruling was based.

Article 11 **Review and Appeal**

1. Each Party shall, in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations, provide that the importer, exporter or any other person affected by its administrative rulings, determinations or decisions, have access to:
 - (a) a level of administrative review by its customs administrations independent of the official or office responsible for the administrative rulings, determinations or decisions, under review. The level of administrative review may include any authority supervising the customs administration subject to domestic laws and regulations; or
 - (b) judicial review.
2. The decision on review and/or appeal shall be given to the applicant and/or appellant, and subject to the Party's domestic laws and regulations, the reasons for such decision shall be provided in writing.

Article 12 **Review of Customs Procedures**

The Parties shall, under the mechanism of the ASEAN-China FTA Joint Committee (ACFTA-JC), periodically review the implementation of the Section on CPTF with a view to further simplifying and harmonising customs procedures to the extent possible and developing mutually beneficial arrangements to facilitate trade among the Parties. A subcommittee on CPTF will be formed and convened as necessary.

Article 13
Publication and Enquiry Points

1. Each Party shall publish on the internet and/or in print form all statutory and regulatory provisions and any customs administrative procedures applied or enforced by its customs administration, except law enforcement procedures and internal operational guidelines.
2. Each Party shall designate one or more enquiry points to deal with enquiries from interested persons concerning customs matters, and shall make available on the internet and/or in print form, information concerning procedures for making such enquiries.

Article 14
Consultations

1. The customs administrations of the Parties shall encourage consultations with each other on issues related to trade in goods arising from the operation or implementation of this Section.
2. Such consultations shall be conducted through the relevant contact points of the respective customs administrations.
3. Each Party shall provide information on the contact points of its customs administration to the other Parties and promptly notify the other Parties of any amendment thereto.

Article 15
Pre-arrival Documentation

The customs administrations of the Parties shall endeavour to make provision for the lodging and registering or checking of the goods declaration and its supporting documents prior to the arrival of the goods.

Article 16
Authorised Economic Operators

1. The customs administrations of the Parties shall endeavour to establish the programme of Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) to promote informed compliance and efficiency of customs control.

2. The customs administrations of the Parties shall endeavour to work towards mutual recognition of AEO.

Article 17
Repayment, Drawback and Security

1. Decisions on claims for repayment shall be reached and notified in writing to the persons concerned, without undue delay, and repayment of amounts overcharged shall be made as soon as possible after the verification of such claims.
2. Drawback shall be paid as soon as possible after the verification of such claims.
3. Where security has been furnished, it shall be discharged as soon as possible after the customs administration is satisfied that the obligations under which the security was required, have been duly fulfilled.

Article 18
Post Clearance Audit

The customs administrations of the Parties shall establish and operate post clearance audit for expeditious customs clearance and enhanced customs control.

Article 19
Temporary Admission

The customs administrations of the Parties shall facilitate the movement of goods under temporary admission to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with domestic laws and regulations of each Party.

Article 20
Confidentiality

1. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require any Party to furnish or allow access to confidential information, the disclosure of which the Party considers would:
 - (a) be contrary to the public interest as determined by its domestic laws and regulations;
 - (b) be contrary to any of its domestic laws and regulations, including but not limited to, those protecting personal privacy or the

- financial affairs and accounts of individual customers of financial institutions;
- (c) impede law enforcement; or
 - (d) prejudice legitimate commercial interests, which may include the competitive position of particular enterprises, public or private.
2. Where a Party provides information to another Party in accordance with this Section and designates the information as confidential, the Party receiving the information shall maintain the confidentiality of the information, use it only for the purposes specified by the Party providing the information, and not disclose it without the specific written permission of the Party providing the information.
3. The Parties shall cooperate in promoting and increasing awareness of the Parties as an investment area, through, among others:
- (a) increasing investments among the Parties;
 - (b) organising investment promotion activities, including business matching events;
 - (c) enhancing industrial complementation and production networks;
 - (d) organising and supporting the organisation of various briefings and seminars on investment opportunities and on investment laws, regulations and policies; and
 - (e) conducting information exchanges on other issues of mutual concern relating to investment promotion and facilitation.

CHAPTER 2

AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES

1. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 23 of the TIS Agreement, the third package of specific commitments of each Party, which shall become an integral part of the TIS Agreement, is hereby annexed as ANNEX 2 to this Protocol.
2. ANNEX 2 shall apply to the Parties that have submitted their respective specific commitments to the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

CHAPTER 3

AMENDMENT TO THE INVESTMENT AGREEMENT

Article 1 Promotion of Investment

Article 20 of the Investment Agreement shall be substituted by:

1. Each Party shall further cooperate in promoting and increasing investment activities by building upon existing agreements or arrangements already in place for economic cooperation in order to strengthen the economic relationship among the Parties.
2. For the mutual benefit of the Parties, each Party shall encourage and create favourable conditions for investors and their investments.

Article 2 Facilitation of Investment

Article 21 of the Investment Agreement shall be substituted by:

1. Each Party should endeavour to further create stable, favourable and transparent conditions in order to encourage greater investment by investors of another Party in its territory.
2. Subject to their laws and regulations, the Parties shall cooperate to facilitate investments among the Parties through, among others:
 - (a) creating the necessary environment for all forms of investment;
 - (b) simplifying procedures for investment applications and approvals;
 - (c) promoting dissemination of investment information, including investment laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures; and
 - (d) utilising existing Investment Promotion Agencies or, where necessary, establishing one-stop investment centres or similar mechanisms in the respective host Parties, to provide assistance and advisory services to the business sectors including facilitation of operating licences and permits.

CHAPTER 4

AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION UNDER THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Articles 2(g), 7 and 8(4) of the Framework Agreement shall be deleted. Article 7 of the Framework Agreement shall read as follows:

Article 7(1) Basic Principles

1. The Parties shall undertake economic and technical cooperation activities of mutual benefit to deepen trade and investment among the Parties with a view to promoting economic cooperation pursuant to the Framework Agreement.
2. The Parties shall, subject to the availability of resources and in accordance with their respective domestic laws and regulations, endeavour to facilitate economic and technical cooperation among the Parties. The Parties shall explore ways to expand economic and technical cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including recommendations to enhance existing economic and technical cooperation as well as develop new initiatives.
3. The Parties agree to implement capacity-building programmes and technical assistance, particularly projects that are to address the specific needs and requirements consistent with the priority areas of economic and technical cooperation under the ACFTA. Special consideration shall be provided to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam with regard to their participation in these projects and their proposed projects.

Article 7 (II) Areas of Economic and Technical Cooperation

1. The Parties, on the basis of mutual benefit, shall explore and undertake economic cooperation activities in the following areas:
 - (a) Trade-related issues;
 - (b) Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry and Forestry Products;

- (c) Information and Communications Technology;
- (d) Human Resource Development;
- (e) Investment;
- (f) Trade in Services;
- (g) Tourism;
- (h) Industrial Cooperation;
- (i) Transport;
- (j) Intellectual Property Rights;
- (k) Small and Medium Enterprises;
- (l) Environment; and
- (m) Other fields related to economic and technical cooperation as may be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

2. The Parties agree to focus on the economic and technical cooperation to support other Working Groups under the ACFTA-JC for better utilisation of the Framework Agreement and agreements thereunder.

Article 7 (III) Cross-border Electronic Commerce (E-commerce)

1. The Parties recognise the economic growth and opportunity that e-commerce provides and the importance of promoting its use and development.
2. The Parties agree to share information, expertise and conduct dialogue on issues related to e-commerce, including laws and regulations, rules and standards, and best practices with a view to creating a favourable environment for e-commerce development.
3. The Parties shall encourage participation from business communities and facilitation from government agencies to take advantage of e-commerce platforms to enhance trade and investment relations among the Parties.
4. The Parties shall encourage capacity-building cooperation by supporting workshops and training programmes on e-commerce to enhance the capability of Micro, Small and

Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to expand into regional and international markets.

Article 7 (IV)

Resources for Economic and Technical Cooperation Activities

1. With the aim of operationalising this Chapter, activities could be in the form of economic and technical cooperation, including seminars, trainings, policy dialogues, studies as well as other activities agreed upon by the Parties.
2. The Parties agree to source the funding for economic and technical cooperation activities under ACFTA from existing appropriate ASEAN-China resources, or other resources available in the future.
3. The Parties agree to enhance economic and technical cooperation activities under ACFTA by expediting the appraisal and approval process, developing clear guidelines and facilitating enquiries on economic and technical cooperation projects with a view to helping prospective project proponents to better utilise the available resources.

Article 7 (V)

Implementation of Economic and Technical Cooperation Activities

1. Economic and technical cooperation activities shall involve China and at least two (2) ASEAN Member States, provided that those activities are regional in nature and of benefit to ASEAN Member States and China.
2. The Parties shall undertake economic and technical cooperation activities at a mutually agreed time.

Article 7 (VI)

Settlement of Dispute

1. The Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the Framework Agreement shall not apply to this Chapter.
2. Any dispute concerning the interpretation, implementation or application of this Chapter shall be settled amicably by the Parties.

CHAPTER 5

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

1. Consistent with Article 17 of the TIG Agreement, the Parties shall enter into negotiations, to further liberalise trade in goods on a date to be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. The Parties shall undertake to finalise the negotiations within two (2) years from the date of commencement of the negotiations.
2. The Parties shall enter into negotiations on Product Specific Rules (PSRs) with a view to reaching a mutually satisfactory outcome that improves utilisation of ACFTA within one (1) year from the date of entry into force of this Protocol.
3. The Parties shall conclude the discussions with respect to investment liberalisation and protection within three (3) years from the date of entry into force of this Protocol, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

CHAPTER 6

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Amendment

This Protocol may be amended by agreement in writing by the Parties and such amendment shall come into force on such date or dates as may be agreed among the Parties.

Article 2

Depositary

For the ASEAN Member States, this Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each ASEAN Member States.

Article 3

Entry Into Force

1. Each Party shall notify the Secretary-General of ASEAN of the completion of its internal procedures necessary for entry into force of this Protocol in writing. This Protocol shall enter into force on 1 May 2016, provided that China and

at least one (1) ASEAN Member States have notified the Secretary-General of ASEAN of the completion of their internal procedures in writing.

2. If this Protocol does not enter into force on 1 May 2016, it shall enter into force sixty (60) days after the date by which China and at least one (1) ASEAN Member States have notified the Secretary-General of ASEAN of the completion of their internal procedures in writing.
3. After the entry into force of this Protocol pursuant to Paragraph 1 or 2, this Protocol shall enter into force for any remaining Party sixty (60) days after the date of its notification to the Secretary-General of ASEAN of the completion of its internal procedures in writing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty First day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in duplicate copies in the English language³.

For Brunei Darussalam:
LIM JOCK SENG
Minister of Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:
SUN CHANTHOL
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

For the Republic of Indonesia:
THOMAS TRIKASIH LEMBONG
Minister of Trade

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
KHEMMANI PHOLSENA
Minister of Industry and Commerce

For Malaysia:
MUSTAPA MOHAMED
Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
KAN ZAW
Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Republic of the Philippines:
GREGORY L. DOMINGO
Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Republic of Singapore:
VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
APIRADI TANTRAPORN
Minister of Commerce

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
VU HUY HOANG
Minister of Industry and Trade

For the People's Republic of China:
GAO HUCHENG
Minister of Commerce

ANNEX 1: RULES OF ORIGIN

Article 1 Definitions

For the purposes of this Annex :

- (a) aquaculture means the farming of aquatic organisms, including fish, molluscs, crustaceans, other aquatic invertebrates and aquatic plants, from seedstock such as eggs, fry, fingerlings and larvae, by intervention in the rearing or growth processes to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc.;
- (b) costs, Insurance and Freight (CIF) means the value of the good imported, and includes the costs of freight and insurance up to the port or place of entry into the country of importation. The valuation shall be determined in accordance with the Customs Valuation Agreement;
- (c) free-on-board (FOB) means the free-on-board value of the good, inclusive of the costs of transport to the port or site of final shipment abroad. The valuation shall be determined in accordance with the Customs Valuation Agreement;
- (d) generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) means the accounting standards, recognised consensus or substantial authoritative support of a Party, with respect to the recording of revenues, expenses,

costs, assets and liabilities; the disclosure of information; and the preparation of financial statements. These standards may encompass broad guidelines of general application as well as detailed standards, practices and procedures;

- (e) good means any merchandise, product, article, or material;
- (f) identical and interchangeable materials means materials being of the same kind which are fungible for commercial purposes, whose properties are essentially identical, and between which it is impractical to differentiate by a mere visual examination;
- (g) material means any matter or substance used in the production of goods, physically incorporated into a good or subjected to a process in the production of another good;
- (h) originating material or originating good means a material or good which qualifies as originating in accordance with the provisions of this ANNEX;
- (i) packing materials and containers for transportation means the materials and containers used to protect a good during its transportation, different from those materials and containers used for its retail sale;
- (j) production means methods of obtaining goods, including growing, raising, mining, harvesting, fishing, aquaculture, farming, trapping, hunting, capturing, gathering, collecting, breeding, extracting, manufacturing, producing, processing, assembling a good, etc.;
- (k) product Specific Rules means rules that specify that the materials have undergone a change in tariff classification or a specific manufacturing or processing operation, or satisfy a Regional Value Content criterion or a combination of any of these criteria;
- (l) harmonised System means the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System of the World Customs Organisation;
- (m) neutral element means a good used in the production, testing or inspection of another good but not physically incorporated into the good by itself;
- (n) customs Valuation Agreement means the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and

Trade 1994, which is a part of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization; and

- (o) non-originating good or non-originating material means a good or material that does not qualify as originating under this ANNEX or a good or material of undetermined origin.

Article 2

Originating Goods

For the purposes of this ANNEX, a good shall be treated as an originating good and eligible for preferential tariff treatment if it is either:

- (a) wholly produced or obtained in a Party as provided in Article 3 of this ANNEX;
- (b) produced in a Party exclusively from originating materials from one or more of the Parties;
- (c) produced from non-originating materials in a Party, provided that the good has satisfied the requirements of Article 4 of this ANNEX and meets all other applicable requirements of this ANNEX.

Article 3

Goods Wholly Produced or Obtained

For the purposes of Article 2 (a), the following goods shall be considered as wholly produced or obtained:

- (a) plants and plant products (including fruits, flowers, vegetables, trees, seaweed, fungi and live plants) grown, harvested, picked, or gathered in a Party¹;
- (b) live animals born and raised in a Party;

¹ For the purposes of this Article, "in a Party" means:

- (i) For ASEAN Member States, the land, territorial air space, territorial sea, Exclusive Economic Zone, Continental Shelf, and areas beyond the territorial sea over which a Member State exercises sovereign rights or jurisdiction, as the case may be, under respective domestic laws in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- (ii) For China, the entire customs territory of the People's Republic of China, including land territory, territorial airspace, internal waters, territorial sea, and areas beyond the territorial sea within which China exercises sovereign rights or jurisdiction under its domestic laws, in accordance with international law.
- (iii) The above definitions are purely for the purpose of the implementation of Article 3 of the Annex of the Rules of Origin. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing contained in the above definitions shall be construed as conferring recognition or acceptance by one Party of the outstanding maritime and territorial positions or claims made by any other Party, nor shall be taken as pre-judging the determination of such positions or claims.

- (c) goods obtained from live animals in a Party without further processing, including milk, eggs, natural honey, hair, wool, semen and dung;
- (d) goods obtained from hunting, trapping, fishing, aquaculture, gathering, or capturing in a Party;
- (e) minerals and other naturally occurring substances extracted or taken from the soil, waters, seabed or beneath the seabed in a Party;
- (f) goods taken from the waters, seabed or beneath the seabed outside the territorial waters of that Party, provided that that Party has the rights to exploit such waters, seabed and beneath the seabed in accordance with international law²;
- (g) goods of sea fishing and other marine products taken from the high seas by vessels registered with a Party or entitled to fly the flag of that Party;
- (h) goods processed and/or made on board factory ships registered with a Party or entitled to fly the flag of that Party, exclusively from products referred to in paragraph (g) above;
- (i) waste and scrap derived from production process or from consumption in a Party provided that such goods are fit only for the recovery of raw materials; or
- (j) used goods consumed and collected in a Party provided that such goods are fit only for the recovery of raw materials; and
- (k) goods produced or obtained in a Party exclusively from products referred to in Subparagraphs (a) to (j) or from derivatives of the goods produced or obtained in the Party exclusively from products referred to in Subparagraphs (a) to (j).

Article 4

Goods Not Wholly Produced or Obtained

1. For the purposes of Article 2(c) of this ANNEX, except for those goods covered under Paragraph 2, a good shall be treated as an originating good:
 - (a) if the good has a regional value content of not less than 40 per cent of FOB calculated using the formula as described in Article 5 of this ANNEX, and the final process of production is performed within a Party; or

² "International law" refers to universally recognised international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

- (b) for the purpose of goods classified in Chapters 25, 26, 28, 29³, 31⁴, 39⁵, 42-49, 57-59, 61, 62, 64, 66-71, 73-83, 86, 88, 91-97 of the Harmonised System if all non-originating materials used in the production of the goods have undergone a change in tariff classification (hereinafter referred to as "CTC") at the four-digit level, which is a change in tariff heading, of the Harmonised System.

2. In accordance with Paragraph 1, and unless otherwise provided for in the Product Specific Rules as specified in Attachment B, a good shall be treated as an originating good if it meets a regional value content of not less than 40 per cent or those criteria in the Product Specific Rules.

Article 5

Calculation of Regional Value Content

1. The Regional Value Content (RVC) shall be calculated as follows:

$$RVC = \frac{FOB - VNM}{FOB} \times 100\%$$

where:

RVC is the regional value content, expressed as a percentage;

VNM is the value of the non-originating materials.

2. VNM shall be determined according to the following circumstances:
 - (a) in case of the imported non-originating materials, VNM shall be the CIF value of the materials at the time of importation;
 - (b) in case of the non-originating materials obtained in a Party, VNM shall be the earliest ascertainable price paid or payable for the non-originating materials in that Party. The value of such non-originating materials shall not include freight, insurance, packing costs and any

³ For Headings 29.01 and 29.02, the applied criterion is RVC 40%, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the Parties.

⁴ For Headings 31.05, the applied criterion is RVC 40%, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the Parties.

⁵ For Headings 39.01, 39.02, 39.03, 39.07 and 39.08, the applied criterion is RVC 40%, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the Parties.

other costs incurred in transporting the material from the supplier's warehouse to the producer's location.

3. If a product which has acquired originating status in accordance with paragraph 1 in a Party is further processed in that Party and used as material in the manufacture of another product, no account shall be taken of the non-originating components of that material in the determination of the originating status of the product.
4. The valuation shall be determined in accordance with the Customs Valuation Agreement.

Article 6 **Accumulation**

Unless otherwise provided in this ANNEX, goods originating in a Party, which are used in another Party as materials for finished goods eligible for preferential tariff treatment, shall be treated as originating in the latter Party where working or processing of the finished goods has taken place.

Article 7 **Minimal Operations and Processes**

Operations or processes undertaken, by themselves or in combination with each other for the purposes listed below, are considered to be minimal and shall not be taken into account in determining whether a good has been wholly obtained in a Party:

- (a) ensuring preservation of goods in good condition for the purposes of transport or storage;
- (b) facilitating shipment or transportation; and
- (c) packaging⁶ or presenting goods for sale.

Article 8 **Direct Consignment**

1. Preferential tariff treatment shall be applied to goods satisfying the requirements of this ANNEX and which are consigned directly between the exporting Party and the importing Party.

2. The following shall be considered as consigned directly from the exporting Party to the importing Party:

- (a) goods transported directly from an exporting Party to the importing Party; or
- (b) goods transported through one or more Parties, other than the exporting Party and the importing Party, or through a non-Party, provided that:
 - (i) the transit entry is justified for geographical reason or by consideration related exclusively to transport requirements;
 - (ii) the goods have not entered into trade or consumption there; and
 - (iii) the goods have not undergone any operation there other than unloading and reloading or any other operation to preserve them in good condition.

Article 9 **De Minimis**

A good that does not satisfy a change in tariff classification requirement pursuant to Article 4 of this ANNEX will nonetheless be an originating good if:

- (a) for a good, other than that provided for in Chapters 50 to 63 of the Harmonised System, the value of all non-originating materials used in the production of the good that did not undergo the required change in tariff classification does not exceed 10 per cent of the FOB value of the good; and
- (b) for a good provided for in Chapters 50 to 63 of the Harmonised System, the weight of all non-originating materials used in its production that did not undergo the required change in tariff classification does not exceed 10 per cent of the total weight of the good, or the value of all non-originating materials used in the production of the good that did not undergo the required change in tariff classification does not exceed 10 per cent of the FOB value of the good.

And the good meets all other applicable criteria of this ANNEX.

⁶ This excludes encapsulation which is termed "packaging" by the electronics industry.

Article 10

Treatment of Packing Materials, Packages and Containers

1. Packing materials, packages and containers for transportation shall not be taken into account in determining the origin of the goods.
2. Packing materials, packages and containers for use in packaging goods for retail sale:
 - (a) Where the goods are subject to a regional value content criterion, the value of the packing materials, packages and containers used for packaging goods for retail sale shall be taken into account in origin determination, provided that the packing materials, packages and containers are classified with the goods.
 - (b) Where the goods are subject to a change in tariff classification criterion, the origin of the packing materials, packages and containers in which goods are packaged for retail sale shall not be taken into account in origin determination, provided that the packing materials, packages and containers are classified with the goods.

Article 11

Accessories, Spare Parts and Tools

1. Accessories, spare parts, or tools presented and classified with the good shall be considered as part of the good, provided:
 - (a) they are invoiced together with the good; and
 - (b) their quantity and value are commercially customary for the good.
2. Where a good is subject to change in tariff classification criterion set out in Attachment B, accessories, spare parts, or tools described in paragraph 1 shall be disregarded when determining the origin of the good.
3. Where a good is subject to a regional value content criterion, the value of the accessories, spare parts or tools described in paragraph 1 shall be taken into account as originating materials or non-originating materials, as the case may be, in calculating the regional value content of the good.

Article 12

Neutral Elements

In determining whether a good is an originating good, the origin of the following neutral elements shall be disregarded:

- (a) fuel, energy, catalysts and solvents;
- (b) equipment, devices and supplies used for testing or inspecting the goods;
- (c) gloves, glasses, footwear, clothing, safety equipment and supplies;
- (d) tools, dies and moulds;
- (e) spare parts and materials used in the maintenance of equipment and buildings;
- (f) lubricants, greases, compounding materials and other materials used in production or used to operate equipment and buildings; and
- (g) any other goods that are not incorporated into the good but whose use in the production of the good can reasonably be demonstrated to be a part of that production.

Article 13

Identical and Interchangeable Materials

Where originating and non-originating identical and interchangeable materials are used in the production of a good, the following methods shall be adopted in determining whether the materials used are originating:

- a) physical separation of the materials; or
- b) an inventory management method recognised in the generally accepted accounting principles of the exporting Party. Once a decision has been taken on the inventory management method, that method shall be used throughout the fiscal year.

Article 14

Certificate of Origin

Unless otherwise provided, a claim that goods are eligible for preferential tariff treatment shall be supported by a Certificate of Origin issued by an Issuing Authority notified to the other Parties as set out in Appendix 1 of Attachment A of this ANNEX.

Article 15**Consultations, Review and Modification**

1. The Parties shall consult regularly to ensure that this ANNEX is administered effectively, uniformly and consistently in order to achieve the spirit and objectives of the Agreement.
2. This ANNEX may be reviewed and modified as and when necessary, upon request of a Party, and subject to the agreement of the Parties, and may be open to such reviews and modifications as may be agreed upon by the ACFTA Joint Committee.

ATTACHMENT A

**REVISED OPERATIONAL CERTIFICATION
PROCEDURES (OCP) FOR THE RULES
OF ORIGIN FOR THE ASEAN-CHINA
FREE TRADE AREA**

For the purpose of implementing the Rules of Origin for the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA), the following operational procedures on the issuance and verification of the Certificate of Origin (Form E) and other related administrative matters shall be followed:

DEFINITIONS**Rule 1**

For the purposes of this Attachment:

“Movement Certificate” means a Certificate of Origin (Form E) issued by an intermediate exporting Party, based on the original Certificate of Origin (Form E) issued by the first exporting Party proving the origin status of the products in question;

“Customs Authority” means the competent authority that is responsible under the law of a Party for the Authority of customs laws and regulations¹;

“Exporter” means a natural or juridical person located in the territory of a Party from where a product is exported by such a person;

¹ Such laws and regulations administered and enforced by the Customs Authority of each Party concerning importation, exportation and transit of products as they relate to customs duties, charges or other taxes or prohibitions, restrictions and controls with respect to the movement of controlled items across the boundary of the Customs Authority of each Party.

“Importer” means a natural or juridical person located in the territory of a Party into where a product is imported by such a person; and

“Issuing Authority” means any government authority or other entity authorised under the domestic laws, regulations and administrative rules of a Party to issue a Certificate of Origin (Form E).

ISSUING AUTHORITIES**Rule 2**

The Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be issued by the Issuing Authorities of the exporting Party.

Rule 3

- a) Each Party shall inform all the other Parties of the names and addresses of its respective Issuing Authorities and shall provide specimen signatures and specimen of official seals, and correction stamps, if any, used by its Issuing Authorities.
- b) The above information shall be provided by the contact points electronically to all the other Parties to the Agreement through the ASEAN Secretariat, to the extent possible, at least one month before they take effect. A Party shall promptly inform all the other Parties of any changes in names, addresses, or official seals in the same manner.
- c) All Parties shall promptly provide confirmation that they have received the information to the ASEAN Secretariat, who will forward the compiled confirmation to the submitting Party.

Rule 4

For the purpose of verifying the conditions for preferential treatment, the Issuing Authorities shall have the right to call for any supporting documentary evidence or to carry out any checks considered appropriate.

If such right cannot be obtained through the existing domestic laws, regulations and administrative rules, it shall be inserted as a clause in the application form referred to in Rules 5 and 6 of this Attachment.

APPLICATIONS

Rule 5

- a) The exporter and/or the manufacturer of the products which qualify for preferential treatment shall apply in writing to the Issuing Authorities requesting the pre-exportation verification of the origin of the products. The result of the verification, subject to review periodically or whenever appropriate, shall be accepted as the supporting evidence in verifying the origin of the said products to be exported thereafter. The pre-verification may not apply to the products which, by their nature, origin can be easily verified.
- b) For locally-procured materials, self-declaration by the final manufacturer exporting under the ACFTA shall be used as the basis when applying for the issuance of the Certificate of Origin (Form E).

Rule 6

At the time of carrying out the formalities for exporting the products under preferential treatment, the exporter or his authorised representative shall submit a written application for the Certificate of Origin (Form E) together with appropriate supporting documents proving that the products to be exported qualify for the issuance of a Certificate of Origin (Form E)².

PRE-EXPORTATION EXAMINATION

Rule 7

The Issuing Authorities of each Party shall, to the best of their competence and ability, carry out proper examination of each application for the Certificate of Origin (Form E) to ensure that:

- a) The application and the Certificate of Origin (Form E) are duly completed in accordance with the requirements as defined in the overleaf notes of the Certificate of Origin (Form E), and signed by the authorised signatory;
- b) The origin of the product is in conformity with the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA;

- c) The other statements made in the Certificate of Origin (Form E) correspond to the supporting documentary evidence submitted;
- d) The description, quantity and weight of products, marks and number of packages, number and kinds of packages, as specified, conform to the products to be exported;
- e) Multiple items declared on the same Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be allowed subject to the domestic laws, regulations and administrative rules of the importing Party provided each item must qualify separately in its own right.

ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN (FORM E)

Rule 8

- a) The Certificate of Origin (Form E) must be on ISO A4 size white paper in conformity to the specimen shown in Appendix 1 of this OCP. It shall be filled out in English. The Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall comprise one (1) original and two (2) copies, namely, the duplicate and triplicate copies.
- b) For a Certificate of Origin (Form E) with multiple pages, the Parties shall use the attached Form shown in Appendix 1. The continuing page(s) shall bear the same signature, seal and reference number as those on the first page.
- c) Each Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall contain a unique reference number and cover one or more goods under one consignment.
- d) The original copy of the Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be forwarded by the exporter to the importer for submission to the Customs Authority at the port or place of importation. The duplicate copy shall be retained by the Issuing Authority in the exporting Party. The triplicate copy shall be retained by the exporter.
- e) In the case where a Certificate of Origin (Form E) is rejected by the Customs Authority of the importing Party, the said rejected Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be marked accordingly in Box 4.

² For China, a Chinese manufacturer can apply for a Certificate of Origin (Form E) in the case where the manufacturer needs to authorise other agencies to export on its behalf.

- f) In the case where a Certificate of Origin (Form E) is not accepted, as stated in paragraph (e), the Customs Authority of the importing Party shall consider the clarifications made by the Issuing Authorities of the exporting Party and assess whether or not the Certificate of Origin (Form E) can be accepted for the granting of the preferential treatment. The clarification shall be detailed and exhaustive in addressing the grounds for denial of preferential treatment raised by the importing Party.

Rule 9

To implement the provisions of Article 2 of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA, the Certificate of Origin (Form E) issued by the final exporting Party shall indicate the origin criteria or applicable percentage of ACFTA value content in Box 8.

Rule 10

Neither erasures nor superimposition shall be allowed on the Certificate of Origin (Form E). Any alteration shall be made by striking out the erroneous materials and making any addition required. Such alterations shall be approved by an official authorised to sign the Certificate of Origin (Form E) and certified with official seals or correction stamps of the Issuing Authority. Unused spaces shall be crossed out to prevent any subsequent addition.

Rule 11

In principle, a Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be issued prior to or at the time of shipment. In exceptional cases where the Certificate of Origin (Form E) has not been issued by the time of shipment or no later than three (3) days from the date of shipment, at the request of the exporter, the Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be issued retroactively in accordance with the domestic laws, regulations and administrative rules of the exporting Party within twelve (12) months from the date of shipment, in which case it is necessary to indicate "ISSUED RETROACTIVELY" in Box 13. In such cases, the importer claiming preferential treatment for the product may, subject to the domestic laws, regulations administrative rules of the importing Party, provide the Customs Authority of the importing Party with the Certificate of Origin (Form E) issued retroactively.

Rule 12

- a) The Issuing Authorities of the intermediate Party within the ACFTA may issue a Movement Certificate (MC), if an application is made by the exporter while the product is passing through the territory, provided that:
- (i) the importer of the intermediate Party and the exporter who applies for the MC in the intermediate Party are the same;
 - (ii) a valid original Certificate of Origin (Form E) issued by the first exporting Party is presented;
 - (iii) information on the MC includes the name of the Issuing Authority of the Party which issued the original Certificate of Origin (Form E), date of issuance and reference number. The indicated invoice value shall be the invoice value of the products exported from the intermediate Party; and
 - (iv) the total quantity of each product covered in the MC does not exceed the total quantity of each product covered in the original Certificate of Origin (Form E).
- b) In the case of ASEAN Member States, the MC shall be issued by the Issuing Authorities. In the case of China, the MC shall be issued by Customs Authority.
- c) The validity of the MC shall have the same end-date as the original Certificate of Origin (Form E).
- d) The product which is to be re-exported using the MC shall be under the control of the Customs Authority of the intermediate Party. The products shall not undergo any further processing in the intermediate Party, except for repacking and logistics activities consistent with Article 8 of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA³.
- e) The verification procedure in Rule 18 of this Attachment shall also apply to the MC. In particular, the Customs Authority of the importing Party may simultaneously request the original exporting Party and the intermediate Party to provide information regarding the

³ The products under control of the Customs Authority of the intermediate Party shall include products that remain in free trade zones or locations approved by the said Customs Authority.

original Certificate of Origin (Form E) and the MC respectively, such as, the first exporter, last exporter, reference number, description of the products, country of origin and the port of discharge, within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the request, as the case maybe.

Rule 13

In the event of theft, loss or destruction of a Certificate of Origin (Form E), the exporter may apply in writing to the Issuing Authority which issued it for a certified true copy of the original and the triplicate to be made on the basis of the export documents in its possession bearing the endorsement of the words "CERTIFIED TRUE COPY" in Box 12. The certified true copy of the original Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall bear the date of the original Certificate of Origin (Form E). The certified true copy of the original Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be issued no later than one (1) year from the date of issuance of the original Certificate of Origin (Form E) and on condition that the exporter provides to the relevant Issuing Authority the triplicate copy of the Certificate of Origin (Form E) or any proof of the issuance of the original Certificate of Origin (Form E).

PRESENTATION

Rule 14

The original Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be submitted to the Customs Authority at the time of import declaration for the products concerned claiming for preferential treatment in accordance with the domestic laws, regulations and administrative rules of the importing Party.

Rule 15

The Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall remain valid and must be submitted to the Customs Authority of the importing Party within one (1) year from the date of its issuance by the Issuing Authority of the exporting Party.

Rule 16

(a) In the case of the consignment of products originating in the exporting Party and not exceeding US\$ 200.00 FOB, the production of a Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be waived

and the use of a simplified declaration by the exporter that the products in question originated in the exporting Party shall be accepted. Products sent through the post not exceeding US\$200.00 FOB shall also be similarly treated.

(b) Waivers provided for in paragraph (a) shall not be applicable when it is established by the customs authorities of the importing Party that the importation forms part of a series of importations that may reasonably be considered to have been undertaken or arranged for the purpose of avoiding the submission of a Certificate of Origin or Certificates of Origin.

Rule 17

(a) Where the ACFTA origin of the product is not in doubt, unsubstantial discrepancies such as tariff classification differences between the statements made in the Certificate of Origin (Form E) and those made in the documents submitted to the Customs Authority of the importing Party for the purpose of carrying out the formalities for importing the products, shall not, ipso-facto, invalidate the Certificate of Origin (Form E), if it does in fact correspond to the products submitted.

(b) In cases where there are only unsubstantial discrepancies as indicated in paragraph (a) between the exporting Party and importing Party, the products shall be released without any delay subject to administrative measures, such as imposition of customs duties at the higher applied rate or its equivalent amount of deposit. Once the discrepancies have been resolved, the correct ACFTA rate is to be applied and any overpaid duty shall be refunded, in accordance with the domestic laws, regulations and administrative rules of the importing Party.

(c) For multiple items declared under the same Certificate of Origin (Form E), a problem encountered with one of the items listed shall not affect or delay the granting of preferential treatment and customs clearance of the remaining items listed in the Certificate of Origin (Form E). Rule 18(a)(ii) of this Attachment may be applied to the problematic items.

Rule 18

- (a) The Customs Authority of the importing Party may request a retroactive check at random and/or when it has reasonable doubt as to the authenticity of the document or as to the accuracy of the information regarding the true origin of the products in question or of certain parts thereof.
- (i) The request shall be made in writing, accompanied by a copy of the Certificate of Origin (Form E) and shall specify the reasons and any additional information suggesting that the particulars given on the said Certificate of Origin (Form E) may be inaccurate, unless the retroactive check is requested on a random basis.
 - (ii) The Customs Authority of the importing Party may suspend the granting of preferential treatment while awaiting the result of the verification. However, it may release the products to the importer subject to any administrative measures deemed necessary, including imposition of customs duties at the higher applied rate or equivalent amount of deposit, provided that they are not held to be subject to import prohibition or restriction and there is no suspicion of fraud.
 - (iii) The Customs Authority or the Issuing Authority of the exporting Party receiving a request for retroactive check shall respond to the request promptly and reply not later than ninety (90) days after the receipt of the request. The Customs Authority or the Issuing Authority of the exporting Party may request, in writing, an extension of time of up to ninety (90) days as long as the extension request is made within the initial ninety (90) day - period.
- (b) If the Customs Authority of the importing Party is not satisfied with the outcome of the retroactive check, it may, in exceptional cases, request verification visits to the exporting Party.
- (i) Prior to the conduct of a verification visit pursuant to the provisions herein, the Customs Authority of the importing Party shall notify the competent authority of the exporting Party with the aim of mutually agreeing on the conditions and means of the verification visit.
 - (ii) The verification visit shall be conducted not later than sixty (60) days after receipt of the notification pursuant to sub-paragraph (b)(i).
- (c) The verification process, including the retroactive check and verification visit, shall be carried out and its results communicated to the Customs Authority and/or the Issuing Authority of the exporting Party within a maximum of one hundred and eighty (180) days after the receipt of the request. In the event that an extension request has been made pursuant to sub-paragraph a(iii), the verification process, including the retroactive check and verification visit, shall be carried out and its results communicated to the Customs Authority and/or the Issuing Authority of the exporting Party shall be extended from one hundred and eighty (180) days to a maximum of two hundred and seventy (270) days after the receipt of the request. While awaiting the results of the verification visit, sub-paragraph (a)(ii) on the suspension of preferential treatment shall be applied.
- (d) All exchanges of information regarding the verification request should be done only through the respective contact points of the Parties.
- (e) The preferential treatment may be denied when the exporting Party fails to respond to the request to the satisfaction of the Customs Authority of the importing Party in the course of a retroactive check or verification process, as the case may be, within the time frame for verification specified in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).
- (f) Each Party shall maintain the confidentiality of the information and documents provided by the other Party in the course of the verification process. Such information and documents shall not be used for other purposes, including being used as evidence in administrative and judicial proceedings, without the explicit written permission of the Party providing such information.

RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENT

Rule 19

- (a) The application for the Certificate of Origin (Form E) and all documents related to such application shall be retained by the Issuing Authority for not less than three (3) years from the date of issuance.
- (b) Information relating to the validity of the Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be furnished upon request by the importing Party.
- (c) Any information communicated between the Parties concerned shall be treated as confidential and shall be used for the validation of the Certificate of Origin (Form E) purposes only.
- (d) For the purposes of the verification process/ retroactive check pursuant to Rule 18 of this Attachment, the producer and/or exporter applying for the issuance of a Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall, subject to the domestic laws, regulations and administrative rules of the exporting Party, keep the supporting records for the said application for not less than three (3) years from the date of issuance of the Certificate of Origin (Form E).

SPECIAL CASES

Rule 20

When the destination of the products exported to a specified Party is changed, before or after their arrival in the Party, the following rules shall be observed:

- a) If the products have already been submitted to the Customs Authority in the specified importing Party, the Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall, by a written application of the importer, be endorsed to address the situation. The original shall be kept by the Customs Authority and the photocopy of the Certificate of Origin (Form E) shall be provided to the importer.
- b) If the changing of destination occurs during transportation to the importing Party as specified in the Certificate of Origin (Form E), the exporter shall apply in writing, accompanied

by the issued Certificate of Origin (Form E), for the issuance of a new Certificate of Origin (Form E).

Rule 21

For the purpose of implementing Article 8 of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA, where transportation is effected through the territory of one or more non-ACFTA Parties, the following shall be submitted to the Customs Authority of the importing Party:

- a) A through Bill of Lading issued in the exporting Party;
- b) A Certificate of Origin (Form E) issued by the relevant Issuing Authorities of the exporting Party;
- c) A copy of the original commercial invoice in respect of the product; and
- d) Supporting documents evidencing that the requirements of Article 8.2(b) sub-paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA are being complied with.

Rule 22

- (a) Products sent from an exporting Party for exhibition in another Party and sold during or after the exhibition for importation into a Party shall benefit from the ASEAN-China preferential treatment on the condition that the products meet the requirements of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA provided it is shown to the satisfaction of the Customs Authority of the importing Party that:

- (i) an exporter has dispatched those products from the territory of the exporting Party to another Party where the exhibition is held and has exhibited them there;
- (ii) the exporter has sold the products or transferred them to a consignee in the importing Party; and
- (iii) the products have been consigned during the exhibition or immediately thereafter to the importing Party in the state in which they were sent for exhibition.

- (b) For purpose of implementing the above provisions, the Certificate of Origin (Form E) must be submitted to the Customs Authority of the importing Party. The name and address of the exhibition must be indicated, a certificate issued by the Issuing Authority of the Party where the exhibition took place together with supporting documents prescribed in Rule 21(d) of this Attachment may be required.

- (c) Paragraph (a) shall apply to any trade, agricultural or crafts exhibition, fair or similar show or display in shops or business premises with a view to the sale of foreign products and where the products remain under customs control during the exhibition.

Rule 23

The Customs Authority of the importing Party shall accept a Certificate of Origin (Form E) in cases where the sales invoice is issued either by a company located in a third country or by an ACFTA exporter for the account of the said company, provided that the product meets the requirements of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA. The invoice-issuing third party can be an ACFTA Party or non-ACFTA Party. The original invoice number or the third party invoice number shall be indicated in Box 10 of the Certificate of Origin (Form E), the exporter and consignee must be located in the Parties and the third party invoice shall be attached to the Certificate of Origin (Form E) when presenting the said Certificate of Origin (Form E) to the Customs Authority of the importing Party.

ACTION AGAINST FRAUDULENT ACTS

Rule 24

- (a) When it is suspected that fraudulent acts in connection with the Certificate of Origin (Form E) have been committed, the Government authorities of the Parties concerned shall co-operate in the action to be taken in the territory of the respective Parties against the persons involved.
- (b) Each Party shall be responsible for providing legal sanctions for fraudulent acts committed in relation to the Certificate of Origin (Form E) in accordance with its domestic laws, regulations and administrative rules.

Rule 25

In the case of a dispute concerning origin determination, classification of products or other matters, the Government authorities concerned in the importing and exporting Parties shall consult each other with a view to resolving the dispute, and the result shall be reported to the other Parties for information.

CONTACT POINTS

Rule 26

Each Party shall designate contact points to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of this Attachment.

ATTACHMENT B

PRODUCT SPECIFIC RULES

Preamble

For the purpose of Article 4: Product Specific Criteria of the Rules of Origin for the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ASEAN-China FTA) as set out in ANNEX 3 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and China, products which satisfy the Product Specific Rules set out herein shall be considered as goods which have undergone sufficient transformation, and hence shall be treated as the originating products of a Party in whose territory such transformation took place.

A country of origin of a product shall be a Party in whose territory the last sufficient transformation of that product was performed. As for a product whose production took place in the territories of two or more Parties, originating status shall be conferred on a Party in whose territory the last sufficient transformation took place.

A. Exclusive Rule/Criterion

The following product specific criteria shall be the sole criteria for determining the originating status of the following products. When applying for a Certificate of Origin Form E for these products, the exporter concerned can only use the product specific criteria as set out below:

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description | Origin Criteria |
|------------|------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 1517.90 | Margarine, edible mixtures or preparations of animal or vegetable fat or oils or of fractions of different fats or oils of this Chapter, other than edible fats or oils or their fractions of heading 15.16: - Other | Manufactured from fats or oil wholly obtained in either Party |
| 2 | 2105.00 | Ice cream and other edible ice, whether or not containing cocoa. | Change to subheading 2105.00 from any other chapter |
| 3 | 5103.20 | Waste of wool or of fine animal hair, not garneted stock | Obtained from sheep, lambs or other animals raised in either Party |
| 4 | 5103.30 | Waste of coarse animal hair, not garneted stock | Obtained from sheep, lambs or other animals raised in either Party |
| 5 | 5104.00 | Garneted stock of wool or of fine or coarse animal hair | Obtained from sheep, lambs or other animals raised in either Party |
| 6 | 5105.31 | Fine animal hair of Kashmir (cashmere) goats, carded or combed | Obtained from sheep, lambs or other animals raised in either Party |
| 7 | 5105.39 | Other fine animal hair, carded or combed | Obtained from sheep, lambs or other animals raised in either Party |
| 8 | 5105.40 | Coarse animal hair, carded or combed | Obtained from sheep, lambs or other animals raised in either Party |
| 9 | 7101.21 | - Cultured pearls: - Unworked | Wholly Obtained in the territory of exporting Party |
| 10 | 2901.10 | Saturated acyclic hydrocarbons | RVC40% |
| 11 | 2901.21 | Ethylene | RVC40% |
| 12 | 2901.22 | Propene (propylene) | RVC40% |
| 13 | 2901.23 | Butene (butylenes) and isomers thereof | RVC40% |
| 14 | 2901.24 | Buta-1,3-diene and isoprene | RVC40% |
| 15 | 2901.29 | Other acyclic hydrocarbons | RVC40% |
| 16 | 2902.11 | Cyclanes, cyclenes and cycloterpenes | RVC40% |
| 17 | 2902.19 | other | RVC40% |
| 18 | 2902.20 | Benzene | RVC40% |
| 19 | 2902.30 | Toluene | RVC40% |
| 20 | 2902.41 | o-Xylene | RVC40% |
| 21 | 2902.42 | m-Xylene | RVC40% |
| 22 | 2902.43 | p-Xylene | RVC40% |
| 23 | 2902.44 | Mixed xylene isomers | RVC40% |
| 24 | 2902.50 | Styrene | RVC40% |
| 25 | 2902.60 | Ethylbenzene | RVC40% |
| 26 | 2902.70 | Cumene | RVC40% |
| 27 | 2902.90 | Other | RVC40% |
| 28 | 3105.10 | Goods of this Chapter in tablets or similar forms or in packages of a gross weight not exceeding 10 kg | RVC40% |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description | Origin Criteria |
|------------|------------------|---|-----------------|
| 29 | 3105.20 | Mineral or chemical fertilisers containing the three fertilising elements nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium | RVC40% |
| 30 | 3105.30 | Diammonium hydrogenorthophosphate (diammonium phosphate) | RVC40% |
| 31 | 3105.40 | Ammonium dihydrogenorthophosphate (monoammonium phosphate) and mixtures thereof with diammonium hydrogenorthophosphate (diammonium phosphate) | RVC40% |
| 32 | 3105.51 | Containing nitrates and phosphates | RVC40% |
| 33 | 3105.59 | Other | RVC40% |
| 34 | 3105.60 | Mineral or chemical fertilisers containing the two fertilising elements phosphorus and potassium | RVC40% |
| 35 | 3105.90 | Other | RVC40% |
| 36 | 3901.10 | Polyethylene having a specific gravity of less than 0.94 | RVC40% |
| 37 | 3901.20 | Polyethylene having a specific gravity of 0.94 or more | RVC40% |
| 38 | 3901.30 | Ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers | RVC40% |
| 39 | 3901.90 | Other | RVC40% |
| 40 | 3902.10 | Polypropylene | RVC40% |
| 41 | 3902.20 | Polyisobutylene | RVC40% |
| 42 | 3902.30 | Propylene copolymers | RVC40% |
| 43 | 3902.90 | Other | RVC40% |
| 44 | 3903.11 | Expansible | RVC40% |
| 45 | 3903.19 | Other | RVC40% |
| 46 | 3903.20 | Styrene-acrylonitrile (SAN) copolymers | RVC40% |
| 47 | 3903.30 | Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) copolymers | RVC40% |
| 48 | 3903.90 | Other | RVC40% |
| 49 | 3907.10 | Polyacetals | RVC40% |
| 50 | 3907.20 | Other polyethers | RVC40% |
| 51 | 3907.30 | Epoxide resins | RVC40% |
| 52 | 3907.40 | Polycarbonates | RVC40% |
| 53 | 3907.50 | Alkyd resins | RVC40% |
| 54 | 3907.60 | Poly(ethylene terephthalate) | RVC40% |
| 55 | 3907.70 | Poly (lactic acid) | RVC40% |
| 56 | 3907.91 | Other polyesters : Unsaturated | RVC40% |
| 57 | 3907.99 | Other | RVC40% |
| 58 | 3908.10 | olyamide -6, -11, -12, -6,6, -6,9, -6,10, -6,12 | RVC40% |
| 59 | 3908.90 | Other | RVC40% |

B. Alternative Rules

The following criteria shall be applied as alternative rule to the general rule prescribed in Rule 4 of the ASEAN-China FTA Rules of Origin. When applying for a Certificate of Origin Form E, the exporter can use either the general rule prescribed in Rule 4 of the ASEAN-China FTA Rules of Origin or the Rules set out in this Attachment.

1. Change in Tariff Classification

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description | Origin Criteria |
|------------|------------------|---|---|
| 60 | 1604.11 | Fish, whole or in pieces, but not minced: Salmon | Change to subheading 1604.11 from any other chapter |
| 61 | 1604.12 | Fish, whole or in pieces, but not minced: Herrings | Change to subheading 1604.12 from any other chapter |
| 62 | 1604.13 | Fish, whole or in pieces, but not minced: Sardines, sardinella and brisling or sprats | Change to subheading 1604.13 from any other chapter |
| 63 | 1604.15 | Fish, whole or in pieces, but not minced: Mackerel | Change to subheading 1604.15 from any other chapter |
| 64 | 1604.16 | Fish, whole or in pieces, but not minced: Anchovies | Change to subheading 1604.16 from any other chapter |
| 65 | 1604.17 | Fish, whole or in pieces, but not minced: Eels | Change to subheading 1604.17 from any other chapter |
| 66 | 1604.19 | Fish, whole or in pieces, but not minced: Other | Change to subheading 1604.19 from any other chapter |
| 67 | 1604.20 | Other prepared or preserved fish | Change to subheading 1604.20 from any other chapter |
| 68 | 3006.10 | Sterile surgical catgut, similar sterile suture materials (including sterile absorbable surgical or dental yarns) and sterile tissue adhesives for surgical wound closure; sterile laminaria and sterile laminaria tents; sterile absorbable surgical or dental haemostatics; sterile surgical or dental adhesion barriers, whether or not absorbable | Change to subheading 3006.10 from any other heading |
| 69 | 4103.90 | Other raw hides and skins (fresh, or salted, dried, limed, pickled or otherwise preserved, but not tanned, parchment-dressed or further prepared), whether or not dehaired or split, other than those excluded by Note 1(b) or 1(c) to this Chapter: Other | Change to subheading 4103.90 from any other heading |
| 70 | 7218.10 | Ingots and other primary forms | Change to subheading 7218.10 from any other heading |
| 71 | 7218.91 | Other: Of rectangular (other than square) cross-section | Change to subheading 7218.91 from any other heading |
| 72 | 7218.99 | Other: Other | Change to subheading 7218.99 from any other heading |
| 73 | 7221.00 | Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of stainless steel | Change to subheading 7221.00 from any other heading |
| 74 | 7222.11 | Bars and rods, not further worked than hot-rolled, hot-drawn or extruded: Of circular cross-section | Change to subheading 7222.11 from any other heading |
| 75 | 7222.19 | Bars and rods, not further worked than hot-rolled, hot-drawn or extruded: Other | Change to subheading 7222.19 from any other heading |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description | Origin Criteria |
|------------|------------------|---|---|
| 76 | 7222.20 | Bars and rods, not further worked than cold-formed or cold-finished | Change to subheading 7222.20 from any other heading |
| 77 | 7222.30 | Other bars and rods | Change to subheading 7222.30 from any other heading |
| 78 | 7222.40 | Angles, shapes and sections | Change to subheading 7222.40 from any other heading |

2. Process Criterion for Textile and Textile Products - Working or Processing Carried Out on Non-Originating Materials that Confers Originating Status¹

(a) Fibres and Yarns

1. Manufacture through process of fibre-making (polymerisation, polycondensation and extrusion) spinning, twisting, texturizing or braiding from a blend or any of following:
 - Silk
 - Wool, fine/coarse animal hair
 - Cotton fibres
 - Vegetable textile fibres
 - Synthetic or artificial filaments/man-made filaments
 - Synthetic or artificial staple fibres/man-made staple fibres; or

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 79 | 5204.11 | Cotton sewing thread $\geq 85\%$ by weight of cotton, not put up for retail sale |
| 80 | 5204.19 | Cotton sewing thread, $<85\%$ by weight of cotton, not put up for retail sale |
| 81 | 5204.20 | Cotton sewing thread, put up for retail sale |
| 82 | 5205.11 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, uncombed, ≥ 714.29 dtex, not put up for retail sale |
| 83 | 5205.12 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, uncombed, $714.29 > \text{dtex} \geq 232.56$, not put up for retail sale |
| 84 | 5205.13 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, uncombed, $232.56 > \text{dtex} \geq 192.31$, not put up for retail sale |
| 85 | 5205.14 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, uncombed, $192.31 > \text{dtex} \geq 125$, not put up for retail sale |
| 86 | 5205.15 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, uncombed, < 125 dtex, not put up for retail sale |
| 87 | 5205.21 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, combed, ≥ 714.29 , not put up for retail sale |
| 88 | 5205.22 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, combed, $714.29 > \text{dtex} \geq 232.56$, not put up for retail sale |
| 89 | 5205.23 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, combed, $232.56 > \text{dtex} \geq 192.31$, not put up for retail sale |
| 90 | 5205.24 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, combed, $192.31 > \text{dtex} \geq 125$, not put up for retail sale |
| 91 | 5205.26 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, combed, $106.38 \leq \text{dtex} < 125$, not put up for retail sale |
| 92 | 5205.27 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, combed, $83.33 \leq \text{dtex} < 106.38$, not put up for retail sale |
| 93 | 5205.28 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, single, combed, < 83.33 dtex (>120 metric number), not put up for retail sale |
| 94 | 5205.31 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multi, uncombed, ≥ 714.29 dtex, not put up for retail sale |
| 95 | 5205.32 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multi, uncombed, $714.29 > \text{dtex} \geq 232.56$, not put up for retail sale |

¹ Products shall be considered as originating if they result exclusively from the processes and/or operations set out in this Attachment

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 96 | 5205.33 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multi, uncombed, $232.56 > \text{dtex} \geq 192.31$, not put up for retail sale |
| 97 | 5205.34 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multi, uncombed, $192.31 > \text{dtex} \geq 125$, not put up for retail sale |
| 98 | 5205.35 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multi, uncombed, $< 125 \text{ dtex}$, not put up for retail sale |
| 99 | 5205.41 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multiple, combed, $\geq 714.29 \text{ dtex}$, not put up for retail sale |
| 100 | 5205.42 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multi, combed, $714.29 > \text{dtex} \geq 232.56$, not put up for retail sale |
| 101 | 5205.43 | Cotton yarn; $\geq 85\%$, multi, combed, $232.56 > \text{dtex} \geq 192.31$, not put up for retail sale |
| 102 | 5205.44 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multiple, combed, $192.31 > \text{dtex} \geq 125$, not put up for retail sale |
| 103 | 5205.46 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multiple, combed, $106.38 \leq \text{dtex} < 125$, not put up for retail sale |
| 104 | 5205.47 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multiple, combed, $83.33 \leq \text{dtex} < 106.38$, not put up for retail sale |
| 105 | 5205.48 | Cotton yarn, $\geq 85\%$, multiple, combed, $< 83.33 \text{ dtex}$, not put up for retail sale |
| 106 | 5206.11 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, single, uncombed, ≥ 714.29 , not put up for retail sale |
| 107 | 5206.12 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, single, uncombed, $714.29 > \text{dtex} \geq 232.56$, not put up for retail sale |
| 108 | 5206.13 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, single, uncombed, $232.56 > \text{dtex} \geq 192.31$, not put up for retail sale |
| 109 | 5206.14 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, single, uncombed, $192.31 > \text{dtex} \geq 125$, not put up for retail sale |
| 110 | 5206.15 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, single, uncombed, $< 125 \text{ dtex}$, not put up for retail sale |
| 111 | 5206.21 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, single, combed, $\geq 714.29 \text{ dtex}$, not put up for retail sale |
| 112 | 5206.22 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, single, combed, $714.29 > \text{dtex} \geq 232.56$, not put up for retail sale |
| 113 | 5206.23 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, single, combed, $232.56 > \text{dtex} \geq 192.31$, not put up for retail sale |
| 114 | 5206.24 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, single, combed, $192.31 > \text{dtex} \geq 125$, not put up for retail sale |
| 115 | 5206.25 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, single, combed, $< 125 \text{ dtex}$, not put up for retail sale |
| 116 | 5206.31 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, multiple, uncombed, ≥ 714.29 , not put up for retail sale |
| 117 | 5206.32 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, multiple, uncombed, $714.29 > \text{dtex} \geq 232.56$, not put up for retail sale |
| 118 | 5206.33 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, multiple, uncombed, $232.56 > \text{dtex} \geq 192.31$, not put up for retail sale |
| 119 | 5206.34 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, multiple, uncombed, $192.31 > \text{dtex} \geq 125$, not put up for retail sale |
| 120 | 5206.35 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, multiple, uncombed, $< 125 \text{ dtex}$, not put up for retail sale |
| 121 | 5206.41 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, multiple, combed, ≥ 714.29 , not put up for retail sale |
| 122 | 5206.42 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, multiple, combed, $714.29 > \text{dtex} \geq 232.56$, not put up for retail sale |
| 123 | 5206.43 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, multiple, combed, $232.56 > \text{dtex} \geq 192.31$, not put up for retail sale |
| 124 | 5206.44 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, multiple, combed, $192.31 > \text{dtex} \geq 125$, not put up for retail sale |
| 125 | 5206.45 | Cotton yarn, $< 85\%$, multiple, combed, $< 125 \text{ dtex}$, not put up for retail sale |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|--|
| 126 | 5207.10 | Cotton yarn (other than sewing thread) \geq 85% by weight of cotton put up for retail sale |
| 127 | 5207.90 | Cotton yarn (other than sewing thread) $<$ 85% by weight of cotton. put up for retail sale |

(b) Fabric/Carpets And Other Textile Floor Coverings; Special Yarns, twine, cordage and ropes and cables and articles thereof.

1. Manufacture from:

- Polymer (non-woven)
- Fibres (non-woven)
- Yarns (fabrics)
- Raw or Unbleached Fabrics (finished fabrics)

through substantial transformation process of either:

- needle punching / spin bonding / chemical bonding
- weaving or knitting;
- crocheting or wadding or tufting; or
- dyeing or printing and finishing; or impregnation, coating, covering or lamination.

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 128 | 5208.11 | Plain weave cotton fabric, \geq 85%, not more than 100 g/m ² , unbleached |
| 129 | 5208.12 | Plain weave cotton fabric, \geq 85%, $>$ 100 g/m ² to 200 g/m ² , unbleached |
| 130 | 5208.13 | Twill weave cotton fabric, \geq 85%, not more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached |
| 131 | 5208.19 | Woven fabrics of cotton, \geq 85%, not more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached, nes |
| 132 | 5208.21 | Plain weave cotton fabrics, \geq 85%, not more than 100g/m ² , bleached |
| 133 | 5208.22 | Plain weave cotton fabric, \geq 85%, $>$ 100 g/m ² to 200 g/m ² , bleached |
| 134 | 5208.23 | Twill weave cotton fabric, \geq 85%, not more than 200g/m ² , bleached |
| 135 | 5208.29 | Woven fabrics of cotton, \geq 85%, not more than 200 g/m ² , bleached, nes |
| 136 | 5208.41 | Plain weave cotton fabric, \geq 85%, not more than 100 g/m ² , yarns of different colours |
| 137 | 5208.42 | Plain weave cotton fabrics, \geq 85%, $>$ 100 g/m ² to 200 g/m ² , yarns of different colours |
| 138 | 5208.43 | Twill weave cotton fabric, \geq 85%, not more than 200 g/m ² , yarns of different colours |
| 139 | 5208.49 | Woven fabrics of cotton, \geq 85%, not more than 200 g/m ² , yarns of different colours, nes |
| 140 | 5209.11 | Plain weave cotton fabric, \geq 85%, more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached |
| 141 | 5209.12 | Twill weave cotton fabric, \geq 85%, more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached |
| 142 | 5209.19 | Woven fabrics of cotton, \geq 85%, more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached, nes |
| 143 | 5209.21 | Plain weave cotton fabric, \geq 85%, more than 200 g/m ² , bleached |
| 144 | 5209.22 | Twill weave cotton fabrics, \geq 85%, more than 200 g/m ² , bleached |
| 145 | 5209.29 | Woven fabrics of cotton, \geq 85%, more than 200 g/m ² , bleached, nes |
| 146 | 5209.41 | Plain weave cotton fabrics, \geq 85%, more than 200 g/m ² , yarns of different colours |
| 147 | 5209.42 | Denim fabrics of cotton, \geq 85%, more than 200 g/m ² |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 148 | 5209.43 | Twill weave cotton fab, other than denim, $\geq 85\%$, more than 200 g/m ² , yarns of different colours |
| 149 | 5209.49 | Woven fabrics of cotton, $\geq 85\%$, more than 200 g/m ² , yarns of different colours, nes |
| 150 | 5210.11 | Plain weave cotton fab, $< 85\%$ mixd w m-m fib, not more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached |
| 151 | 5210.19 | Woven fab of cotton, $< 85\%$ mixd with m-m fib, ≤ 200 g/m ² , unbleached, nes |
| 152 | 5210.21 | Plain weave cotton fab, $< 85\%$ mixd w m-m fib, not more than 200 g/m ² , bleached |
| 153 | 5210.29 | Woven fabrics of cotton, $< 85\%$ mixd with m-m fib, ≤ 200 g/m ² , bleached, nes |
| 154 | 5210.41 | Plain weave cotton fab, $< 85\%$ mixd w m-m fib, not more than 200g/m ² yarns of different colours |
| 155 | 5210.49 | Woven fabrics of cotton. $< 85\%$ mixd with m-m fib, ≤ 200 g/m ² , yarns of different colours, nes |
| 156 | 5211.11 | Plain weave cotton fab, $< 85\%$ mixd w m-m fib, more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached |
| 157 | 5211.12 | Twill weave cotton fab. $< 85\%$ mixed w m-m fib. more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached |
| 158 | 5211.19 | Woven fabrics of cotton, $< 85\%$ mixd with m-m fib, more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached, nes |
| 159 | 5211.20 | Woven fabrics of cotton, $< 85\%$ mixd with m-m fib, more than 200 g/m ² . bleached |
| 160 | 5211.41 | Plain weave cotton fab, $< 85\%$ mixd w m-m fib, more than 200 g/m ² , yarns of different colours |
| 161 | 5211.42 | Denim fabrics of cotton, $< 85\%$ mixed with m-m fib, more than 200 g/m ² |
| 162 | 5211.43 | Twill weave cotton fab, $< 85\%$ mixd w m-m fib, > 200 g/m ² , yarn of different colours |
| 163 | 5211.49 | Woven fabrics of cotton, $< 85\%$ mixd with m-m fib, > 200 g/m ² . yarns of other colors. nes |
| 164 | 5212.11 | Woven fabrics of cotton, weighing not more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached, nes |
| 165 | 5212.12 | Woven fabrics of cotton, weighing not more than 200 g/m ² , bleached, nes |
| 166 | 5212.14 | Woven fabrics of cotton, ≤ 200 g/m ² . of yarns of different colours, nes |
| 167 | 5212.21 | Woven fabrics of cotton, weighing more than 200 g/m ² , unbleached, nes |
| 168 | 5212.22 | Woven fabrics of cotton, weighing more than 200 g/m ² . bleached, nes |
| 169 | 5212.24 | Woven fabrics of cotton, > 200 g/m ² , of yarns of different colours, nes |
| 170 | 6001.10 | Long pile knitted or crocheted fabrics |
| 171 | 6001.21 | Looped pile knitted or crocheted fabrics, of cotton |
| 172 | 6001.22 | Looped pile knitted or crocheted fabrics, of manmade fibres |
| 173 | 6001.29 | Looped pile knitted or crocheted fabrics, of other textile materials |
| 174 | 6002.40 | Knitted or crocheted fab, w ≤ 30 cm, $\geq 5\%$ of elastomeric, not containing rubber thread |
| 175 | 6002.90 | Knitted or crocheted textile fab, w ≤ 30 cm, $\geq 5\%$ of elastomeric, containing rubber thread |
| 176 | 6003.10 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, w ≤ 30 cm, of wool or fine animal hair |
| 177 | 6003.20 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, w ≤ 30 cm, of cotton |
| 178 | 6003.30 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, w ≤ 30 cm, of synthetic fibres |
| 179 | 6003.40 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, w ≤ 30 cm, of artificial fibres |
| 180 | 6003.90 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, w ≤ 30 cm, of nes |
| 181 | 6004.10 | Knitted or crocheted textile fab, w > 30 cm, $\geq 5\%$ of elastomeric, not containing rubber thread |
| 182 | 6004.90 | Knitted or crocheted textile fab, w > 30 cm, $\geq 5\%$ of elastomeric, containing rubber thread |
| 183 | 6005.21 | Warp knitted fabrics, of unbleached or bleached cotton, nes |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|--|
| 184 | 6005.22 | Warp knitted fabrics, of dyed cotton, nes |
| 185 | 6005.23 | Warp knitted fabrics, of yarn of different colours cotton, nes |
| 186 | 6005.24 | Warp knitted fabrics, of printed cotton, nes |
| 187 | 6005.31 | Warp knitted fabrics, of unbleached or bleached synthetic fibres, nes |
| 188 | 6005.32 | Warp knitted fabrics, of dyed synthetic fibres, nes |
| 189 | 6005.33 | Warp knitted fabrics, of yarn of different colours synthetic fibres, nes |
| 190 | 6005.41 | Warp knitted fabrics, of unbleached or bleached artificial fibres, nes |
| 191 | 6005.42 | Warp knitted fabrics, of dyed artificial fibres, nes |
| 192 | 6005.43 | Warp knitted fabrics, of yarn of different colours artificial fibres, nes |
| 193 | 6005.44 | Warp knitted fabrics, of printed artificial fibres, nes |
| 194 | 6005.90 | Warp knitted fabrics, of other materials, nes |
| 195 | 6006.10 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, of wool or of fine animal hair, nes |
| 196 | 6006.31 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, of unbleached or bleached synthetic fibres, nes |
| 197 | 6006.32 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, of dyed synthetic fibres, nes |
| 198 | 6006.33 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, of yarn of different colours of synthetic fibres, nes |
| 199 | 6006.34 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, of printed synthetic fibres, nes |
| 200 | 6006.41 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, of unbleached or bleached artificial fibres, nes |
| 201 | 6006.42 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, of dyed artificial fibres, nes |
| 202 | 6006.43 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, of yarn of different colours of artificial fibres, nes |
| 203 | 6006.44 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, of printed artificial fibres, nes |
| 204 | 6006.90 | Knitted or crocheted fabrics, of other materials, nes |

(c) Article of Apparel and Clothing Accessories and Other Made Up Textile Articles

1. a. Manufacture through the processes of cutting and assembly of parts into a complete article (for apparel and tents) and incorporating embroidery or embellishment or printing (for made-up articles) from:
 - raw or unbleached fabric
 - finished fabric;

OR

- b. Undergo a change in tariff classification (hereinafter referred to as “CTC”) at four-digit level, which is a change in tariff heading, of the Harmonized System

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|--|
| 205 | 6101.20 | Men's/boys' overcoats, anoraks, etc of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 206 | 6101.30 | Men's/boys' overcoats, anoraks etc, of manmade fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 207 | 6101.90 | Men's/boys' overcoats, anoraks etc, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 208 | 6102.10 | Women's/girls' overcoats, anoraks etc, of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted |
| 209 | 6102.20 | Women's/girls' overcoats, anoraks etc, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 210 | 6102.30 | Women's/girls' overcoats, anoraks etc, of manmade fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 211 | 6102.90 | Women's/girls' overcoats, anoraks etc, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 212 | 6103.10 | Men's/boys' suits, knitted or crocheted |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 213 | 6103.22 | Men's/boys' ensembles, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 214 | 6103.23 | Men's/boyss ensembles, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 215 | 6103.29 | Men's/boys' ensembles, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 216 | 6103.31 | Men's/boys' jackets and blazers, of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted |
| 217 | 6103.32 | Men's/boys' jackets and blazers, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 218 | 6103.33 | Men's/boys' jackets and blazers, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 219 | 6103.39 | Men's/boys' jackets and blazers, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 220 | 6103.41 | Men's/boys' trousers and shorts, of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted |
| 221 | 6103.42 | Men's/boys' trousers and shorts, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 222 | 6103.43 | Men's/boys' trousers and shorts, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 223 | 6103.49 | Men's/boys' trousers and shorts, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 224 | 6104.13 | Women's/girls' suits, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 225 | 6104.19 | Women's/girls suits', of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 226 | 6104.22 | Women's/girls' ensembles, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 227 | 6104.23 | Women's/girls' ensembles, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 228 | 6104.29 | Women's/girls' ensembles, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 229 | 6104.31 | Women's/girls' jackets, of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted |
| 230 | 6104.32 | Women's/girls' jackets, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 231 | 6104.33 | Women's/girls' jackets, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 232 | 6104.39 | Women's/girls' jackets, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 233 | 6104.41 | Women's/girls' dresses, of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted |
| 234 | 6104.42 | Women's/girls' dresses, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 235 | 6104.43 | Women's/girls' dresses, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 236 | 6104.44 | Women's/girls' dresses, of artificial fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 237 | 6104.49 | Women's/girls' dresses, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 238 | 6104.51 | Women's/girls' skirts, of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted |
| 239 | 6104.52 | Women's/girls' skirts, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 240 | 6104.53 | Women's/girls' skirts, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 241 | 6104.59 | Women's/girls' skirts, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 242 | 6104.61 | Women's/girls' trousers and shorts, of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted |
| 243 | 6104.62 | Women's/girls' trousers and shorts, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 244 | 6104.63 | Women's/girls' trousers and shorts, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 245 | 6104.69 | Women's/girls' trousers and shorts, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 246 | 6105.10 | Men's/boys' shirts, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 247 | 6105.20 | Men's/boys' shirts, of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 248 | 6105.90 | Men's/boys' shirts, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 249 | 6106.10 | Women's/girls' blouses and shirts, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 250 | 6106.20 | Women's/girls' blouses and shirts, of manmade fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 251 | 6106.90 | Women's/girls' blouses and shirts, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 252 | 6107.11 | Men's/boy's underpants and briefs, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 253 | 6107.12 | Men's/boys' underpants and briefs, of manmade fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 254 | 6107.19 | Men's/boys' underpants and briefs, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 255 | 6107.21 | Men's/boys' nightshirts and pyjamas, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 256 | 6107.22 | Men's/boys' nightshirts and pyjamas, of manmade fibres, knitted or crocheted |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 257 | 6107.29 | Men's/boys' nightshirts and pyjamas, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 258 | 6107.91 | Men's/boys' bathrobes, dressing gowns etc of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 259 | 6107.99 | Men's/boys' bathrobes, dressing gowns etc of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 260 | 6108.11 | Women's/girls' slips and petticoats, of manmade fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 261 | 6108.19 | Women's/girls' slips and petticoats, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 262 | 6108.21 | Women's/girls' briefs and panties, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 263 | 6108.22 | Women's/girls' briefs and panties, of manmade fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 264 | 6108.29 | Women's/girls' briefs and panties, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 265 | 6108.31 | Women's/girls' nightdresses and pyjamas, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 266 | 6108.32 | Women's/girls' nightdresses and pyjamas, of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 267 | 6108.39 | Women's/girls' nightdresses and pyjamas, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 268 | 6108.91 | Women's/girls' bathrobes, dressing gowns, etc, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 269 | 6108.92 | Women's/girls' bathrobes, dressing gowns, etc, of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 270 | 6108.99 | Women's/girls' bathrobes, dressing gowns etc, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 271 | 6109.10 | T-shirts, singlets and other vests, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 272 | 6109.90 | T-shirts, singlets and other vests, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 273 | 6110.11 | Pullovers, cardigans & similar article of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted: of wool |
| 274 | 6110.12 | Pullovers, cardigans & similar article of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted: of kashmir (cashmere) goats |
| 275 | 6110.19 | Pullovers, cardigans & similar article of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted: of other animal hair |
| 276 | 6110.20 | Pullovers, cardigans & similar articles of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 277 | 6110.30 | Pullovers, cardigans & similar articles of manmade fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 278 | 6110.90 | Pullovers, cardigans & similar articles of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 279 | 6111.20 | Babies' garments & clothing accessories of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 280 | 6111.30 | Babies' garments & clothing accessories of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 281 | 6111.90 | Babies garments & clothing accessories of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 282 | 6112.11 | Track suits, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 283 | 6112.12 | Track suits, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 284 | 6112.19 | Track suits, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 285 | 6112.20 | Ski suits, of textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 286 | 6112.31 | Men's/boy's swimwear, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 287 | 6112.39 | Men's/boys' swimwear, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 288 | 6112.41 | Women's/girls' swimwear, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 289 | 6112.49 | Women's/girls' swimwear, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 290 | 6113.00 | Garments made up of impregnated, coated, covered or laminated textile fabrics or textile fabrics otherwise impregnated, coated or covered, knitted or crocheted |
| 291 | 6114.20 | Garments nes, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 292 | 6114.30 | Garments nes, of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 293 | 6114.90 | Garments nes, of other textile materials knitted or crocheted |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 294 | 6115.10 | Graduated compression hosiery (for example, stockings for varicose veins) |
| 295 | 6115.21 | Panty hose & tights, of synthetic fibre yarns <67 dtex/single yarn knitted or crocheted |
| 296 | 6115.22 | Panty hose & tights, of synthetic fibre yarns ≥67 dtex/single yarn knitted or crocheted |
| 297 | 6115.29 | Panty hose & tights, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 298 | 6115.30 | Women full/knee-length hosiery, of textile yarn < 67 dtex/single yarn knitted or crocheted |
| 299 | 6115.94 | Hosiery nes, of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted |
| 300 | 6115.95 | Hosiery nes, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 301 | 6115.96 | Hosiery nes, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 302 | 6115.99 | Hosiery nes, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 303 | 6116.10 | Gloves impregnated, coated or covered with plastics or rubber, knitted or crocheted |
| 304 | 6116.91 | Gloves, mittens and mitts, nes, of wool or fine animal hair, knitted or crocheted |
| 305 | 6116.92 | Gloves, mittens and mitts, nes, of cotton, knitted or crocheted |
| 306 | 6116.93 | Gloves, mittens and mitts, nes, of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted |
| 307 | 6116.99 | Gloves, mittens and mitts, nes, of other textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 308 | 6117.10 | Shawls, scarves, veils and the like, of textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 309 | 6117.80 | Clothing accessories nes, of textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 310 | 6117.90 | Parts of garments/of clothing accessories, of textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 311 | 6201.11 | Men's/boys' overcoats & similar articles of wool/fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 312 | 6201.12 | Men's/boys' overcoats & similar articles of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 313 | 6201.13 | Men's/boys' overcoats & similar articles of man-made fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 314 | 6201.19 | Men's/boys' overcoats & similar articles of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 315 | 6201.91 | Men's/boys' anoraks & similar articles of wool/fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 316 | 6201.92 | Men's/boys' anoraks & similar articles of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 317 | 6201.93 | Men's/boys' anoraks & similar articles of manmade fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 318 | 6201.99 | Men's/boys' anoraks & similar articles of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 319 | 6202.11 | Women's/girls' over coats & similar articles of wool/fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 320 | 6202.12 | Women's/girls' overcoats & similar articles of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 321 | 6202.13 | Women's/girls' over coats & similar articles of man-made fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 322 | 6202.19 | Women's/girls' over coats & similar articles of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 323 | 6202.91 | Women's/girls' anoraks & similar articles of wool/fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 324 | 6202.92 | Women's/girls' anoraks & similar articles of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 325 | 6202.93 | Women's/girls' anoraks & similar articles of man-made fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 326 | 6202.99 | Women's/girls' anoraks & similar articles of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 327 | 6203.11 | Men's/boys' suits, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 328 | 6203.12 | Men's/boys' suits, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 329 | 6203.19 | Men's/boys' suits, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 330 | 6203.22 | Men's/boys' ensembles, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 331 | 6203.23 | Men's/boys' ensembles, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 332 | 6203.29 | Men's/boys' ensembles, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 333 | 6203.31 | Men's/boys' jackets and blazers, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 334 | 6203.32 | Men's/boys' jackets and blazers, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 335 | 6203.33 | Men's/boys' jackets and blazers, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 336 | 6203.39 | Men's/boys' jackets and blazers, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 337 | 6203.41 | Men's/boys' trousers and shorts, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 338 | 6203.42 | Men's/boys' trousers and shorts, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 339 | 6203.43 | Men's/boys' trousers and shorts, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 340 | 6203.49 | Men's/boys' trousers and shorts, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 341 | 6204.11 | Women's/girls' suits, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 342 | 6204.12 | Women's/girls' suits, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 343 | 6204.13 | Women's/girls' suits, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 344 | 6204.19 | Women's/girls' suits, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 345 | 6204.21 | Women's/girls' ensembles, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 346 | 6204.22 | Women's/girls' ensembles, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 347 | 6204.23 | Women's/girls' ensembles, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 348 | 6204.29 | Women's/girls' ensembles, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 349 | 6204.31 | Women's/girls' jackets, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 350 | 6204.32 | Women's/girls' jackets, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 351 | 6204.33 | Women's/girls' jackets, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 352 | 6204.39 | Women's/girls' jackets, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 353 | 6204.41 | Women's/girls' dresses, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 354 | 6204.42 | Women's/girls' dresses, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 355 | 6204.43 | Women's/girls' dresses, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 356 | 6204.44 | Women's/girls' dresses, of artificial fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 357 | 6204.49 | Women's/girls' dresses, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 358 | 6204.51 | Women's/girls' skirts, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 359 | 6204.52 | Women's/girls' skirts, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 360 | 6204.53 | Women's/girls' skirts, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 361 | 6204.59 | Women's/girls' skirts, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 362 | 6204.61 | Women's/girls' trousers & shorts, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 363 | 6204.62 | Women's/girls' trousers and shorts, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 364 | 6204.63 | Women's/girls' trousers and shorts, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 365 | 6204.69 | Women's/girls' trousers & shorts, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 366 | 6205.20 | Men's/boys' shirts, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 367 | 6205.30 | Men's/boys' shirts, of man-made fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 368 | 6205.90 | Men's/boys' shirts, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 369 | 6206.10 | Women's/girls' blouses and shirts, of silk or silk waste, not knitted or crocheted |
| 370 | 6206.20 | Women's/girls' blouses & shirts, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |
| 371 | 6206.30 | Women's/girls' blouses and shirts, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 372 | 6206.40 | Women's/girls' blouses and shirts, of manmade fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 373 | 6206.90 | Women's/girls' blouses and shirts, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 374 | 6207.11 | Men's/boys' underpants and briefs, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 375 | 6207.19 | Men's/boys' underpants and briefs, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 376 | 6207.21 | Men's/boys' nightshirts and pyjamas, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 377 | 6207.22 | Men's/boys' nightshirts and pyjamas, of manmade fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 378 | 6207.29 | Men's/boys' nightshirts & pyjamas, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 379 | 6207.91 | Men's/boys' bathrobes, dressing gowns, etc, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 380 | 6207.99 | Men's/boys' bathrobes, dressing gowns etc, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 381 | 6208.11 | Women's/girls' slips and petticoats, of manmade fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 382 | 6208.19 | Women's/girls' slips & petticoats, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 383 | 6208.21 | Women's/girls' nightdresses and pyjamas, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 384 | 6208.22 | Women's/girls' nightdresses and pyjamas, of man-made fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 385 | 6208.29 | Women's/girls' nightdresses & pyjamas, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 386 | 6208.91 | Women's/girls' panties, bathrobes, etc, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 387 | 6208.92 | Women's/girls' panties, bathrobes, etc, of manmade fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 388 | 6208.99 | Women's/girls' panties, bathrobes, etc of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 389 | 6209.20 | Babies' garments & clothing accessories, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 390 | 6209.30 | Babies' garments & clothing accessories, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 391 | 6209.90 | Babies' garments & clothing accessories, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 392 | 6210.10 | Garments made up of felt or of nonwoven textile fabrics |
| 393 | 6210.20 | Men's/boys' overcoats & similar articles of impreg.ctd.cov etc.textile woven fab |
| 394 | 6210.30 | Women's/girls' overcoats & similar articles of impreg, ctd, cov etc, textile woven fab |
| 395 | 6210.40 | Men's/boys' garments nes, made up of impreg, ctd, cov, etc. tex woven fab |
| 396 | 6210.50 | Women's/girls' garments nes, of impreg, ctd, cov etc, textile woven fab |
| 397 | 6211.11 | Men's/boys' swimwear, of textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 398 | 6211.12 | Women's/girls' swimwear, of textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 399 | 6211.20 | Ski suits, of textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 400 | 6211.32 | Mens/boys garments nes, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 401 | 6211.33 | Men's/boys' garments nes, of man-made fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 402 | 6211.39 | Men's/boys' garments nes, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 403 | 6211.42 | Women's/girls' garments nes, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 404 | 6211.43 | Women's/girls' garments nes, of man-made fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 405 | 6211.49 | Women's/girls' garments nes, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 406 | 6212.10 | Brassieres and part thereof, of textile materials |
| 407 | 6212.20 | Girdles, panty girdles and parts thereof, of textile materials |
| 408 | 6212.30 | Corselettes and parts thereof, of textile materials |
| 409 | 6212.90 | Corsets, braces & similar articles & parts thereof, of textile materials |
| 410 | 6213.20 | Handkerchiefs, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 411 | 6213.90 | Handkerchiefs, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 412 | 6214.10 | Shawls, scarves, veils and the like, of silk or silk waste, not knitted or crocheted |
| 413 | 6214.20 | Shawls, scarves, veils & the like, of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|--|
| 414 | 6214.30 | Shawls, scarves, veils and the like, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 415 | 6214.40 | Shawls, scarves, veils and the like, of artificial fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 416 | 6214.90 | Shawls, scarves, veils & the like, of other textile materials fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 417 | 6215.10 | Ties, bow ties and cravats, of silk or silk waste, not knitted or crocheted |
| 418 | 6215.20 | Ties, bow ties and cravats, of man-made fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 419 | 6215.90 | Ties, bow ties and cravats, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 420 | 6216.00 | Gloves, mittens and mitts, of textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 421 | 6217.10 | Clothing accessories nes, of textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 422 | 6217.90 | Parts of garments or of clothing accessories nes, of textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 423 | 9619.00* | Sanitary towels (pads) and tampons, napkins and napkin liners for babies and similar articles, of any material |

*The rule of origin for HS 9619.00 is a result of the transposition from HS 2007 to HS 2012.

2. Manufactured through the processes of cutting and assembly of parts into a complete article (for apparel and tents) and incorporating embroidery or embellishment or printing (for made-up articles) from:

- raw or unbleached fabric
- finished fabric;

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 424 | 6301.10 | Electric blankets, of textile materials |
| 425 | 6301.20 | Blankets (other than electric) & travelling rugs, of wool or fine animal hair |
| 426 | 6301.30 | Blankets (other than electric) and travelling rugs, of cotton |
| 427 | 6301.40 | Blankets (other than electric) and travelling rugs of synthetic fibres |
| 428 | 6301.90 | Blankets (other than electric) and travelling rugs of other textile materials |
| 429 | 6302.10 | Bed linen, of textile knitted or crocheted materials |
| 430 | 6302.21 | Bed linen, of cotton, printed, not knitted or crocheted |
| 431 | 6302.22 | Bed linen, of man-made fibres, printed, not knitted or crocheted |
| 432 | 6302.29 | Bed linen, of other textile materials, printed, not knitted or crocheted |
| 433 | 6302.31 | Bed linen, of cotton, nes |
| 434 | 6302.32 | Bed linen, of man-made fibres, nes |
| 435 | 6302.39 | Bed linen, of other textile materials, nes |
| 436 | 6302.40 | Table linen, of textile knitted or crocheted materials |
| 437 | 6302.51 | Table linen, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 438 | 6302.53 | Table linen, of man-made fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 439 | 6302.59 | Table linen, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 440 | 6302.60 | Toilet & kitchen linen, of terry towelling or similar terry fab, of cotton |
| 441 | 6302.91 | Toilet and kitchen linen, of cotton, nes |
| 442 | 6302.93 | Toilet and kitchen linen, of man-made fibres |
| 443 | 6302.99 | Toilet and kitchen linen, of other textile materials |
| 444 | 6303.12 | Curtains, drapes, interior blinds & curtain or bed valances, of synthetic fib, knitted or crocheted |
| 445 | 6303.19 | Curtains, drapes, interior blinds & curtain or bed valances, of other textile, material, knitted or crocheted |

| Serial No. | HS Code (HS2012) | Product Description |
|------------|------------------|---|
| 446 | 6303.91 | Curtains, drapes, interior blinds & curtain or bed valances, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 447 | 6303.92 | Curtains, drapes, interior blinds & curtain or bed valances, of synthetic fib, not knitted or crocheted |
| 448 | 6303.99 | Curtains, drapes, interior blinds & curtain or bed valance, of other textile material, not knitted or crocheted |
| 449 | 6304.11 | Bedspreads of textile materials, nes, knitted or crocheted |
| 450 | 6304.19 | Bedspreads of textile materials, nes, not knitted or crocheted |
| 451 | 6304.91 | Furnishing articles nes, of textile materials, knitted or crocheted |
| 452 | 6304.92 | Furnishing articles nes, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted |
| 453 | 6304.93 | Furnishing articles nes, of synthetic fibres, not knitted or crocheted |
| 454 | 6304.99 | Furnishing articles nes, of other textile materials, not knitted or crocheted |
| 455 | 6305.10 | Sacks & bags, for packing of goods, of jute or of other textile bast fibres |
| 456 | 6305.20 | Sacks and bags, for packing of goods, of cotton |
| 457 | 6305.32 | Sacks & bags, for packing of goods, flexible intermediate bulk containers of man-made textile materials |
| 458 | 6305.33 | Sacks & bags, for packing of goods, of polyethylene or polypropylene strips |
| 459 | 6305.39 | Sacks & bags, for packing of goods, of other man-made textile materials |
| 460 | 6305.90 | Sacks and bags, for packing of goods, of other textile materials |
| 461 | 6306.12 | Tarpaulins, awnings and sunblinds, of synthetic fibres |
| 462 | 6306.19 | Tarpaulins, awnings and sunblinds, of other textile materials |
| 463 | 6306.22 | Tents, of synthetic fibres |
| 464 | 6306.29 | Tents, of other textile materials |
| 465 | 6306.30 | Sails |
| 466 | 6306.40 | Pneumatic mattresses |
| 467 | 6306.90 | Camping goods nes, of textile materials |
| 468 | 6307.10 | Floor-cloths, dish-cloths, dusters & similar cleaning cloths, of textile material |
| 469 | 6307.20 | Life jackets and life belts, of textile materials |
| 470 | 6307.90 | Made up articles, of textile materials, nes, including dress patterns |
| 471 | 6308.00 | Sets consisting of woven fab & yarn, for making up into rugs, tapestries etc |
| 472 | 6309.00 | Worn clothing and other worn articles |

Original (Duplicate/Triplicate)

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Products consigned from (Exporter's business name, address, country) | | | Reference No. ASEAN-CHINA FREE TRADE AREA PREFERENTIAL TARIFF CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN (Combined Declaration and Certificate) FORM E Issued in _____ (Country) See Overleaf Notes | | |
| 2. Products consigned to (Consignee's name, address, country) | | | | | |
| 3. Means of transport and route (as far as known) Departure date Vessel's name/Aircraft etc. Port of Discharge | | | 4. For Official Use <input type="checkbox"/> Preferential Treatment Given <input type="checkbox"/> Preferential Treatment Not Given (Please state reason/s) Signature of Authorised Signatory of the Importing Party | | |
| 5. Item number | 6. Marks and numbers on packages | 7. Number and type of packages, description of products (including quantity where appropriate and HS number of the importing Party) | 8. Origin criteria (see Overleaf Notes) | 9. Gross weight or other quantity and value (FOB) | 10. Number and date of invoices |
| | | | | | |
| 11. Declaration by the exporter The undersigned hereby declares that the above details and statement are correct; that all the products were produced in (Country) and that they comply with the origin requirements specified for these products in the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA for the products exported to (Importing Country) Place and date, signature of authorised signatory | | | 12. Certification It is hereby certified, on the basis of control carried out, that the declaration by the exporter is correct. Place and date, signature and stamp of certifying authority | | |
| 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Issued Retroactively <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition <input type="checkbox"/> Movement Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Third Party Invoicing | | | | | |

OVERLEAF NOTES

1. Parties which accept this form for the purpose of preferential treatment under the ASEAN-CHINA Free Trade Area Preferential Tariff:

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM CAMBODIA
 INDONESIA LAOS
 MYANMAR PHILIPPINES
 THAILAND VIETNAM

CHINA
 MALAYSIA
 SINGAPORE

2. **CONDITIONS:** The main conditions for admission to the preferential treatment under the ACFTA Preferential Tariff are that products sent to any Parties listed above:

- (i) Must fall within a description of products eligible for concessions in the country of destination;
- (ii) Must comply with the consignment conditions that the products must be consigned directly from any ACFTA Party to the importing Party but transport that involves passing through one or more intermediate non-ACFTA Parties, is also accepted provided that any intermediate transit, transshipment or temporary storage arises only for geographic reasons or transportation requirements; and
- (iii) Must comply with the origin criteria given in the next paragraph.

3. **ORIGIN CRITERIA:** For exports to the above mentioned countries to be eligible for preferential treatment, the requirement is that either:

- (i) The products wholly obtained in the exporting Party as defined in Rule 3 of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA;
- (ii) Subject to sub-paragraph (i) above, for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Rule 2 (b) of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA, products worked on and processed as a result of which the total value of the materials, parts or produce originating from non-ACFTA Parties or of undetermined origin used does not exceed 60% of the FOB value of the product produced or obtained and the final

process of the manufacture is performed within territory of the exporting Party;

- (iii) Products which comply with origin requirements provided for in Rule 2 of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA and which are used in a Party as inputs for a finished product eligible for preferential treatment in another Party/Parties shall be considered as a product originating in the Party where working or processing of the finished product has taken place provided that the aggregate ACFTA content of the final product is not less than 40%; or
- (iv) Products which satisfy the Product Specific Rules provided for in Attachment B of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA shall be considered as products to which sufficient transformation has been carried out in a Party.

If the products qualify under the above criteria, the exporter must indicate in Box 8 of this form the origin criteria on the basis of which he claims that his products qualify for preferential treatment, in the manner shown in the following table:

| Circumstances of production or manufacture in the first country named in Box 11 of this form | Insert in Box 8 |
|---|---|
| (a) Products wholly produced in the country of exportation (see paragraph 3 (i) above) | "WO" |
| (b) Products worked upon but not wholly produced in the exporting Party which were produced in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 3 (ii) above | Percentage of single country content, example 40% |

| | |
|--|---|
| (c) Products worked upon but not wholly produced in the exporting Party which were produced in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 3 (iii) above | Percentage of ACFTA cumulative content, example 40% |
| (d) Products satisfied the Product Specific Rules (PSR) | "PSR" |

4. EACH ARTICLE MUST QUALIFY: It should be noted that all the products in a consignment must qualify separately in their own right. This is of particular relevance when similar articles of different sizes or spare parts are sent.
5. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCTS: The description of products must be sufficiently detailed to enable the products to be identified by the Customs Officers examining them. Name of manufacturer, any trade mark shall also be specified.
6. The Harmonised System number shall be that of the importing Party.
7. The term "Exporter" in Box 11 may include the manufacturer or the producer. In the case of MC the term "Exporter" also includes the exporter in the intermediate Party,
8. FOR OFFICIAL USE: The Customs Authority of the importing Party must indicate (√) in the relevant boxes in column 4 whether or not preferential treatment is accorded.
9. Movement Certificate: In cases of Movement Certificate, in accordance with Rule 12 of the Operational Certification Procedures, "Movement Certificate" in Box 13 should be ticked (√). The name of original Issuing Authorities of the Party, date of the issuance and the reference number of the original Certificate of Origin (Form E) to be indicated in Box 13.
10. THIRD PARTY INVOICING: In cases where invoices are issued by a third country, "the Third Party Invoicing" in Box 13 shall be ticked (√). The invoice number shall be indicated in Box

10. Information such as name and country of the company issuing the invoice shall be indicated in Box 7.

11. EXHIBITIONS: In cases where products are sent from the exporting Party for exhibition in another Party and sold during or after the exhibition for importation into a Party, in accordance with Rule 22 of Attachment A of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA, the "Exhibitions" in Box 13 should be ticked (√) and the name and address of the exhibition indicated in Box 2.

12. ISSUED RETROACTIVELY: In exceptional cases, due to involuntary errors or omissions or other valid causes, the Certificate of Origin (Form E) may be issued retroactively in accordance with Rule 11 of Attachment A of the Rules of Origin for the ACFTA. The "Issued Retroactively" in Box 13 shall be ticked (√).

Links: Schedule of Specific Commitments

Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
Indonesia
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Myanmar
Singapore
Thailand
Viet Nam
Republic of China

ASEAN-European Union

Joint Media Statement of the 13th AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 26 April 2015

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the EU Trade Commissioner held their Thirteenth Consultations on 26 April 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia and H.E Cecilia Malmström, the EU Trade Commissioner.
2. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner noted that trade between ASEAN and EU expanded from US\$ 242.6 billion in 2012 to US\$ 246.2 billion in 2013, representing 9.8% of ASEAN's total trade and placing the EU as ASEAN's second largest trading partner. ASEAN's preliminary data of 2014 shows that the total trade between ASEAN and EU amounting to US\$248.2 billion, showing an increase of 0.8% compared to total bilateral trade recorded in 2013. The EU remains the largest source of foreign direct investment inflows to ASEAN in 2014 at US\$ 29.1 billion or 21.3% of total FDI inflows to ASEAN, an increase of 30.5% year-on-year.

Progress of ASEAN-EU Cooperation

3. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner were pleased with the growing momentum in economic cooperation, which contributed to the deepening of economic relations between the two regions. Despite the economic crisis in Europe in the recent past, trade and investment between ASEAN and the EU remained strong. The ASEAN Economic Ministers commended the EU for its commitment in strengthening bilateral relations with individual ASEAN Member States and regional ties.
4. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner were pleased with the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2013-2014, including the 12th AEM-EU Trade

Commissioner Consultations, the 20th and 21st SEOM-European Union Consultations, the 3rd ASEAN-EU Business Summit, exchange of business missions, and various projects on services, investment, energy, and air transportation.

5. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their gratitude and appreciation for EU's continuous and strong support and technical assistance rendered to ASEAN economic integration through the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE), the EU-ASEAN Project on IPR (ECAP III) and the EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Programme for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (EU-COMPASS). These programmes have helped realise significant progress in key AEC initiatives such as the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS), the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR), the ASEAN Food Safety Policy Framework and the Common Guidelines for the Substantive Examination of Trademarks and the ASEAN TMView database. Ministers welcomed the announcement by EU Trade Commissioner that EU assistance to ASEAN would increase from €70 million to €170 million over the next 7 years, including a €86 million envelope for Connectivity through Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Integration and Trade.
6. To further deepen economic ties and enhance the trade and investment relationship between ASEAN and the EU, the Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner endorsed the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2015-2016 which has been built upon the successful initiatives under the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2013-2014, in accordance with the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017). They welcomed the inputs from private sector. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner also welcomed the new emphasis given to the organisation of experts' meetings on areas of mutual interest.
7. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner exchanged views on EU-ASEAN trade and investment relations issues, including progress of bilateral free trade agreement negotiations between individual ASEAN

Member States and the EU. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation between the two regions, including exploring the possibility of resuming negotiations of an ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement in the near future. Senior Officials of ASEAN and EU will meet towards the end of the year to take stock and explore the way forward and report back to the Ministers.

8. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner underscored their continued support and commitment to a strong multilateral trading system. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner agreed on the importance of the implementation of the Post-Bali Work Programme, specifically the implementation and entry into force of the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement. They also agreed on the mutual interest in achieving a rapid conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda.
9. The EU Trade Commissioner informed the Meeting of progress in the plurilateral negotiations to liberalise trade in environmental goods and encouraged ASEAN Member States to join this initiative. The EU Trade Commissioner also updated the Ministers on the state of play of the plurilateral Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) negotiations, underlining the interest by ASEAN Member States to participate in TiSA would be very welcomed.
10. The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) reported its activities to the Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner underscored the role of businesses as drivers of economic growth in the two regions and commended the initiatives undertaken by the Council, in particular the engagement with ASEAN sectoral bodies at the working level.

LIST OF MINISTERS AND THE EU TRADE COMMISSIONER

H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;

H.E. Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner for Trade; H.E. Rachmat Gobel, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore; H.E. Mrs. Apiradi Tantraporn, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN-India

Joint Media Statement of the 5th Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers

**Manila, the Philippines,
22 January 2016**

1. The Fifth Meeting of ASEAN and India Tourism Ministers was held on 22 January 2016 in Manila, the Philippines, in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2016. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Benito Jr. Bengzon, Undersecretary, Department of Tourism of the Philippines, and H.E. Mr. Vinod Zutshi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, India.
2. The Ministers were pleased with the increase in tourism exchange between ASEAN and India in 2015 where the preliminary total number of arrivals from India to ASEAN was 3.57 million, an increase of 9.9 per cent as compared to 2014. The Ministers also noted that the number of ASEAN tourists to India in 2015 has reached 0.7 million, an increase of 2 per cent compared to 2014.
3. The Ministers agreed to implement the decision of the 13th ASEAN-India Summit held on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur to further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in tourism

under the framework of the 2012 Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and India on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation with intensified efforts and activities. In this regard, the Ministers emphasised the need to expedite efforts on visa facilitation to promote tourism exchange. In accordance with the announcement made by Hon. Prime Minister of India to extend electronic-visa facility to all ASEAN countries, India has now extended this facility to 9 ASEAN Member States and the tenth country will also be included shortly. The Ministers also welcomed the on-going annual programmes to enhance people-to-people exchanges including students, farmers, media and diplomats in ASEAN Member States and India.

4. The Ministers commended the progress made in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding including:
 - (i) Participation of tourism stakeholders in travel marts, tourism exhibitions and festivals in ASEAN Member States and India;
 - (ii) Establishment of the ASEAN-India Crisis Communications Team;
 - (iii) Progress of the ASEAN Promotional Chapter for Tourism (APCT) in Mumbai; and
 - (iv) India's support of visit from ASEAN Member States teachers/faculty of hospitality institutes to India.
5. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of the Philippines for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Meeting was attended by:

Mr. Wardi Haji Mohammad Ali, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam, representing H.E. Dato Paduka Hj Ali Hj Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Vinod Zutshi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India; Mr. IGde Pitana, Deputy Minister

for International Tourism Marketing Development, Ministry of Tourism, Indonesia, representing H.E. Dr. Arief Yahya, Minister of Tourism, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Chaleune Warintrasak, Vice Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR; H.E. Datuk Mas Ermieyati Samsudin, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia; H.E. U Ye Myint Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of the Philippines, Myanmar; Mr. Benito Jr. Bengzon, Undersecretary, Department of Tourism of the Philippines, representing H.E. Mr. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr. Secretary of Tourism, Philippines; Mr. Leong Yue Kheong, Assistant Chief Executive (International Group), Singapore Tourism Board, representing H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Singapore; H.E. Ms. Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand; H.E. Ms. Dang Thi Bich Lien, Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam; and H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Media Statement of the 12th AEM-India Consultations

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
23 August 2015**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and the Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India met on 23 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Twelfth AEM-India Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia and H.E. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry (Independent Charge) of India.
2. The Ministers noted that according to ASEAN statistics, two-way trade between ASEAN and India reached USD 67.7 billion in 2014. India was ASEAN's seventh largest trading partner in 2014. In 2014, foreign direct investment (FDI) flow from India to ASEAN stood at USD 0.8 billion, making India the eighth largest source of FDI inflow to ASEAN in that year.

3. The Ministers were pleased to announce the entry into force of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements on 1 July 2015 for six ASEAN Member States, namely Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as for India, who have notified their ratification of the Agreements. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement has also entered into force for Lao PDR. The ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements which were signed in November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, marked an important milestone in the ASEAN-India relations and will serve as catalysts to deepen and broaden trade in services and investment between AMS and India. The Ministers were confident that the implementation of these Agreements will further contribute towards elevating the ASEAN-India relations to a strategic partnership.
4. Against the backdrop of uncertainties in global economic recovery, the Ministers underscored the importance of maintaining the momentum of bilateral trade and investment. The Ministers also recalled that it has been six years since the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIG Agreement) was signed in August 2009. The Ministers agreed that it is timely to review the AITIG Agreement to ensure that it is trade facilitative and relevant to the current global trading practices. Toward this end, the Ministers endorsed the Scope of the Review of the AITIG Agreement, which includes: (i) implementation issues; (ii) facilitation measures; (iii) to take into account other negotiations on further liberalisation of trade in goods; (iv) sharing and exchanging of trade data and; (v) promoting AITIG Agreement to the stakeholders. The Ministers also tasked the ASEAN-India Trade Negotiating Committee to re-convene as soon as possible to undertake the review of the AITIG Agreement.
5. The Ministers recalled their support at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in December 2012 towards the establishment of an ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre (AITIC). In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the establishment of AITIC which is permanently funded by India and underscored that such a centre could play a significant role in promoting trade and investment between the two regions.
6. The Ministers noted the various activities conducted by the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC). The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the AIBC Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur in 2013 and encouraged the Council to work closely with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council. The Ministers welcomed the 3rd Meeting of the AIBC held on the margins of the 47th AEM and related meetings in August 2015. The event was attended by representatives from ASEAN and India business communities. The Ministers hoped that the AIBC will contribute towards the facilitation of trade-related information of India and AMS to businesses.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Hon. Pehin Dato Paduka Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia); H.E. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry (Independent Charge), India; Mrs Sondang Anggraini, Adviser to the Minister on Trade and Diplomacy, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; Mrs Ow Foong Pheng, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore); Mr. Thawatchai Sophastienphong, Director General, Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam); and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Chairman's Statement of the 13th ASEAN-India Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015**

1. The Thirteenth ASEAN-India Summit was held successfully on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and was attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and His Excellency Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. The Secretary General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We had a frank and productive exchange of views on various issues of mutual interest, pertaining to regional and international political and economic issues as well as measures to further strengthen ASEAN-India partnership and the future direction of the relations.
3. India commended ASEAN Member States on the establishment of the ASEAN Community and reiterated its support for ASEAN's efforts in building a region that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible.
4. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed India's initiatives, namely the "Act East Policy" and "Make in India" and noted that the initiatives could complement ASEAN's community building efforts. In that regard, the ASEAN Leaders encouraged India to work with ASEAN to realise the vision and goals outlined in the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
5. We noted the significant progress of ASEAN-India dialogue relations, with the implementation of various programmes and activities across the three pillars as outlined in the Plan of Action of the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015). We looked forward to further enhancing ASEAN-India relations through the new Plan of Action 2016-2020 adopted at the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in August 2015, which includes cooperation in such areas as science and technology, renewable energy, food security, tourism, climate change and connectivity.
6. We were satisfied with the steady progress made in ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations since its establishment in 1992. India's active participation and positive contribution in numerous ASEAN-led mechanisms, namely the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) as well as India's support for the strengthening of the East Asia Summit (EAS) as it commemorates the 10th anniversary in 2015.
7. We welcomed the establishment of the Indian Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta that serves as a testament of India's on-going commitment towards ASEAN. We look forward to greater and enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and India, in steering forward the partnership.
8. We noted that trade and investment relations remain modest despite the implementation of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement in 2010. Despite the large combined market of over 1.8 billion population, the economic potentials of ASEAN and India have yet to be fully tapped by the private sector.
9. We welcomed the agreement reached by the Economic Ministers to review the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement to address the implementation issues and trade facilitation related matters as well as to take into account other negotiations on further liberalisation trade in goods. These products are of major exports interests to both ASEAN and India, and their further liberalisation can lead to growth in ASEAN-India trade. We also acknowledged the role of the ASEAN-India Business Council in helping to overcome these challenges with the effective participation of the business representatives from the respective governments. The Council with the support of the governments could assume a more active role in promoting greater awareness of ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement and engagement among the business communities in both regions.

10. Noting that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement is another major trade initiative which can boost trade and investments in ASEAN, the wider East Asian region and India. We call on all Parties to work towards early conclusion of a balanced Agreement, which is beneficial to all and is comprehensive in nature, by equally ambitious agenda with similar timelines for goods and services.
11. We fully support these initiatives as well as renewed commitments by both sides and are confident that the trade and economic relations between ASEAN and India would advance towards fulfilling the aim set in 2012 for the total trade between ASEAN and India to reach USD100 billion mark.
12. We are also pleased to note various initiatives undertaken by ASEAN and India to promote the ASEAN Connectivity Agenda. We strongly encouraged continuous cooperation between ASEAN and India in this area, in all three dimensions, namely physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity. We looked forward to further discussion on the ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Agreement to strengthen maritime connectivity. We also looked forward to the convening of the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN-India Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements for the further negotiations of an ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement based on 'open skies' principles covering both air freight and passenger services. We should also continue to utilise existing platforms, such as the Delhi Dialogue, to engage with various stakeholders on exploring processes and practical ways which could further connect the peoples of India and ASEAN. We believe such a platform could provide more opportunities for networking as well as exchanging experience and information among our peoples.
13. The Leaders welcomed India's announcement of a USD1 billion Line of Credit for ASEAN Member States to undertake connectivity related projects under the ASEAN-India Strategic partnership and expressed their interest in availing the Line of Credit to, inter-alia, realise the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity.
14. We also looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) and its early operationalisation. We believed the ASEAN-India Centre would serve as a good platform to promote cooperation in various areas and contribute to strengthening ASEAN-India dialogue relations.
15. We also welcomed the decision made at the 12th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations on 23 August 2015 for the establishment of a stand-alone ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre (AITIC) for which India has affirmed its readiness to fund its operation on a permanent basis. We are pleased to note that India is currently undertaking domestic procedures for the establishment of the Centre.
16. We acknowledged the recommendation of the 1st International Conference "ASEAN-India Cultural Link: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions", held on 23-24 July 2015 in New Delhi, to further expand cultural engagement between ASEAN and India. Accordingly, we encouraged the forthcoming International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural Relations, to be held in January 2016 in Jakarta, to further deepen the understanding and strengthen people-to-people contacts between ASEAN and India.
17. We expressed satisfaction that under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund, projects in fields of biotechnology, IPRs, Functional Food, Technology Information and Commercialisation Portal have been completed while a number of other projects in the field of herbs, folk medicine, tropical fruit and vegetable processing technology and quality systems in manufacturing, are ongoing.
18. We noted the progress towards setting up of a Tracking and Data Reception Station and Data Processing Facility in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, by the Indian Space Research Organisation.
19. We acknowledged the recommendation of the 1st International Conference ASEAN-India Science, Technology and Innovation Fund

(AISTIF), projects in fields of bio-technology, IPRs, Functional Food, Technology Information and Commercialisation Portal have been completed while a number of other projects in the fields of herbs, folk medicine, tropical fruit and vegetable processing technology and quality systems in manufacturing, are ongoing.

20. We are pleased to see the growing number of projects to support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and Narrowing the Intra-ASEAN Development Gap and look forward to India's greater assistance in strengthening CLMV's capacity in English language training, IT and other specialised technical fields.
21. We emphasised the importance of sustaining our dialogue relations at the highest level and looked forward to the 14th ASEAN-India Summit to be held Lao PDR in 2016.

ASEAN-Japan

Joint Media Statement of the 21st AEM-METI Consultations

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
23 August 2015**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan met on 23 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Twenty-first AEM-METI Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Mustapa Mohammed, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia and H.E. Yoichi Miyazawa, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.
2. The Ministers noted the performance of ASEAN-Japan bilateral trade and investment. According to ASEAN statistics, two-way trade between ASEAN and Japan reached USD 229.1 billion in 2014, accounting for 9.1 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. Japan remained ASEAN's third largest trading partner after China and the European Union (EU). Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow from Japan

to ASEAN amounted to USD 13.4 billion, accounting for 9.8 per cent of total FDI inflow to ASEAN. Japan remained the second largest source of FDI inflow to ASEAN after the EU.

3. The Ministers were pleased with the implementation of activities under the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap in various areas including intellectual property, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), content, and disaster risk reduction. The Ministers also welcomed the progress of AMEICC activities including programmes under Japan's supplementary budget such as: i) support for the development of the "ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2025"; ii) developing database on Non-Tariff Measures in cooperation with ERIA; iii) holding the special seminar on ASEAN Automobile industry development; and iv) starting the trial operation of ASEAN-Japan Chemical Safety Database aiming to start the full operation in April 2016. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap will be reviewed in 2016 taking into account the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
4. The ASEAN Ministers expressed appreciation to Japan for its continued support towards ASEAN integration and welcomed Japan's support for ASEAN vision post-2015. The Ministers welcomed Japan's proposal to support the ASEAN's implementation of the ASEAN SME Strategic Action Plan (2016-2025), including further discussions on any form of credit guarantee system in ASEAN-Japan region.
5. The Ministers were pleased with the outcomes of the dialogue with the Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA), as well as with the 8th Dialogue between Secretary-General of ASEAN, which preceded the 21st AEM-METI Consultations. The Ministers noted the recommendations from the FJCCIA including harmonisation of standards and specifications, institutional connectivity, and human resource development, and informed that these have been incorporated in the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025.

6. The Ministers noted the outcomes of the 2nd ASEAN-Japan Public Private Dialogue held on 30 July 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia particularly on the recommendations to build an innovation network and to share best practices and challenges in nurturing new business players and new business areas, enhancing ties among investors and entrepreneurs, as well as sharing experiences on government initiatives to support entrepreneurs in ASEAN and Japan.
7. The Ministers noted the on-going work to advance the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP). The Ministers commended the finalisation of the guidelines for transposing tariff reduction schedules (TRS) under the AJCEP into the newer version of the Harmonised System. In this regard, the Ministers encouraged officials to adhere to the guidelines to resolve the outstanding transposition issues as soon as possible.
8. The Ministers also noted the on-going effort to conclude the AJCEP trade in services and investment negotiations. The Ministers tasked officials to exert utmost flexibilities in resolving all the outstanding issues and to engage in an effective manner in order to finalise negotiations within the year.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State for Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia); Mrs Sondang Anggraini, Adviser to the Minister on Trade and Diplomacy, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Yoichi Miyazawa, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; Mrs Ow Foong Pheng, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and

Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore); Mr Thawatchai Sophastienphong, Director General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam); and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Statement of the ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (2nd AMMTC+Japan) Consultation

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
1 October 2015**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and Japan responsible for combating Transnational Crime, convened the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (the 2nd AMMTC+Japan), in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 1 October 2015. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the ASEAN+Japan Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime for the 2nd AMMTC+Japan on 28 September 2015.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the 12th SOMTC+Japan Consultation held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 10 June 2015.
3. We exchanged views on issues of mutual interest relating to ASEAN + Japan Cooperation in Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime including on the need to further strengthen the existing cooperation in order to continuously prevent ever-changing threats, and to take due countermeasures.
4. We stated our intentions to fight terrorism and reaffirmed the importance of strengthening counter-terrorism capacity and cooperation between related countries. We also emphasized the need to advance dialogue and

enhance sharing of information, knowledge and experience through various forums and seminars on counter-terrorism including ASEAN-Japan Counter Terrorism Dialogue.

5. We noted that cybercrime, whose modus operandi are becoming increasingly sophisticated and complicated, poses a grave and imminent threat to the region. We stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation so that ASEAN and Japan can appropriately tackle this threat. We welcomed the ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue that was inaugurated in May 2014 and expressed our hopes that it would become the foundation for cooperation between ASEAN Member States and Japan in this field. We also agreed on expediting initiatives toward enhancing counter-cybercrime capacity.
6. We emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, such as the abduction issue.
7. We took note of the SOMTC+Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2015-2017) that was adopted by the Preparatory SOMTC+Japan Consultation on 28th September 2015. Based on this Work Plan, we stressed the importance of promoting effective initiatives that meet the situation and needs, in addition to continuing and strengthening initiatives to date including the implementation of projects facilitated by Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).
8. We adopted the Joint Statement of the 2nd AMMTC+Japan Consultation.
9. We welcomed the kind offer of Myanmar to host the 3rd AMMTC+Japan Consultation in 2017 in Myanmar.
10. We expressed sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Malaysia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. We also expressed appreciation to ASEAN Secretariat for its coordination and assistance.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 13th ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting (13th ATM+Japan)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
5 November 2015**

1. The Thirteenth ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting (13th ATM+Japan) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 5 November 2015. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport of Malaysia and H.E. Mr. Keiichi Ishii, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan. The Meeting was preceded by the Fourteenth ASEAN and Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting (14th STOM+Japan) held on 4 November 2015.
2. The Ministers welcomed the implementation of key transport projects and activities under the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership (AJTP) since its inception in 2003 to advance regional transport integration. The ASEAN Ministers encouraged Japan to support the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan) 2016-2025 and contribute to ASEAN Transport Cooperation Post-2015 Vision through the AJTP framework.
3. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress of 25 projects under the AJTP Work Plan for 2014-2015 as well as ASEAN-Japan Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements (AJWG-RASA). The Ministers endorsed the "Best Approaches Book on Safety and Disaster Prevention", "Best Practices on Public Private Partnership (PPP)", "Study Report on Seamless and Integrated Land Bridge", and "Green Logistics Vision and Action Plans" as key deliverables under the AJTP framework.
4. The Ministers endorsed the AJTP Work Plan for 2015-2016 which will further advance the work on "quality transport" based on "Pakse Action Plan". The Ministers also noted that the Work Plan will include new initiatives of New ASEAN-Japan Action

Plan on Environment Improvement in the Transport Sector (AJ-APEIT), Joint Research on Road Technologies for ASEAN Cross-Border Corridors, Cooperation Program for Improvement of Safety in the Maritime Transport (Development of VTS Operator's Capacity) and ASEAN-Japan New Cooperative Program on Comprehensive Vehicle Safety and Environment Measures including Development of Technical Regulations and Establishment of a Type Approval System for Vehicles. The list of AJTP projects/activities appears as **ANNEX 1**.

5. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 3rd Meeting of AJWG-RASA in March 2016. The Ministers agreed to task the AJWG-RASA to discuss further and work towards a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement.
6. The Fourteenth ATM+Japan Meeting will be convened in the Philippines in 2016.

LIST OF MINISTERS (To Be Confirmed by ASEAN Member States & Japan)

H.E. Dato Mustappa Sirat, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia; Mr. Sugihardjo, Secretary General, Representing H.E. Ignasius Jonan, Minister for Transportation of Indonesia; H.E. Bounchanh Sinthavong, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR; H.E. Keichi Ishii, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan; H.E. Dato' Seri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport of Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Han Sein, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Transport of Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Joseph Emilio Aguinaldo Abaya, Secretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines; H.E. Khaw Boon Wan, Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport of Singapore; H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termittayapaisith, Minister of Transport of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Dinh La Thang, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

ANNEX 1

List of ASEAN and Japan Transport Partnership Projects/Activities

(Transport Facilitation)

- ASEAN-Japan Transport Logistics Project
- ASEAN-Japan New Air Navigation System
- ASEAN-Japan New Cooperative Program on Comprehensive Vehicle Safety and Environment Measures including Development of Technical Regulations and Establishment of a Type Approval System for Vehicles
- Urban Public Transport Policy Framework
- Promotion of ASEAN-Japan Road Technology Exchange
- Joint Research on Road Technologies for ASEAN Cross-Border Corridors

(Transport Infrastructure)

- ASEAN-Japan Port Development Research Project
- Cooperation for Promotion of Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
- ASEAN-Japan Cruise Promotion Program

(Quality and Sustainable Transport)

- Project for Safe and Efficient Transport
- ASEAN-Japan Port Technology Joint Research Project
- ASEAN-Japan Seafarers Policy Cooperation
- New Regional Action Plan on Port Security (New RAPPS) under ASEAN-Japan Maritime Security Transport Programme
- ASEAN-Japan Aviation Security Project
- ASEAN Railways Revival Plan
- ASEAN "Mega-Float" Promotion Project
- ASEAN-Japan Airport Study Project (Eco-Airport)
- New ASEAN-Japan Action Plan on Environment Improvement in the Transport Sector
- ASEAN-Japan Intelligent Transport System Development

- Cooperation Program for Improvement of Safety in the Maritime Transport

(Human Resource Development)

- Transport Policy Officials Training Program in Japan
- ASEAN-Japan Transport Information Platform Project

Chairman's Statement of the 18th ASEAN-Japan Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

1. The 18th ASEAN-Japan Summit, chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Seri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, was held on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and the Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Shinzo Abe.
2. Japan welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Community, which is a culmination of a five-decade long effort of region-building towards a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged Japan to contribute towards the realisation of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
3. We reiterated the importance of the long-standing friendship between ASEAN and Japan, and reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership, which has contributed to regional peace, stability and prosperity. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan's continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum as well as Japan's support for the strengthening of the East Asia Summit as it commemorates its 10th anniversary in 2015.
4. We noted with satisfaction the steady progress in the implementation of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and its Implementation Plan adopted in Tokyo, Japan in 2013 on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations. The ASEAN Leaders recognised the important contribution of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF 2.0) and the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund towards the implementation of various projects under ASEAN-Japan cooperation.
5. We noted that Japan remained ASEAN's third largest trading partner and the second largest source of FDI for ASEAN. Two-way trade between ASEAN and Japan reached US\$229.1 billion in 2014, accounting for 9.1 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow from Japan to ASEAN amounted to US\$13.4 billion, accounting for 9.8 per cent of total FDI inflow into ASEAN. We reiterated our commitment to double trade and investment flows by 2022 and recognised the significance of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) in deepening further economic integration between ASEAN and Japan. We applauded the conclusion of negotiations on Trade in Services including the Financial and Telecommunication annexes and Movement of Natural Persons (MNP) Chapters under the AJCEP Agreement and called for the conclusion of the investment negotiations within the year. We encouraged the immediate implementation of these outcomes.
6. We welcomed the progress made under the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Economic Cooperation Roadmap in various areas and welcomed Japan's proposal to support the development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the region, including expediting discussions on a credit guarantee system in the ASEAN-Japan region in cooperation with relevant organisations. We further welcomed the initiative to review the Roadmap in 2016 to take into account the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025.
7. We reiterated the importance of the ASEAN-Japan Public Private Dialogue, including with the Federation of Japanese Chambers of

- Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA), and recognised the important contribution of industry and academia to the Economic Cooperation Roadmap.
8. The ASEAN Leaders valued Japan's support for the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. Recognising the critical need for infrastructure funding, the ASEAN Leaders welcomed Japan's initiative of Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, which would contribute to financing quality infrastructure in Asia and enhancing regional connectivity. We appreciated Japan's continued cooperation in the areas of land and sea connectivity and strongly encouraged Japan's support for better air connectivity, including the early conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement.
 9. We also recognised that regional integration and narrowing the development divide are priorities in the ASEAN community-building process and towards that end, looked forward to Japan's continued cooperation and support for narrowing the development divide in the region, including through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and its successor document. We also agreed to enhance sub-regional cooperation through implementation of the Tokyo Strategy 2015 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation and its Action Plan.
 10. We recognised the importance of promoting research, development and distribution of leading low carbon technologies in realising low carbon growth and took note that clean coal, including high efficiency coal-fired power generation would contribute towards energy security and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
 11. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan's contribution in the area of disaster risk reduction and management, and welcomed its continued support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and encouraged enhanced cooperation on the Implementation of the Work Program for the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Responses (AADMER).
 12. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated Japan's support for promoting health development in the region and enhancing cooperation in the field of healthcare, including through the ASEAN-Japan Health Initiative.
 13. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed Japan's consistent promotion of student exchanges between ASEAN and Japan. We also underscored the importance of closer collaboration for joint research through the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), the launch of the ASEAN-Japan Joint Research Centres this year in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, and the inaugural Japan-ASEAN Exchange Program for Young ASEAN Officials Working in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).
 14. We underscored the importance of promoting people-to-people contacts and noted with satisfaction the progress of various exchanges under the Japan East-Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths 2015 (JENESYS 2015), "WA-Project" and Sport for Tomorrow.
 15. We attached great importance to enhancing our cooperation in the field of ICT through the ASEAN Smart Network Initiative and appreciated Japan's support for promoting ICT development in the region. We also recognised that cyber security is a growing global challenge which requires collective cooperation and noted with appreciation the activities agreed to in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Policy Meeting on Cybersecurity Cooperation.
 16. Recognising the growing threat of terrorism, we reaffirmed our commitment to combat terrorism and transnational crime and looked forward to the implementation of the Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime. The ASEAN Leaders also welcomed Japan's efforts in promoting peace and moderation through a High-Level Seminar on Peace-building, National Reconciliation and Democratisation in Asia, which was held in Tokyo, Japan on 20 June 2015.

17. ASEAN Leaders welcomed Japan's intention to participate more actively in and enhance cooperation with the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and towards that end, took note of its new law entitled Legislation for Peace and Security of Japan and the International Community, adopted in September 2015.
18. We reaffirmed our support for the maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and underscored the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, freedom of navigation and over-flight in the region, as well as ensuring 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 (UNCLOS 1982).
19. We shared the concerns expressed by some Leaders over recent and on-going developments in the South China Sea, which have eroded trust and confidence amongst parties, and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea.
20. We underscored the commitment of ASEAN Member States and China in ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, as well as to work towards the early establishment of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).
21. We also underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula and called for the denuclearisation of the Peninsula through peaceful dialogue. We called on all parties concerned to fully comply with relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and to fulfil their commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We also emphasised the importance of addressing issues of humanitarian concern, including the abduction issue.

22. We expressed appreciation to the ASEAN-Japan Centre for its continued contribution and emphasised the need to further utilise the Centre to promote trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and Japan. We noted the appointment of the new Secretary-General for the ASEAN-Japan Centre in September 2015 and looked forward to the further development of its activities.

ASEAN-Republic of Korea

ASEAN-Republic of Korea Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020)

This Plan of Action aims at implementing the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity adopted in October 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam to deepen and enhance the strategic partnership, friendly relations, mutually beneficial and meaningful cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK in the period of 2016-2020. The POA also aims at realising the commitments expressed in the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit on the 25th Anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations adopted on 12 December 2014 in Busan, ROK. In addition, it seeks to address emerging regional and global challenges of common interests and concern over the next five years.

This POA builds upon the progressive cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK that began in 1989 and the implementation of the previous POA 2011-2015. This POA aims to contribute to the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 as well as to further implementation of the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations "Bali Concord III" (2011-2022) and its Plan of Action (2012-2017).

ASEAN and ROK hereby endeavour to pursue cooperation in conformity with their obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies.

1. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1 Political Cooperation

- 1.1.1 Strengthen cooperation in ASEAN-led regional processes and arrangements, such as ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)-Plus and the East Asia Summit (EAS), and enhance engagement at other relevant regional and multilateral fora, to promote peace, stability, security, development and prosperity in the region;
- 1.1.2 Strengthen cooperation in the area of political-security matters by further developing the dialogue on security related issues as part of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue;
- 1.1.3 Enhance high level engagement to raise the profile of ASEAN-ROK relations, encourage further constructive dialogue and cooperation activities through the existing regional mechanisms to promote peace, security and stability in the region;
- 1.1.4 Increase exchanges between legislative bodies of both sides including through the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA);
- 1.1.5 Promote exchange and educational programmes for junior and mid-level diplomats and government officials of both sides;
- 1.1.6 Enhance cooperation to support ASEAN's efforts in peace and reconciliation in the region through relevant ASEAN mechanisms, and the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR).

1.2 Security Cooperation

- 1.2.1 Support the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) as an effective instrument in promoting and strengthening nuclear non-proliferation and note the ongoing efforts of States Parties to the Treaty

on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) and the nuclear weapon States to resolve outstanding issues, pertaining to the signing and ratification of the Protocol to that Treaty;

- 1.2.2 Actively contribute to the realisation of the goals and objectives set out in the ARF Vision Statement 2020 and the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement in support of strengthening the ARF and advancing the ARF evolution from confidence-building measures to preventive diplomacy and to elaborate approaches to conflict resolution;
- 1.2.3 Continue to promote cooperation within the ARF in view of implementing the existing plan of action and work plans on priority areas of cooperation, as well as explore new areas of common interest and concern;
- 1.2.4 Continue to promote the ARF and the ADMM-Plus as useful platforms for security and defence cooperation, in particular for forging practical cooperation to address the security challenges facing the region;
- 1.2.5 Strengthen cooperation at the Track II Level, in particular between ASEAN and the ROK government-affiliated research institutes in the political and security fields, including through exchange of experts, joint research projects and joint seminars;
- 1.2.6 Foster cooperation to promote conflict prevention and resolution, preventive diplomacy and conflict management to enhance peace, security and stability in the region. Promote the role of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the code of conduct for inter-state relations in Southeast Asia;
- 1.2.7 Support ASEAN Member States' active participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping and Post-Conflict Peace Building efforts;
- 1.2.8 Support efforts to address humanitarian aspects of landmines

and explosive remnants of war in the region through ROK's support in financial and technical assistance, and capacity building, and support the work of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) in addressing this issue.

1.3 Maritime Security and Maritime Cooperation

- 1.3.1 Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and over flight, unimpeded commerce, the exercise of self-restraint, the non-use of force or the threat to use force, and 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 (UNCLOS) and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and International Maritime Organisation (IMO);
- 1.3.2 Enhance ASEAN-ROK cooperation in maritime security through the promotion of capacity building and sharing of best practices relating to the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code within the relevant and appropriate framework;
- 1.3.3 Promote maritime cooperation, including maritime security, search and rescue and safety of navigation in the region, through appropriate and relevant ASEAN mechanisms, and ASEAN-led fora such as EAS, ADMM-Plus, the ARF, ASEAN Maritime Forum and its Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) and where appropriate, promote technical cooperation, capacity building, exchange of experience and sharing of knowledge and expertise;
- 1.3.4 Promote cooperation for the protection and conservation of marine environment, and sustainability of the oceans, in accordance with the UNCLOS and where appropriate other relevant international conventions

to address the common challenges such as sea and land-based pollution, as well as build synergies with other regional frameworks;

- 1.3.5 Strengthen cooperation in the field of search and rescue of people and vessels in distress at sea in the framework of ASEAN-led mechanisms.

1.4 Non-Traditional Security

- 1.4.1 Strengthen cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels, as well as enhance the regional capacity to combat terrorism and other transnational crimes by exchanging information, sharing best practices and expertise, and capacity building of law enforcement agencies including through making use of existing relevant centres in ASEAN;
- 1.4.2 Develop a framework to implement the ASEAN-ROK Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism through SOMTC+ROK Consultation and other existing mechanisms, and closely cooperate in the fields of immigration controls, law enforcement, transport security, and prevention of financing of terrorists, capacity building and related organisation;
- 1.4.3 Strengthen cooperation in the eight areas between ASEAN and the ROK namely terrorism, trafficking in persons, arms smuggling, sea piracy, money laundering, illicit drug trafficking, international economic crime and cybercrime through the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Plus Three (AMMTC+3), the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime+ROK (SOMTC+ROK), the SOMTC Plus Three (SOMTC+3), the ASEAN Plus Three process and other mechanisms.

1.5 Good Governance and Human Rights

- 1.5.1 Promote further dialogue and strengthen cooperation in the areas of good governance, democracy

and rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms;

- 1.5.2 Support ASEAN's efforts in enhancing human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN through regional dialogue, education and awareness raising activities, continuing support for workshops, seminars or conferences, capacity-building initiatives as well as exchanges of best practices and information among ASEAN Member States and relevant stakeholders. This includes support for the promotion, dissemination and implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the Phnom Penh Statement on the adoption of the AHRD, relevant ASEAN Declarations and instruments, as well as international instruments pertaining to human rights to which all ASEAN Member States are parties;
- 1.5.3 Support the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC);
- 1.5.4 Strengthen cooperation against corruption through, inter-alia, implementing the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

1.6 Promotion of Moderation

- 1.6.1 Support the implementation of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates to promote peace, security, upholding rule of law, sustainable and inclusive development, equitable growth and social harmony;
- 1.6.2 Encourage cooperation on inter-faith and inter-civilisation dialogue and contribute internationally and regionally, to the promotion of tolerance and understanding through initiatives, such as Global Movement of Moderates (GMM), and promote moderation as a core value to counter extremism in all aspects.

2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.1 Trade and Investment

- 2.1.1 Enhance cooperation through the existing ASEAN Economic Ministers-ROK (AEM-ROK) Consultations, the Senior Economic Officials' Meeting (SEOM)-ROK Consultations and existing dialogue mechanism and ASEAN Plus Three Process to develop cooperative measures and actions for promoting mutual investment, conducting capacity building activities, exchanges of experts and sharing best practices and related experiences, technologies, information and policies;
- 2.1.2 Strengthen efforts to boost economic cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK, to improve the trade balance between both sides including where possible by providing greater market access for goods and services;
- 2.1.3 Make mutual efforts to expand trade through various avenues such as goods and services exhibitions as well as through trade delegations and investment missions from the ROK to ASEAN and vice versa;
- 2.1.4 Promote and facilitate ASEAN exports, especially agricultural and fisheries products, to the ROK;
- 2.1.5 Enhance economic cooperation, especially capacity building, in various fields such as finance, customs, transport, agriculture, labour, tourism, energy and minerals, food security, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), material and components industry development, human resource management and development, sustainable development forestry, sustainable mining, fisheries, logistics, intellectual property rights, connectivity and infrastructure development for greater sustainable development.

2.1 Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)

- 2.2.1 Strengthen cooperation for shared prosperity in areas of mutual interests

- related to trade in goods, trade in services, and investment through trade facilitation and other regulatory improvements and encourage greater involvement from the private sectors. Maximise the utilisation of the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement toward expanding ASEAN-ROK trade value to USD 200 billion by 2020;
- 2.2.2 Ensure the implementation and expand areas of economic cooperation, including cooperation projects referred to in Chapter 3 of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among the Governments of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea (Framework Agreement) and its Annex;
- 2.2.3 Work to ensure that tariffs will be eliminated and reduced as set out in the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement and where possible, strengthen cooperation in trade facilitation, assess the utilisation of preferential tariff treatment, endeavour to improve the market access by, among others, further liberalisation in line with the discussions at the SEOM-ROK Consultations, as well as tackle non-tariff measures (NTMs), in order to promote and increase FTA utilisation effectively;
- 2.2.4 Encourage the discussion on Work Programme (Article 27) in order to promote the benefits and opportunities arising from the Agreement on Investment under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among the Governments of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations and the Republic of Korea to the investors of both parties;
- 2.2.5 Closely monitor the implementation of the ASEAN-ROK economic cooperation projects and develop guidelines for improved project selection and impact assessment including augmenting and strengthening funding mechanism such as ASEAN-ROK Economic Cooperation Fund to explore ways to enhance cooperative activities;
- 2.2.6 Continue to enhance regional economic partnership and integration through the timely conclusion and implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations and other economic and trade agreements that are being negotiated between ASEAN Member States and ROK.
- ## 2.3 Finance
- 2.3.1 Strengthen cooperation within the ASEAN Plus Three Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors Meeting (AFMGM+3) Process to support stable and sustainable economic growth, as well as maintain financial market stability in the region;
- 2.3.2 Support the development and growth of the Asian bond markets for the security and advancement of the region's financial market; including exploring creative and innovative and mutually beneficial approach to push forward the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) in line with the new ABMI Roadmap to lay foundation for the development and expansion of regional bond markets through mobilisation of savings for productive investments, particularly infrastructure development, to spur regional growth;
- 2.3.3 Enhance regional financial stability through Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the ABMI, including the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) and the enhancement of the macroeconomic surveillance in the region;
- 2.3.4 Actively participate in policy dialogue on macroeconomic and financial policies to reinforce economic and financial stability in the region, among others through the ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office;

2.3.5 Undertake proactive and decisive policy actions to restore market confidence and ensure continued financial stability to promote sustainable economic growth;

2.3.6 Cooperate in capacity building programmes in the fields of analysis, policy-planning, human resources development and capital market to narrow development gaps in ASEAN.

2.4 Customs

2.4.1 Promote exchange of information, subject to the national laws of each side and with the exception of confidential information, on the respective customs procedures, enforcement and risk management techniques in the ASEAN and the ROK;

2.4.2 Promote secure and efficient trade between ASEAN and the ROK through supply chain security measures in accordance with international instruments;

2.4.3 Continue consultations and cooperation within the ASEAN-ROK Customs Consultation with a view to enhancing coordination in the customs areas;

2.4.4 Provide training opportunities for ASEAN customs officials to share expertise on streamlining and simplification of customs procedures;

2.4.5 Promote application of information technology in customs procedures to facilitate trade;

2.4.6 Strengthen customs cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK to improve utilisation of the AKFTA, including the exchanging of views by customs experts.

2.5 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

2.5.1 Initiate discussions for developing effective measures to foster small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), particularly for enhancing competitiveness and resilience of

ASEAN SMEs and promoting linkages of SMEs with the regional and global value chain network;

2.5.2 Strengthen business networks and promote trade opportunities through the continued holding of the ASEAN-Korea CEO Summit in the ROK and ASEAN, when appropriate, with the active participation by the SMEs, including through the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation;

2.5.3 Promote the role of the ASEAN-ROK Business Council as a business driven consultative body that will both assist ASEAN and the ROK SMEs in entering each other's markets and in promoting bilateral trade and investment;

2.5.4 Promote SMEs partnership and cooperation through human resources development, international market and financial access facilitation to enjoy the benefits of AKFTA as well as sharing of best practices that will strengthen SMEs and industries linkages in the supply chain networks;

2.5.5 Promote cooperation on innovation between ASEAN and the ROK, including the establishment of an ASEAN-ROK innovation centre to enhance innovation capacity, optimise human capital development and improve the capacity and capability of ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

2.6 Energy

2.6.1 Enhance cooperation in energy security between ASEAN and the ROK through capacity building in areas such as technology transfer through workshops, seminars, and dispatch of technical expert;

2.6.2 Strengthen cooperation in renewable energy technology, energy storage systems, alternative energy and energy efficiency in order to reduce the usage of fossil fuels; and expand cooperation on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as defined in the Kyoto Protocol

to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

- 2.6.3 Cooperate closely in the research and development of renewable and alternative energy, such as wind, solar, hydro, bio, civilian nuclear energy, industrial waste and vehicle engine compatible to biofuel;
- 2.6.4 Collaborate between the institutions of both sides to enhance energy efficiency by increasing exchange of expertise in the related fields;
- 2.6.5 Support the rural household electrification programmes of ASEAN Member States including through solar, bio mass, bio gas, micro hydro and off-grid electrification to narrow development gaps in ASEAN.

2.7 Infrastructure

- 2.7.1 Strengthen cooperation to improve infrastructure development in the region by encouraging sustainable infrastructure investment through public and private partnership and other modalities to mobilise private sector investment, where appropriate;
- 2.7.2 Enhance technical cooperation and promote capacity building in infrastructure, including the planning, design, construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, tunnels, railways, ports, Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) and the development of smart transport systems.

2.8 Transportation

- 2.8.1 Cooperate for the implementation of the "Framework of Transport Cooperation between Transport Authorities of ASEAN and the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs of the ROK", which was adopted in December 2009, and the revised ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Roadmap;
- 2.8.2 Forge closer cooperation to enhance transport infrastructure, including among others, environmentally friendly airports, and strengthen

transport networks and operations, including air, maritime, road, rail, Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) and multi-modal transport for fast, efficient, safe, sustainable and secure movement of goods and people in the region;

- 2.8.3 Exchange information, experiences, best practices, and experts in transport operation, infrastructure development, transportation policies and safety measures;
- 2.8.4 Encourage dialogue between governments and relevant businesses to exchange information and share experiences and best practices in order to support the efforts to establish standard specifications in the fields of railway, subways, Light Rail Transit (LRT) and others;
- 2.8.5 Deepen cooperation in the area of aviation through the work of the ASEAN-ROK Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements in concluding an air services agreement between ASEAN and the ROK, noting that ASEAN Transport Ministers had expressed their heightened expectations for early conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial air services agreement while the ROK's view that such development would require sufficient time to discuss;
- 2.8.6 Explore the establishment of a framework for strengthening ASEAN-ROK sea transport cooperation;
- 2.8.7 Promote ASEAN-ROK maritime transport cooperation through effective measures to ensure navigation safety, encourage information sharing, enhance port linkages and promote human resource development;
- 2.8.8 Promote ship building by exchange of technology and know-how.

2.9 Food, Agriculture, and Forestry

- 2.9.1 Enhance cooperation in the field of food, agriculture, and forestry through the existing ASEAN-ROK mechanisms and ASEAN Ministers

- on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Plus Three and implement major agreements reached at this meeting;
- 2.9.2 Endeavour to launch cooperation projects to exchange information and technology, and to develop joint-research and development projects in the fields of food production, conservation of agriculture genetic resources, agricultural and livestock industry, agricultural machinery, agricultural and forestry products marketing, improvement of agricultural and forestry infrastructure by encouraging more investment and involvement of private sector and development of rural areas;
- 2.9.3 Develop joint collaborative projects in crop production and post-harvest technology, including food storage, processing and distribution;
- 2.9.4 Support ASEAN's efforts on enhancing human resources development in the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors through programmes such as organising workshops, the dispatch of experts, exchanges of know-how and best practices on enhancing the agricultural productivities, post-harvest handling, food security and safety, and providing opportunities for ASEAN farmers to learn techniques, management and farm working practices;
- 2.9.5 Encourage the progress of agriculture-related industries such as agricultural technologies and crop varieties development and breeding technologies through the conduct of exhibitions, expositions and seminars;
- 2.9.6 Enhance cooperation on research and development in the areas of conservation and the sustainable use of agricultural and forest land and plant genetic resources, including through the provision of technical assistance and funding support in agriculture and forestry;
- 2.9.7 Support training programmes aimed at sharing information on its agricultural policy and rural development experiences such as the "Saemaul Campaign," advanced technologies for rice cultivation and development of water resources for agriculture, and livestock technologies to support the development of rural areas and agriculture infrastructures including the development of irrigation system to narrow development gaps in ASEAN;
- 2.9.8 Explore joint cooperation on increasing rural income and sharing development experiences, through various projects including training programmes in related areas to develop expertise in the field of agricultural and forestry policy;
- 2.9.9 Strengthen cooperation in the context of sustainable forest management and forest rehabilitation to reduce deforestation and forest degradation as well as to mitigate the impact of climate change in the region;
- 2.9.10 Effectively implement the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) Agreement and continue the ongoing dialogues and endeavour to establish the Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation;
- 2.9.11 Closely and actively cooperate in promoting mutual understanding of their respective policies, regulations and protocols in the areas of food safety, animal (including fish) and plant quarantine and disease control;
- 2.9.12 Share information and technologies in the related areas;
- 2.9.13 Develop human resources in the field of quarantine and inspection through efforts such as organising training programs and workshops for ASEAN;
- 2.9.14 Continue to improve the effective implementation of the Agreement on ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR);
- 2.9.15 Share each other's expertise to enhance technology on food safety and quality assurance standards,

crop production and post-harvest technique and biotechnology, in line with the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework;

- 2.9.16 Make mutual efforts to exchange information and expertise in the fields of fisheries, aquaculture, and post-harvest technology;
- 2.9.17 Develop measures to harmonise the technological standards of marine, fisheries and aquaculture products in order to promote trade in this field between ASEAN and the ROK;
- 2.9.18 Undertake cooperative measures to develop human resources and promote investment in fisheries and aquaculture in the ASEAN Member States;
- 2.9.19 Promote cooperation in fisheries to enhance the capacity to preserve and manage the marine resources;
- 2.9.20 Promote responsible fishing practices and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly to sustain fishery resources, ensure food security, alleviate poverty, and optimise benefits of the people and economies in the region.

2.10 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- 2.10.1 Promote and support the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2016-2020;
- 2.10.2 Continue to support and cooperate closely to build up IT infrastructure, develop policies and human resources to narrow development gap in the IT sector among ASEAN Member States, through capacity building, sharing information, experiences with IT policy makers and experts;
- 2.10.3 Create an educational environment that supports the improvement and development of IT capacity in ASEAN Member States, particularly for disadvantaged groups, by providing more ICT electronic infrastructure access and facilities including the

Information Access Centres to narrow development gaps in ASEAN;

- 2.10.4 Further strengthen consultations, joint programmes and initiatives to build up the ICT knowledge partnership between ASEAN and the ROK in the fields of ICT human resource development, information security, e-government, digital convergence and collaboration to address new challenges brought about by technology changes;
- 2.10.5 Assist in the wide distribution of information technology throughout the ASEAN Member States by organising computer and internet training sessions for local residents with the help of World Friends Korea who are dispatched to each ASEAN Member State for foreign internet training;
- 2.10.6 Provide opportunities for IT-related undergraduate and/or post-graduate level studies in ROK institutions through exchange programmes and other platforms;
- 2.10.7 Work towards establishing a region-wide IT network, including digital media, animation, film production, gaming technology and comics;
- 2.10.8 Initiate ICT Education Network in order to promote ICT human resources development.

2.11 Tourism

- 2.11.1 Strengthen cooperation in tourism through joint programmes on marketing and promotions, quality tourism development, human resources development, travel and investment facilitation, research and study on the outbound market and characteristics of ASEAN and Korean tourists;
- 2.11.2 Strengthen related networks in the government and private sector to regularly exchange information on tourism and cooperate to develop efficient policies for the advancement of the tourism industry including

crisis communication mechanism establishments;

- 2.11.3 Promote tourism of ASEAN and ROK through various joint projects utilising rich cultural heritage, diverse tourism products and experiences to encourage mutual visits;
- 2.11.4 Develop exchange programmes, tourism professional capacity building, sustainable tourism destination management and development of strategic planning to foster professionalism in the tourism industry. As a part of these efforts, the ROK will continuously strive to provide education programmes on Korean language and Korean culture for ASEAN tourism professionals;
- 2.11.5 Continue cooperation to support the role of the ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting tourism and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the ROK.

2.12 Science, Technology and Innovation

- 2.12.1 Exchange of information to strengthen scientific technology and innovation competitiveness, and developing technology management and innovation to build the capabilities of Science & Technology experts and officials in ASEAN;
- 2.12.2 Continue to support human resource development, sharing of knowledge and enhancing cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation for green growth and sustainable development to promote technical cooperation among private sectors of both sides;
- 2.12.3 Explore joint efforts to enhance economic growth by intensifying cooperation activities, promoting R&D collaboration and technology transfer and development in the areas of food technology, food processing, human nutrition, new materials, information technology, medical technology, micro-electronics, renewable and alternative energy, meteorology, environmental

management, advanced materials technology, environment technology, biotechnology, green growth, nanotechnology, space technology and applications and other high value-added industries, especially latest technology of marine biology or genetic engineering;

- 2.12.4 Encourage joint research activities and exchanges of youth experts, and scientists, including the Gifted in Science; as well as promote technical cooperation among public-private entities of both sides.

3. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

3.1 Disaster Management

- 3.1.1 Strengthen cooperation in disaster management to mitigate the impacts of disaster, reducing disaster losses and enhancing emergency response to disasters including collaboration with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2010-2015 and beyond, as well as its priority projects;
- 3.1.2 Strengthen cooperation on meteor-hydrology and disaster warning as well as enhance the effective and timely response to affected countries in the event of major natural disasters including technical, humanitarian and financial assistance;
- 3.1.3 Strengthen community-based preparedness and participation, among others, through promotion of disaster-related knowledge and practices including those indigenous to ASEAN and ROK; public awareness, education; and sharing of best practices and lessons learned to build disaster resilient community;
- 3.1.4 Jointly develop and implement various cooperative projects, including training programmes, exchange of expertise

and experience, workshops in strengthening disaster management and emergency response skills of disaster responders and enhancing public awareness and preparedness on disaster prevention and mitigation in order to minimise human and material losses in the region;

- 3.1.5 Exchange best practices and information on urban search and rescue and promote linkages and exchange of visits.

3.2 Environment

- 3.2.1 Enhance cooperation in responding to climate change, which supplement activities under the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC) of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC); including seeking ways to cooperate with the Global Green Growth Institute and Green Climate Fund (GCF), and sharing ideas and promoting capacity development on climate change;
- 3.2.2 Enhance cooperation in environmental management for sustainable development including integrated and sustainable water resources management; environmentally sustainable cities; resource efficiency, sustainable consumption, environmentally sound technologies and cleaner production; biodiversity conservation;
- 3.2.3 Further cooperate to ensure our people's universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, clean air, basic healthcare and other social services so that they may lead to healthy and productive lives and thereby contribute to the ASEAN and global community;
- 3.2.4 Encourage the ROK to share its practices gained from its "Low-Carbon Green Growth" which introduced environment-friendly technology and undertake cooperative projects and studies to deal with climate

change. Promote cooperation in exchange programmes related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions which supplement activities under the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC) of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) on the basis of training, education, and public awareness on climate change mitigation;

- 3.2.5 Adopt a cautious approach in dealing with engineering technology with any potential negative impact on the environment;
- 3.2.6 Provide short-term training programmes and offer master and doctorate degree courses to ASEAN students in order to help develop their capacities in the field of environment, including water resources/risk management and sustainable development of minerals;
- 3.2.7 Increase training programmes, including capacity building with ASEAN on environmental cooperation;
- 3.2.8 Cooperate closely on capacity building, transfer of technology and knowledge sharing, through training courses and exchange visits, participation in platforms such as the Singapore International Water Week and other high-level events, in water resources management to ensure sustainable usage and access to clean water;
- 3.2.9 Cooperate in preventing, controlling and mitigating coastal and marine pollution through exchange of experts, training, sharing related policies, data and information, and strengthening existing regional cooperation framework on marine environment;
- 3.2.10 Promote the development and transfer of clean technology;
- 3.2.11 Strengthen cooperation in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), especially on Reducing

- Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) including through clean development mechanism, sustainable forest management, wasteland restoration, and peatland management;
- 3.2.12 Promote close and mutual cooperation by introducing environment friendly technology and undertaking cooperative projects and studies to deal with climate change and in exchange programmes related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions on the basis of training, education and public awareness on climate change mitigation;
- 3.2.13 Strengthen regional cooperation on biodiversity conservation and management through the exchange of knowledge, capacity building program to address the loss of biodiversity and support for the work of ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB);
- 3.2.14 Support efforts to control illegal transboundary trade of wild flora and fauna through the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and through national initiatives in support of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES);
- 3.2.15 Explore cooperation and support for the implementation of national biodiversity national action plan and the development of domestic legislative, administrative or policy measure on access and benefit-sharing to address poverty and promote environmental sustainability.
- 3.3 Health**
- 3.3.1 Share experiences and knowledge on health issues, including strengthening of healthcare systems;
- 3.3.2 Continue support to existing collaboration on traditional medicine; ageing related to health issues; universal health coverage; Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory, surveillance-Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN), risk communication, rabies, malaria, dengue, and pandemic preparedness and response]; disaster medicine (health implication in disaster management); non-communicable diseases; and HIV/AIDS;
- 3.3.3 Cooperate in establishing effective monitoring and surveillance systems for newly emerging infectious diseases (EID), including zoonotic diseases in the region and actively participate in prevention efforts through regular workshops, joint researches expert exchanges, and training activities, including the promotion of collaboration in control of trans boundary EIDs with relevant agencies;
- 3.3.4 Enhance collaboration among ASEAN Plus Three countries to improve preparedness and response initiatives or mechanisms including information sharing and monitoring communicable diseases, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies;
- 3.3.5 Cooperate to develop joint policies and programmes for combating HIV and AIDS in the region, including by exchanging relevant information for joint measures to control and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS;
- 3.3.6 Provide technical assistance to ASEAN for establishing and improving local health care services, especially in underdeveloped areas to improve quality of medical facilities and the overall healthcare environment of ASEAN Member States;
- 3.3.7 Strengthen collaboration in cancer and infectious disease research activities, which the ROK is both active and strong in, including networking research centres among ASEAN and the ROK;
- 3.3.8 Cooperate closely in the stockpiling of antiviral, other essential medicines

- and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to respond effectively to pandemic outbreaks;
- 3.3.9 Cooperate in the field of Traditional and Complementary and Alternative Medicine (TM/CAM) under the ASEAN Plus Three Framework of Cooperation on Integration of Traditional Medicine/ Complementary and Alternative Medicine into National Healthcare Systems;
- 3.3.10 Cooperate closely in promoting community-based support for people affected by chronic diseases;
- 3.3.11 Support the transfer of technology and exchange of knowledge between ASEAN and the ROK on health promotion;
- 3.3.12 Enhance cooperation to operationalise the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda comprising of four clusters with twenty health priorities, including promoting a healthy lifestyle; responding to all hazards and emerging threats; strengthening health system and access to care; and ensuring food safety;
- 3.3.13 Continue collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) on drug resistance in Malaria.

3.4 Education

- 3.4.1 Continue to support upgrading and expanding exchanges of educational and human resources between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea for advancement of e-learning in higher education in ASEAN Member States;
- 3.4.2 Continue to carry out workshops, joint research and training, and exchange of fellowships, exchange of teachers and students with the ASEAN University Network (AUN) through the existing ASEAN-Korea Academic Exchange Programme as well as among ASEAN and ROK academic institutions;
- 3.4.3 Continue the provision of scholarships for ASEAN students through the existing International College Student Exchange Programme and promote ASEAN studies in the ROK and Korean studies in ASEAN, including through centers for Korean studies in ASEAN Member States;
- 3.4.4 Support educational programmes in the field of science and technology as well as increase Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) opportunities for ASEAN students;
- 3.4.5 Promote greater exchanges of students and teachers to facilitate the sharing of experiences for further cross-cultural understanding between ASEAN and the ROK;
- 3.4.6 Make efforts to promote Korean studies including language education by expanding Korean research programmes in ASEAN universities, holding training programmes by Korean language experts in ASEAN Member States and supporting the development of Korean language teaching materials;
- 3.4.7 Make efforts to provide necessary support for ASEAN teachers to study Korean language and fellowship opportunities for ASEAN students majoring in Korean Studies.

3.5 Information

- 3.5.1 Promote further cooperation in the fields of information and mass media, including the implementation of regular media visits, inclusive involvement and participation of the public, commercial and community media to promote the processes of ASEAN integration and ASEAN-ROK partnership;
- 3.5.2 Encourage mutual participation in International Film Festivals that are held in ASEAN and the ROK and increase exchange of popular culture through instruments such as films, TV programmes and print media;

- 3.5.3 Encourage technical cooperation among broadcasters, content producers, and develop human resources and sharing of knowledge information and media sector;
- 3.5.4 Promote exchange and closer cooperation in broadcasting to contribute to the broadcasting industry development and to enhance the cultural diversity of the ROK and ASEAN;
- 3.5.5 Enhance cooperation in the field of co-production, co-financing and co-distribution of diverse content projects between the two regions and undertake other industry engagements to foster talent in multi-media in ASEAN Member States;
- 3.5.6 Organise activities in ASEAN and the ROK to promote public awareness on ASEAN-ROK relations, including regular media and information exchanges, networking and strengthening human resource development in the field of information through the cooperation and assistance of the ASEAN-Korea Centre.

3.6 Culture and Arts

- 3.6.1 Promote mutual understanding of diverse and rich culture between the ROK and ASEAN Member States, and foster greater awareness of cultural heritage, including activities in collaboration with the ASEAN-Korea Centre, such as tourism and education in development of cultural curriculum on shared histories in our region;
- 3.6.2 Promote cooperation in the area of culture and arts, including through the development of creative industries and increased networking and exchange, and human resource development through exhibitions, cultural performances, exchange programmes, cultural awareness promotions, and other similar projects to foster greater awareness about cultural heritage of ASEAN and ROK;

- 3.6.3 Implement the ASEAN-ROK Cultural Exchange Year 2017, and work toward the establishment of an “ASEAN Culture House” in the ROK to enhance understanding of ASEAN and Southeast Asian culture in the ROK;
- 3.6.4 Encourage training programmes that invite ASEAN experts and students in the fields of TV, film, theatre, dance, and music production to cooperate in the development of human resources of ASEAN popular culture;
- 3.6.5 Provide further opportunities to share experiences and best practices on creating and implementing culture and arts policies, and encourage people-to-people exchange in various fields of culture and arts, such as performance art and cultural heritage;
- 3.6.6 Increase exchanges of experiences and information in the field of art management by holding workshops and networking the professionals in this area in order to promote the culture and arts industry in both ASEAN and the ROK;
- 3.6.7 Strengthen joint research on the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage and support the capacity building of ASEAN experts in the field of cultural heritage preservation including through the Asia Cooperation Programme in Conservation Science.

3.7 Youth and People-to-People Exchange

- 3.7.1 Focus on implementing cooperation areas agreed at the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) to enhance coherence of youth policies and cooperation;
- 3.7.2 Continue to implement, expand and develop various exchange programmes involving the ASEAN-ROK youth; including through the ASEAN-ROK youth exchange program and ASEAN Youth Camp;
- 3.7.3 Support capacity building programs related to youth, especially on

issues related to Technical, Vocational, Education, and Training (TVET), entrepreneurship and attachment of the academic staff of the learning institutions, including research centres, study visits or programme for youth and women and exchange programme for civil society organisations to strengthen closer relations and promote better understanding for the future generations;

3.7.4 Establish and expand a network for future generations, including through the ROK's initiative under the "ASEAN-ROK Next-generation Opinion Leaders Programme;

3.7.5 Strengthen consular cooperation, especially in the protection of the nationals of both sides, including tourists, business people, officials who are travelling to ASEAN and the ROK as well as students, permanent residents and workers residing in the ASEAN Member States and the ROK.

3.8 Sports

3.8.1 Promote the exchange of knowledge on sports medicine and science, skills and expertise, the construction, operation and management of sports venues/facilities and sports research;

3.8.2 Promote the exchange of athletes, coaches, officials, referees, researchers and other sport experts;

3.8.3 Support the development of technical specialists in the ASEAN sports sector through scholarship programmes at the postgraduate levels.

3.9 Civil Service Matters

3.9.1 Explore possible areas of cooperation in civil service matters through the ACCSM Plus Three Mechanism to promote and strengthen cooperation between both sides.

3.10 Labour and Migrant Workers

3.10.1 Support ASEAN Member States in providing more and decent jobs to the

people through training programmes and the exchange of experts in the fields of labour standards, labour relations, labour market information, gender equality in employment, as well as development of technical and vocational skills;

3.10.2 Enhance cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK on migrant workers in order to optimise the productivity for the benefit of both the employers and the employee;

3.10.3 Explore cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK on the comprehensive management of migration, especially on the promotion of legal migration through, inter alia, policy dialogue and sharing of best practices;

3.10.4 Cooperate to support the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and the work of ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC);

3.10.5 Share experiences and expand training and capacity-building programmes for the development of human resources, and overseas volunteer programmes.

3.11 Social Welfare and Development

3.11.1 Support the operationalisation of the Regional Framework and Action Plans to implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection including strengthening the capacity of ASEAN in establishing social security systems and improving access to social protection programmes and services;

3.11.2 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC) Work Plan;

3.11.3 Continue to implement joint activities addressing public health, the welfare of children, women, elderly, people with disabilities, and the poor through support for ASEAN initiatives to

implement the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development 2016-2020, Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2020, and ASEAN Committee on Women Work Plan 2016-2020;

- 3.11.4 Support the strengthening of entrepreneurship skills for women, youth and persons with disability;
- 3.11.5 Continue expanding the Official Development Assistance (ODA) for sustainable economic and social development and poverty alleviation in ASEAN Member States;
- 3.11.6 Contribute to the economic and social development of ASEAN Member States by strengthening bilateral consultation and coordination;
- 3.11.7 Promote the efficiency and coherence of development cooperation policies towards ASEAN and strengthen networks among its government-related agencies and examine the possibility of establishing a channel for regular dialogue;
- 3.11.8 Increase dispatch of overseas volunteer teams to undertake works that support income growth in rural areas through project development, mainly in ASEAN rural areas and small towns.

4. CONNECTIVITY

- 4.1 Enhance support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity especially in the area of physical infrastructure and ICT including through financial and technical support;
- 4.2 Continue cooperation on the ASEAN Connectivity agenda, including through communication, outreach and implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and through other regional fora including sub-regional frameworks;
- 4.3 Continue to convene meetings between the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the ROK's Task Force on ASEAN Connectivity;
- 4.4 Support the development of an ASEAN Public Private Partnership (PPP) development agenda, including in the areas of legal and regulatory reform and public sector capacity building to support the development of commercially viable PPP projects;
- 4.5 Encourage private sector investment in infrastructure projects, including through public private partnership (PPP) schemes and other financing modalities for the implementation of the MPAC, particularly its prioritised projects, which will contribute to the ASEAN Community building;
- 4.6 Further strengthen policy consultation and the exchange of information and technology in the areas of airport facilities, city development and other infrastructures, through capacity building programmes, seminars and exchange of experts;
- 4.7 Support the efforts of the respective countries to establish the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link, and cooperate to provide technical and financial assistance such as by participating in feasibility study projects, etc;
- 4.8 Foster cooperation to develop maritime connectivity to promote economic growth, narrow development gaps, and contribute to regional integration and community building process, as well as to increase greater people mobility.

5. COOPERATION IN THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

5.1 East Asia Cooperation

- 5.1.1 Continue to support ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture including to support ASEAN's efforts in promoting norms and principles enshrined in, among others, the ASEAN Charter and other relevant ASEAN instruments such as the TAC and the EAS Declaration on the Principle for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles) towards the development of a rules-based regional architecture;
- 5.1.2 Work closely to strengthen the EAS, with ASEAN as the driving force, as a leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic,

political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity and integration in East Asia;

- 5.1.3 Continue to support ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as a main vehicle to realise the long-term objective of establishing an East Asian community with ASEAN as the driving force including through effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017;
- 5.1.4 Implement the Action Plans for the selected recommendations of the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II, which have been mutually agreed;
- 5.1.5 Encourage active participation and involvement of the business community, academia, and other relevant stakeholders in promoting and strengthening East Asian cooperation, including through the relevant mechanisms such as the East Asia Forum (EAF), Network of East Asia Think Tanks (NEAT), and other mechanisms.

5.2 Multilateral Fora

- 5.2.1 Cooperate closely to contribute to the UN reform, including the Security Council;
- 5.2.2 Continue to cooperate for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and beyond, as well as support the formulation of the UN post-2015 development agenda to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development;
- 5.2.3 Continue to contribute to the strong, sustainable, inclusive and balanced growth of the world economy through strengthening collaboration and policy consultation between ASEAN and ROK in the multilateral fora;
- 5.2.4 Strengthen collaboration and policy consultation between ASEAN and the ROK in major multilateral fora

including the WTO, ARF, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the G20, Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM), and Forum for East Asia Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) especially in the area of mutual interest such as promoting sustainable development and addressing global and regional challenges;

- 5.2.5 Strengthen coordination and cooperation on G20-related matters including supporting the continued participation of the ASEAN Chair in future G20 Summits and, where appropriate, its related meetings.

6. INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI) AND NARROWING DEVELOPMENT GAP

- 6.1 Continue to contribute to narrowing development gaps in the region through the implementation of Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II 2009-2015 and its successor document and other sub-regional economic cooperation frameworks, including the Mekong-ROK Action Plan (2014-2017) adopted at the 4th Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July 2014 in Seoul;
- 6.2 Continue to provide financial and technical support for the development of human resources, for the least developed countries (LDC) of ASEAN;
- 6.3 Continue to support CLMV Countries, in the implementation of the IAI;
- 6.4 Continue to support the less developed countries of ASEAN, including CLMV Countries in wider areas, among others, human resources development, rural household electrification programmes, information technology curriculum and IT teacher trainings, and further increase the number of fellowships and scholarships.

7. SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION

- 7.1 Provide technical and technological support to the countries in the Mekong sub-region in collaboration with international organisations such as the Mekong River Commission, the World Bank, and the ADB for the development of the Mekong River Basin region in accordance with the local requirements;

- 7.2 Enhance cooperation within the sub-regional cooperation mechanisms, especially the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund for cooperation projects, particularly in the fields in which the ROK has expertise, such as infrastructure, ICT management and water resource management;
- 7.3 Examine the possibility of participating in ACMECS projects, particularly in the fields of transportation, infrastructure, agriculture, environment and human resources development, and consult with ACMECS countries on the modalities for its participation;
- 7.4 Further study the CLV Development Triangle and explore the possibility to provide relevant assistance in enhancing ASEAN's integration efforts;
- 7.5 Cooperate with the BIMP-EAGA Member Countries to promote human resources development and capacity building in areas such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, transportation, environment, ICT, and small and medium enterprises.

8. STRENGTHENING ASEAN'S INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

- 8.1 Support ASEAN's efforts to implement measures aimed to build capacities in the ASEAN Secretariat as well as in other ASEAN institutions, organs and bodies, through various programmes including human resources development, knowledge management and ICT system upgrade with a view to supporting the ASEAN Community;
- 8.2 Strengthen networking between the ASEAN Secretariat and the ROK to further enhance the capacity building of the ASEAN Secretariat.

9. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 9.1 This Plan of Action will be taken forward using the ASEAN-ROK cooperation fund and other available funding sources from ASEAN and the ROK;
- 9.2 Concerned sectoral bodies in ASEAN and agencies in the ROK will jointly draw up specific work programmes/projects to implement the actions and measures outlined in this Plan of Action;

- 9.3 Review of this Plan of Action will be made through appropriate ASEAN-ROK mechanisms, including through the relevant ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meetings, ASEAN-ROK Dialogue and ASEAN-ROK Joint Cooperation Committee. Progress report of the implementation of this Plan of Action will be submitted to the annual ASEAN-ROK Summit;
- 9.4 ASEAN and the ROK will further enhance the effectiveness and ensure the transparent operation of the ASEAN-ROK funds.

Joint Media Statement of the 12th AEM-ROK Consultations

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
23 August 2015**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea met on 23 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Twelfth AEM-ROK Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohammed, Minister of Trade of Malaysia and H.E. Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of Republic of Korea.
2. The Ministers noted the performance of ASEAN-Korea bilateral trade and investment. According to ASEAN statistics, trade between ASEAN and Korea reached USD 131.5 billion in 2014, accounting for 5.2 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. Korea is ASEAN's fifth largest trading partner, a position that it has maintained since 2010. Foreign direct investment (FDI) from Korea to ASEAN amounted to USD 4.5 billion in 2014. This accounted for 3.3 per cent of all FDI into ASEAN, placing Korea as ASEAN's sixth largest source of FDI.
3. The Ministers reaffirmed the Leaders' commitment made at the 2nd ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit, which was held in December 2014 in Busan, Korea to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-Korea Dialogue Relations, to strengthen

efforts to boost economic cooperation between ASEAN and Korea, and to improve market access for goods and services. The Ministers welcomed the Leaders' resolve to increase ASEAN-Korea trade to USD 200 billion in 2020, by maximising the utilisation of the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA), noting the complementarity of ASEAN and Korea's economies.

4. The Ministers welcomed the finalisation of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement. The Third Protocol introduced new commitments on Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation, and gave legal effect to the inclusion of Parties' line-by-line Tariff Reduction Schedules to the Trade in Goods Agreement. The Ministers looked forward to the entry into force of the Protocol by 1 January 2016.
5. The Ministers noted the progress made in improving the implementation of the Trade in Goods Agreement, which includes the completion of the transposition of the AKFTA tariff reduction schedules from HS 2007 to HS 2012, as well as the modality for further liberalisation of trade in goods. The Ministers were also pleased to note that all Parties implemented the Product Specific Rules (PSRs) in HS 2012 on 1 May 2015.
6. The Ministers welcomed the development in finalising the Work Programme under the ASEAN-Korea Investment Agreement.
7. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Korea for its continued contribution in supporting economic cooperation projects under the AKFTA. The Ministers also welcomed the initiatives to raise awareness of the ASEAN-Korea Economic Cooperation Fund, and encouraged ASEAN Member States to submit project proposals to support the implementation of the AKFTA.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State for Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of

Commerce, Cambodia); Mrs Sondang Anggraini, Adviser to the Minister on Trade and Diplomacy, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea; H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; Mrs Ow Foong Pheng, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore); Mr Thawatchai Sophastienphong, Director General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam); and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 6th ASEAN and Republic of Korea Transport Ministers Meeting (6th ATM+ROK)

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
6 November 2015**

1. The Sixth ASEAN and ROK Transport Ministers (6th ATM+ROK) Meeting was held on 6 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport of Malaysia and, H.E. Mr. Seungho Lee, Deputy Minister for Transport and Logistics, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea. The Meeting was preceded by the Seventh ASEAN and ROK Senior Transport Officials Meeting (7th STOM+ROK) held on 4 November 2015.

2. The Ministers commended the progress made in implementing the ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Roadmap which includes successful conclusion of the several projects/activities in 2015 including:

- (a) Myanmar Port Development Basic Plan and Feasibility Study;
- (b) Project on Establishing Master Plan for Arterial Road Network Development in Myanmar;
- (c) Master Plan Study for the Development of National Airports in the Philippines;
- (d) Basic Study on Efficiency of ASEAN Highway Investment Models; and
- (e) Capacity Building Training Programmes on Railway Policy and Safety; Logistics Policy and Technology; Sustainable Urban Transportation Systems; Transport and Logistics Development and Land Compensation; ICAO STP Aerodrome Inspection Procedures.

3. The Ministers welcomed the successful outcomes of the 6th ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Forum which was held on 9-11 June 2015 in Incheon, ROK. The Ministers look forward to the implementation of the following key projects/activities for 2016:

- (a) Capacity building training program for Railway Policy and Safety;
- (b) Capacity building training program for Logistics Policy and Technology;
- (c) Capacity building training program for ITS policy and technology; and
- (d) Capacity building training program for Transport and Logistics Development and Land Compensation.

4. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to deepen aviation cooperation under ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity and looked forward to the convening of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements soon. ASEAN Ministers reiterated their heightened expectations from the 5th ATM+ROK on 28 November 2014, Mandalay, Myanmar, for the early conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial air

services agreement, while noting ROK's view that such development would require sufficient time to discuss.

5. The Seventh ATM+ROK Meeting will be held in the Philippines in 2016.

LIST OF MINISTERS (To Be confirmed by ASEAN Member States & ROK)

H.E. Dato Mustappa Sirat, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia; Mr. Sugihardjo, Secretary General, representing H.E. Ignasius Jonan, Minister for Transportation of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Bounchanh Sinthavong, Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport of Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Han Sein, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Transport of Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Joseph Emilio Aguinaldo Abaya, Secretary of Transportation and Communications of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Seungho Lee, Deputy Minister for Transport and Logistics, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea; H.E. Mr. Khaw Boon Wan, Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport of Singapore; H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Transport of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Dinh La Thang, Minister of Transport of Viet Nam; and H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.

Chairman's Statement of the 17th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

1. The 17th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Seri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015. It was attended by all Heads of State/Government of

ASEAN Member States and the President of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Park Geun-hye.

2. The Republic of Korea (ROK) welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Community, which is a culmination of a five-decade long effort of community-building towards a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged the ROK to contribute towards the realisation of the vision and goals outlined in ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
3. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK's continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum as well as its support for the strengthening of the East Asia Summit as it commemorates its 10th anniversary in 2015.
4. We noted the significant progress achieved in ASEAN-ROK relations in the 25 years since its establishment in 1989. We expressed optimism that the ASEAN-ROK strategic partnership will continue to be further enhanced and deepened in line with our renewed commitments at the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in Busan, ROK on 11-12 December 2014.
5. We expressed satisfaction with the realisation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Republic of Korea Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015), welcomed the adoption of the new Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020) and looked forward to its full and effective implementation.
6. We are pleased to note that trade between ASEAN and the ROK remains robust, accounting for 5.2 per cent of ASEAN's total trade in 2014. The ROK was ASEAN's fifth largest trading partner, a position it has maintained since 2010. We welcomed the increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the ROK to ASEAN, accounting for 3.3 per cent of all FDI into ASEAN in 2014, positioning the ROK as ASEAN's sixth largest source of

FDI. While trade and investment continues to figure prominently, we underlined the need to intensify efforts to further liberalise and remove barriers through the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement, with a view to achieving two-way trade amounting to USD\$200 billion by 2020.

7. In this regard, we were pleased to note the finalisation of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods (AKTIG) Agreement, which will further facilitate and allow for a more effective implementation of the Agreement. We were also encouraged that our Economic Ministers have agreed on a modality for further liberalisation of products placed in the sensitive track of the AKTIG as a further step to enhance ASEAN-ROK trade.
8. We focused attention on the importance of enhancing participation in the business sector and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-ROK Business Council and the ASEANROK CEO Summit at the sidelines of ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in 2014. We agreed that the ASEAN-ROK Business Council should be utilised to further promote cooperation among the private sector and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) including through human resource development and the sharing of best practices as well as its participation in the regional value chain. We welcomed the successful organisation of the 2nd ASEAN-ROK Business Council Meeting on 20 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur aimed at further promoting closer collaboration among the business community.
9. In line with this, we also agreed to further discuss the establishment of an ASEAN-ROK innovation centre to promote cooperation on innovation. The Centre aims to enhance innovation capacity, optimise human capital development and improve the capacity and capability of ASEAN MSMEs, enabling them to become an engine of growth for the global economy.
10. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's support for the full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) as well as the on-going implementation

of the second phase of the Work Programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) 2013-2015 and the post-2015 AADMER work programme to be launched early next year.

11. We attached great importance to mitigating the impact of climate change on the livelihood of peoples in the region and underlined the importance of sustainable forest management, including through the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Agreement (AFoCo). We noted on-going dialogue on the establishment of an Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (AFoCO).
12. We appreciated the continuous cooperation of the ROK towards gender equality and in empowering women in the region. We noted with satisfaction the implementation of various regional projects on the Development and Delivery of Livelihood-based e-Service for ASEAN Women; Strategy for ASEAN Women's Socio-economic Empowerment through ICT Literacy and Leadership Education; ASEAN-Korea Education and Exchange Program for Young Scholars in Women's Studies; and Program on Curriculum Development on "Gender and Development" in the Universities of ASEAN Member States.
13. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK's commitment to supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, including through Public-Private Partnership (PPP), particularly in physical infrastructure, development of information and communications technology and people-to-people connectivity, including by enhancing greater air connectivity and to this end, encouraged the conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial air services agreement with the ROK in support of tourism, trade and investment flows. We also attached great importance to the Mekong-ROK cooperation, which has contributed to narrowing the development divide and enhanced connectivity, thereby contributing to meaningful economic integration.
14. The Leaders also recognised that regional integration and narrowing the development divide are priorities in the ASEAN community-building process and towards that end, looked forward to the ROK's continued cooperation and support for narrowing the development divide in the region, including through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II and its successor document.
15. We commended the role played by the ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting trade, investment, tourism, cultural exchanges, people-to-people contacts and to raise awareness of ASEAN in the ROK, in line with the Centre's vision to build a genuine partnership between the two sides. We encouraged the Centre to create greater synergies with the ASEAN-China and ASEAN-Japan Centres as well as the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) to further deepen integration in the region.
16. We emphasised the importance of enhancing cultural cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK and looked forward to the inauguration of the ASEAN Culture House in Busan in 2017 to further enhance understanding of ASEAN culture in the ROK.
17. We appreciated the ROK's support for the establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC), which will serve as a regional center of excellence in addressing the humanitarian aspects of the explosive remnants of war for interested ASEAN Member States.
18. The Leaders expressed concern over developments on the Korean Peninsula and underlined the importance of peace, stability and security in the region. We registered deep concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's ballistic missile launch in May 2015 and emphasised the need to fully comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and for parties to abide by their commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We also called for the creation of necessary conditions for the early resumption of meaningful Six-Party Talks, which would pave the way for the complete and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We commended the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and

the Republic of Korea on their initiative of family reunions and stressed the importance of trust-building activities on the Peninsula.

Third Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Trade in Goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among the Governments of Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to collectively as "ASEAN" or "ASEAN Member Countries" or individually as "ASEAN Member Country") and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "Korea") (hereinafter referred to individually as "Party" and collectively as the "Parties").

RECALLING the Agreement on Trade in Goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Among the Governments of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement"), signed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the twenty-fourth day of August, 2006.

RECOGNISING the need for effective cooperation among the Parties on trade facilitation;

DESIRING to clarify the scope and conditions under which certain Parties may apply reciprocal arrangement in regard to tariff rate treatment;

SEEKING to provide a line-by-line tariff reduction and/or elimination schedule' according to each Party's commitment under the Agreement; and

NOTING that Article 17 of the Agreement provides for any amendments thereto to be mutually agreed upon in writing by the Parties.

HAVE AGREED as follows :

Article 1

Amendment of Article 4 of the Agreement

Article 4 of the Agreement shall be amended and replaced by a new Article 4 as set out below:

Article 4

Transparency, Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation

1. Article X of GATT 1994 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, be incorporated into and form an integral part of this Agreement.
2. The Parties will facilitate the timely publication and dissemination of statutory and regulatory information, decisions and rulings on customs matters in accordance with the Parties' respective laws and regulations.
3. The Parties shall publish on the internet and/or in print form all statutory and regulatory provisions and any customs administrative procedures applicable or enforceable by their customs administrations, except for law enforcement procedures and internal operational guidelines and matters which by their nature are classified to be confidential.

Article 2

Amendment to Insert New Articles 4 *bis* and 4 *ter* into the Agreement

The Agreement shall be amended by inserting new Articles 4 bis and 4 ter after Article 4 of the Agreement as set out below:

Article 4 *bis* Advance Rulings

1. Each Party, through its customs administration and/or other relevant authorities, shall, to the extent permitted by its respective laws,

- regulations and administrative determinations, provide in writing advance rulings, upon the application of a person described in paragraph 2(a) of this Article, in respect of a tariff classification, questions arising from the application of the principles of the *Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994*, in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement (Customs Valuation Agreement) and/or the origin of goods.
2. Where available, each Party shall adopt or maintain procedures for advance rulings, which shall:
 - (a) provide that an importer in the territory of that Party or an exporter or producer in the territory of another Party may apply for an advance ruling before the importation of the goods in question;
 - (b) require that an applicant for an advance ruling provide a detailed description of the goods and all relevant information needed to process the application for an advance ruling;
 - (c) provide that its customs administration and/or other relevant authorities may, at any time during the course of the evaluation of an application for an advance ruling, request that the applicant provide additional information within a specified period;
 - (d) provide that any advance ruling be based on the facts and circumstances presented by the applicant, and any other relevant information in the possession of the customs administration and/or other relevant authorities; and
 - (e) provide that an advance ruling be issued to the applicant expeditiously, within the period specified in each Party's respective laws, regulations or administrative determinations.
 3. A Party may reject requests for an advance ruling where the additional information requested in accordance with paragraph 2(c) is not provided within a specified time.
 4. A Party may decline to issue an advance ruling to an applicant where the question raised in the application:
 - (a) is already pending in the applicant's case before any governmental agency, appellate tribunal or court; or
 - (b) has already been decided by any appellate tribunal or court.
 5. Subject to paragraphs 1 and 6 and where available, each Party shall apply an advance ruling to all importations of goods described in that ruling imported into its territory for three (3) years from the date of that ruling, or such other period as specified in each Party's respective laws, regulations or administrative determinations.
 6. A Party may revoke, modify, or invalidate an advance ruling if it determines that:
 - (a) the ruling was based on an error in applying fact or law;
 - (b) incomplete, incorrect, false or misleading information was provided;
 - (c) there is a change in the relevant law(s), provided that such law(s) is/are consistent with this Agreement; or
 - (d) there is a change in material facts or circumstances on which the ruling was based.
 7. Where a Party revokes, modifies, or invalidates an advance ruling with retroactive effect; it may only do so where the ruling was based on incomplete, incorrect, false or misleading information.
 8. Where an importer claims that the treatment accorded to an imported good should be governed by an advance ruling, the customs administration and/or other relevant authorities may evaluate whether the facts and circumstances of the importation are consistent with the facts and circumstances upon which the advance ruling was based.
 9. Subject to any confidentiality requirements in its laws and regulations, each Party shall endeavour to make available to the public its advance rulings on tariff classifications.

Article 4 *fer* Enquiry Points

Each Party shall, within its available resources, designate one or more enquiry points to address enquiries from interested persons of the Parties concerning customs and, to the extent possible, other trade-related matters, and shall make available on the internet and/or in print form, information concerning the procedures for making such enquiries.

Article 3 Amendment of Footnote to Paragraph 2 of Rule 4 of Annex 3 to the Agreement

The footnote to paragraph 2 of Rule 4 of Annex 3 to the Agreement shall be amended and replaced by a new footnote as set out below:

“3 An exporter or producer of the exporting Party shall be given the flexibility to adopt the method of calculating the RVC, whether it is the build-up or the build-down method. The exporter or producer shall continue to use the selected method of calculating the RVC throughout the same fiscal year. It is understood that any verification of the RVC by the importing Party shall be done on the basis of the method used by the exporter or producer.”

Article 4 Amendment of Paragraph 1 of Rule 5 of Appendix 1 to Annex 3 to the Agreement

Paragraph 1 of Rule 5 of Appendix 1 to Annex 3 to the Agreement shall be amended and replaced by a new paragraph 1 as set out below:

1. A Certificate of Origin shall be:
 - (a) in a printed format¹;
 - (b) on A4 size paper;
 - (c) in the attached Form [Attachment 1] (hereinafter referred to as “Form AK”); and
 - (d) in the English language.

¹ A printed format means a Certificate of Origin manually or electronically signed, stamped and issued directly by the issuing authorities of the exporting Party.

Article 5 Amendment of Paragraph 7 of Annex 2 to the Agreement

Paragraph 7 of Annex 2 to the Agreement shall be amended and replaced by a new paragraph 7 as set out below:

7. The reciprocal tariff rate treatment of tariff lines placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track, excluding Group E, while the same tariff lines are placed by the importing Party in the Normal Track, shall be governed by the following conditions:
 - (i) the tariff rate for a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track, excluding Group E, must be at 10% or below, and the exporting Party has given notification² to that effect to the other Parties in order for that exporting Party to enjoy reciprocity;
 - (ii) the reciprocal tariff rate to be applied to a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track shall be either the tariff rate of that exporting Party's tariff line, or the Normal Track tariff rate of the same tariff line of an importing Party from whom reciprocity is sought, whichever is higher;
 - (iii) notwithstanding sub-paragraph (ii), the importing Party can, at its discretion, apply its Normal Track tariff rate even if such rate is lower than the tariff rate of the exporting Party; and
 - (iv) the reciprocal tariff rate to be applied to a tariff line placed by an exporting Party in the Sensitive Track shall in no case exceed the applied MFN rate of the same tariff line of an importing Party from whom reciprocity is sought.

Article 6 Amendment to Insert a New Paragraph 7 bis into Annex 2 to the Agreement

Annex 2 to the Agreement shall be amended by inserting a new paragraph 7 bis after the existing

² The Parties shall adhere to the notification procedure set out in the Interpretative Notes to the Reciprocal Arrangement as amended by the Special Meeting of the AKFTA Implementing Committee held on 17-18 November 2014. The Interpretative Notes may be subject to further amendments by the Implementing Committee.

paragraph 7 of Annex 2 to the Agreement as set out below:

- 7 *bis* (a) Notwithstanding paragraph 7 of this Annex and the *Interpretative Notes to the Reciprocal Arrangement*, two or more Parties may agree, in writing, to waive their right to apply reciprocal arrangement in regard to tariff rate treatment. Such agreement shall be reported to the Implementing Committee³.
- (b) Where the agreement in sub-paragraph (a) has been made, the concerned exporting Party shall enjoy the tariff concessions which the concerned importing Party has made for that tariff line as specified in and applied pursuant to Annex 1 to the Agreement.

Article 7

Amendment of Paragraph 8 of Annex 1 to the Agreement

Paragraph 8 of Annex 1 to the Agreement shall be amended and replaced by a new paragraph 8 as set out below:

8. Each Party shall specify in the Consolidated Appendix to Annexes 1 and 2 its tariff lines placed in the Normal Track along with the tariff elimination schedule for each tariff line in accordance with paragraph 5.

Article 8

Amendment of Paragraph 8 of Annex 2 to the Agreement

Paragraph 8 of Annex 2 to the Agreement shall be amended and replaced by a new paragraph 8 as set out below:

8. Each Party shall specify in the Consolidated Appendix to Annexes 1 and 2 its tariff lines placed in the Sensitive Track along with the tariff reduction schedule for each tariff line in accordance with this Annex.

³ The right to apply reciprocal arrangement shall be waived permanently between Korea and Brunei, Korea and Laos, Korea and Malaysia, Korea and Myanmar, Korea and Singapore, and Korea and Viet Nam on a bilateral basis from the date this Protocol takes effect for Korea and the relevant Party. Between Korea and Cambodia, Korea and Indonesia, Korea and the Philippines, and Korea and Thailand, the number of tariff lines subject to reciprocal arrangement as of 1 January 2014 shall not be increased.

Article 9

Amendment to Delete Appendices 1 and 2 to Annex 2 and Insert a New Consolidated Appendix to Annexes 1 and 2 to the Agreement

The Agreement shall be amended by deleting Appendices 1 and 2 to Annex 2, and inserting a new Consolidated Appendix to Annexes 1 and 2 as set out below:

Consolidated Appendix to Annexes 1 and 2 Tariff Reduction and/or Elimination Schedule :

1. Brunei Darussalam
2. Cambodia
3. Indonesia
4. Korea
5. Laos
6. Malaysia
7. Myanmar
8. Philippines
9. Singapore
10. Thailand
11. Viet Nam

Article 10

Entry into Force

1. This Protocol shall form an integral part of the Agreement. It shall enter into force on 1 January 2016, provided that Korea and at least one ASEAN Member Country have by then notified all the other Parties in writing of the completion of their internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Protocol. In the event that this Protocol does not enter into force on 1 January 2016, it shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the latter date on which Korea and at least one ASEAN Member Country have notified all the other Parties in writing of the completion of their internal procedures.
2. Each Party, upon completion of its internal procedures for the entry into force of this Protocol, shall notify all the other Parties in writing.
3. Where a Party is not able to complete its internal procedures for the entry into force of this Protocol by the entry into force date set in

paragraph 1, this Protocol shall enter into force in relation to that Party on the date of notification of completion of such internal procedures.

Article 11
Depositary

For the ASEAN Member Countries, this Protocol shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall then promptly furnish a certified true copy thereof, to each ASEAN Member Country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Third Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Trade in Goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among the Governments of the Republic of Korea and the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

DONE at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this 22nd November, 2015, in duplicate copies in the English language.

For the Government of Brunei Darussalam:
LIM JOCK SENG
Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the Royal Government of Cambodia:
SUN CHANTHOL
Senior Minister, Minister of Commerce

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia:
THOMAS TRIKASIH LEMBONG
Minister of Trade

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
KHEMMANI PHOLSENA
Minister of Industry and Commerce

For the Government of Malaysia:
MUSTAPA MOHAMED
Minister of International Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
KAN ZAW
Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

For the Government of the Republic of the Philippines:
GREGORY L. DOMINGO
Secretary of Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore:
LIM HNG KIANG
Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand:
APIRADI TANTRAPORN
Minister of Commerce

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:
VU HUY HOANG
Minister of Industry and Trade

For the Government of the Republic of Korea:
YOON SANG-JICK
Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy

ASEAN-New Zealand

Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Statement for ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership 2016-2020

This Plan of Action (PoA) is to implement the shared ambition for a deeper, stronger, and mutually beneficial ASEAN-New Zealand relationship with a focus on areas where ASEAN and New Zealand have expertise and mutual interests.

Building on 40 years of Dialogue Partnership, and the achievements made under the Plan of Action 2010-2015, this Plan of Action will implement the ASEAN and New Zealand Strategic Partnership, and all parties are fully committed to:

- Support ASEAN integration as well as ASEAN's efforts in realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred and rulesbased ASEAN, including by narrowing the development gap and enhancing ASEAN Connectivity;

- Enhance New Zealand's engagement with ASEAN in various existing fora and mechanisms;
- Continue to build on the progress made under the four Flagships, and increase cooperation including through two key strategies: the People Strategy and the Prosperity Strategy:
 - a. The People Strategy will aim to build stronger connections between ASEAN's and New Zealand's people and communities. It will give opportunities for training, scholarships, exchanges and greater flows of people in both directions, with a focus on youth development and future leaders.
 - b. The Prosperity Strategy will support ASEAN's and the region's economic development, as well as regional economic integration, focusing on areas where New Zealand has specific skills to offer.

The vision for the relationship is set out in the Joint Statement for the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership 2016-2020 adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015.

The PoA shall be implemented taking into account ASEAN's and New Zealand's obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations and policies.

A. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

Political and Security Dialogue:

1. Promote regular two-way Head of State, Head of Government, Ministerial, Parliamentary and officials' level visits to raise the profile of ASEAN-New Zealand relations, and to enhance political momentum for co-operation;
2. Strengthen existing mechanisms for dialogue and co-operation in areas of mutual interest between ASEAN and New Zealand, including the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with New Zealand (PMC+1), the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue and the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) as well as within regional ASEAN-led fora, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMMPlus). Dialogue could also include ASEAN-New

Zealand Summits as appropriate and as mutually agreed;

3. Continue dialogue and practical defence cooperation to address global and regional challenges. Focus may include practical cooperation, mutual visits, training, and capacity-building through regional and global initiatives as appropriate and ASEAN-led frameworks including the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus);
4. Work closely to strengthen the East Asia Summit (EAS), with ASEAN as the driving force, as a leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern, with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity and integration in the region;
5. Strengthen collaboration and coordination in other multilateral frameworks and fora, including the United Nations, on issues of mutual interest; and
6. Raise the profile and awareness of New Zealand and ASEAN relations through Track II dialogue.

Strengthening Peace and Stability:

7. Further promote shared values and norms, including those enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) to contribute to maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond;
8. Support the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) as an effective instrument in promoting and strengthening nuclear non-proliferation, and note the ongoing efforts of States Parties to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) and the nuclear weapon States to resolve outstanding issues pertaining to the signing and ratification of the Protocol to that Treaty;
9. Continue to support ASEAN in the implementation of the ASEAN Convention

on Counter Terrorism and ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism and deepen cooperation through the framework of the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, focusing on the areas of prevention, border control, law enforcement, legislation, and policy;

10. Explore cooperation in addressing humanitarian aspects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region through regional institutions such as the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC);
11. Promote cooperation in confidence-building, preventive diplomacy, conflict management, conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the region, including through active engagement in the relevant regional mechanisms and institutions such as the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), and implementation of the ARF Work Plans;
12. Enhance cooperation in preventing and combating transnational crimes such as illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, people-smuggling, money laundering, arms smuggling, piracy, terrorism and financing of terrorism and cybercrime, including through utilising existing regional frameworks including the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process), where appropriate, as well as regional and international institutions such as the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement (JCLEC), the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), and the International Law Enforcement Agency (ILEA);
13. Further enhance cooperation between ASEAN Member States and New Zealand on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) through the United Nations and ARF; and
14. Deepen cooperation on cyber security, including the promotion of cyber confidence building measures, through relevant regional mechanisms such as the ARF, and SOMTC. Explore further cooperation to combat cyber

threats including cybercrime and terrorist use of the Internet and raise awareness of these threats.

Good Governance and Human Rights:

15. Promote dialogue, consultations, and partnership among governments, private sector and other relevant stakeholders in the society to foster and enable new ideas, concepts, and methods with a view to enhancing transparent, accountable, participatory and effective governance; and
16. Enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of vulnerable groups, in the region in accordance with relevant international and regional human rights instruments to which all ASEAN Member States are parties, including the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the Phnom Penh Statement on the adoption of the AHRD, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and the work plans of the relevant ASEAN bodies including the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), through regional dialogues, seminars and workshops, education and awareness-raising activities, and other capacity-building initiatives, including with New Zealand bodies where applicable.

Maritime Cooperation:

17. Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded commerce, the exercise of self-restraint, the non-use of force or the threat of force, and 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 (UNCLOS) and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization;
18. Strengthen cooperation in maritime safety and search and rescue (SAR), including the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea and oil spill preparedness, such as through technical

cooperation, training exercises, and exchange of visits of relevant ASEAN and New Zealand officials; and

19. Promote maritime cooperation, including cooperation on maritime security, combating piracy and armed robbery against ships through appropriate ASEAN mechanisms and ASEAN-led fora such as the EAS, ADMM-Plus, ARF, ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and its Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), and where appropriate, promote technical cooperation, capacity-building, exchange of experience and sharing of knowledge and expertise.

Promotion of Moderation:

20. Support the implementation of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates to promote peace, security, upholding rule of law, sustainable and inclusive development, equitable growth and social harmony; and
21. Encourage cooperation on interfaith and inter-civilisation dialogues and further contribute internationally and regionally to the promotion of tolerance and understanding through initiatives including the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) and the Regional Interfaith Dialogue, and promoting moderation as a core value to counter extremism and acts of violence in all aspects.

B. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Trade and Economic Development under the AANZFTA:

22. Implement the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP), with financial support by Australia and New Zealand to enhance the capacity of ASEAN Member States to implement AANZFTA and ensure commitments are fully met and the full benefits of the Agreement are realised for all parties to the agreement, especially in the areas as outlined in the Economic Cooperation Work Program (ECWP);
23. Continue the effective implementation of AANZFTA and support business utilisation of the Agreement, in recognition of the economic and wider benefits that will accrue from a

stronger and more prosperous ASEAN and a more integrated regional economy;

24. Conclude AANZFTA's built-in agenda areas, including rules of origin, non-tariff measures (NTMs) and services and investment, to ensure the Agreement continues to deliver real commercial benefits for traders and investors; and
25. Enhance shared understanding of qualifications frameworks and systems, including through the AECSP-supported ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework.

Regional Economic Integration and Resilience:

26. Pursue and implement a modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement that will cover trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property, competition, dispute settlement and other issues, and offers significant improvements on existing ASEAN+1 FTAs;
27. Support the Integration Partnership Forum (IPF) initiative to share experiences in economic integration between the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations (CER) and ASEAN;
28. Collaborate with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), on areas of mutual interest;
29. Support ASEAN and New Zealand towards attaining inclusive and sustainable growth in line with regional priorities such as the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development (AFEED);
30. Cooperate to advance the prosperity and capacity of ASEAN and New Zealand, bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally, in areas of mutual interest including reducing the cost of doing business, improving the regulatory and legal environment, enhancing technical assistance, and enhancing qualifications frameworks;

31. Promote and raise awareness of the business opportunities created by AANZFTA and other trade agreements in the region including by promoting relevant business outreach activities; pursuing two-way trade and investment missions; and strengthening links between government and the private sector, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and interaction between the ASEAN-New Zealand Business Council (ANZBC) and ASEAN business communities; and
32. Promote commercial opportunities to facilitate economic development, including the transfer of New Zealand know-how and expertise to ASEAN under the New Zealand Government-to-Government programme, and through sharing best practices on Public-Private Partnership (PPP), where appropriate.

Agriculture:

33. Promote closer cooperation in agriculture in key areas of mutual interest to encourage economic growth, sustainable agricultural productivity, food security and accessibility of ASEAN and New Zealand products to regional and global markets. The focus of cooperation and initiatives will include capacity-building, technology transfer, education and training, food safety and standards, agribusiness, and agriculture innovation; and
34. Promote responsible fishing practices and to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly in order to sustain fishery resources, ensure food security, alleviate poverty, and to optimise benefits of the people and economies in the region.

Energy:

35. Encourage cooperation to develop ASEAN and New Zealand expertise in renewable energy for power generation such as geothermal energy, and electric energy as well as promote cooperation in energy efficiency and conservation, such as through exchange of experience and best practices, in line with relevant regional frameworks such as the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 Phase 1 2016-2020.

Tourism:

36. Strengthen cooperation on tourism, with a focus on enhancing two-way tourism flows between ASEAN and New Zealand.

C. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION**Education and Leadership:**

37. Promote stronger people-to-people connections, and build greater awareness of ASEAN-New Zealand relations for current and future ASEAN and New Zealand leaders, including through:
 - 37.1 Developing and promoting the Young Business Leaders Initiative (YBII) to enable two-way exchanges of young business leaders and entrepreneurs from ASEAN and New Zealand to foster better business and social links, including through structured study visits and organising of a youth entrepreneurs' network, to gain exposure and experience of business style, sectors, practices and procedures in ASEAN and New Zealand;
 - 37.2 Ensuring the English Language Training for Officials (ELTO) programme continues to meet priorities of ASEAN Member States and New Zealand;
 - 37.3 Providing a Prime Minister's Fellowship Scheme by inviting fellows from different ASEAN Member States to visit New Zealand each year as guests of the Prime Minister of New Zealand to undertake a programme of the familiarisation with New Zealand and the ASEAN-New Zealand relationship;
 - 37.4 Increasing and promoting the New Zealand-ASEAN Scholarships to tertiary students from ASEAN Member States and for ASEAN Member States to consider providing scholarships to New Zealand students;
 - 37.5 Supporting mutually beneficial Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in ASEAN Member States and New Zealand to help meet agriculture, public sector leadership, renewable energy and disaster risk management skills needs, to enhance productivity

and contribute to socioeconomic development; and

- 37.6 Providing skills training on diplomatic and international engagement, including an annual study tour to New Zealand by young ASEAN diplomats.
38. Encourage cooperation and networking between relevant higher education institutions in ASEAN Member States and New Zealand, including through the ASEAN University Network, individual institutions, and other relevant higher education stakeholders;
39. Encourage student and academic mobility and exchange; and
40. Promote the learning of ASEAN Member States' languages as optional foreign language Subjects in schools in New Zealand.

United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda

41. Strengthen cooperation to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the UN post-2015 development agenda, including supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Disaster Management:

42. Further deepen cooperation on disaster management and disaster relief management through priority areas under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its work programmes and engagement with ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) to strengthen our respective capabilities in disaster risk reduction, mitigation, prevention, preparedness and response, and disaster recovery.

Health:

43. Encourage cooperation in the health sector including in pandemic preparedness and response, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Environment and Climate Change:

44. Promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest including global environmental issues, transboundary environmental pollution, environmental education, environmentally-sound technology, urban environmental governance, urban planning, green cities, coastal and marine environment, nature conservation, water resources management, fisheries management, and sustainable production, consumption, and development, through relevant regional and international mechanisms such as the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability;
45. Promote cooperation to further our common aspiration and work together for effective climate change action, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC), and domestic policy action, where appropriate;
46. Explore cooperation to promote biodiversity conservation and management in the region, including with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACS);
47. Explore cooperation on the use of green technologies to maximise economic growth and promote environmental sustainability; and
48. Encourage cooperation to improve access to clean water, clean air, basic healthcare, and other social services, so that people in the region may lead healthy and productive lives and thereby contribute to ASEAN and the global community.

Arts, Culture and Sports:

49. Enhance cooperation in the areas of culture, arts and heritage, and sports including through cultural festivals, arts and crafts exhibitions, film cooperation, entertainment and media exchanges in both ASEAN Member States and New Zealand, to foster understanding, awareness, appreciation and appropriate preservation of cultural heritage, arts and sports between ASEAN Member States and New Zealand; and

50. Explore cooperation on preservation of cultural heritage in ASEAN Member States and New Zealand within the framework of UNESCO, including through promoting the protection of cultural properties against theft, illicit and illegal trade and trafficking, and transfer within and outside ASEAN and the region.

Social Welfare and Rights:

51. Explore cooperation, including through dialogue and capacity-building, to promote social welfare and rights in the region through relevant multilateral and regional fora, frameworks and mechanisms, such as the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW), the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

D. INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI) AND NARROWING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP (NDG)

52. Develop and undertake cooperation in programmes/projects to implement IAI Work Plan II and its successor documents in supporting ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap between and within ASEAN Member States and enhance ASEAN's competitiveness as a region in order to realise ASEAN integration;
53. Continue to support CLMV countries, in the implementation of the IAI; and
54. Continue to support the less developed countries of ASEAN, including CLMV countries, through areas such as human resource development by increasing the development scholarships, vocational education, and training programmes.

E. CONNECTIVITY

55. Cooperate on the regional connectivity priorities including through regional fora. Continue to support ASEAN in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), including the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity;
56. Promote cooperation between individual ASEAN Member States and New Zealand in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), to build a high quality international financial institution that supports infrastructure development in the region;
57. Support the development of an ASEAN Public Private Partnership (PPP) development agenda, such as through public sector capacity-building and the sharing of best practices, where appropriate, to support the development of commercially viable and bankable PPP projects; and
58. Enhance air services linkages between ASEAN and New Zealand, including through a possible New Zealand - ASEAN Air Services Agreement.

F. STRENGTHENING THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT

59. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat by providing training and capacity-building.

G. FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

60. This PoA will be reviewed through existing mechanisms, including the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue and the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting(s); and
61. Annual progress reports on the implementation of this PoA shall be submitted to the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC)+1 with New Zealand.

**Joint ASEAN-New Zealand
Leaders' Statement on the
40th Anniversary of ASEAN-
New Zealand Dialogue Relations:
Advancing Our Strategic
Partnership towards Greater
Mutual Benefit and Prosperity**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and New Zealand, gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 22 November 2015 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations.

ASEAN and New Zealand share a strong legacy, and have achieved much over the past 40 years across a wide range of areas, including political, security, trade and economic, people-to-people and development cooperation. The past five years in particular have been marked by stronger and more regular political engagement, increased two-way trade under the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA), and the expansion of education, tourism, and migration links.

Progress in our relations has been supported by New Zealand's four Flagship programmes of Agriculture, Scholarships, Disaster Risk Management, and the Young Business Leaders' Initiative, which have contributed to regional security and prosperity, and the objectives of the NZ Inc. ASEAN Strategy.

Looking ahead, ASEAN and New Zealand are committed to deeper regional integration and the realisation of a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, rules-based, and people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN, as reflected in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its Blueprints.

We recognised the importance of shared values and norms enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia, and ASEAN's centrality and leadership in the evolving regional architecture.

As we reaffirm our commitment to establish stronger, deeper, and mutually beneficial relations and build a peaceful, prosperous and integrated region, we agreed to elevate our relationship to a Strategic Partnership.

We look forward to the realization of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Statement for the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership 2016-2020, and welcome New Zealand's announcement of a significant increase in investment into the People Strategy and the Prosperity Strategy as a notable demonstration of New Zealand's firm commitment to the Strategic Partnership:

- The People Strategy will focus on the development of the region's people, particularly youth, including current and future leaders, and will foster greater flows of people in both directions. It includes the new New Zealand Prime Minister's Fellowship for ASEAN; expanded scholarships and English language training opportunities, new vocational training; and an expanded and reciprocal Young Business Leaders' Initiative.
- The Prosperity Strategy will focus on agriculture and trade initiatives to support ASEAN and New Zealand's economic growth, achieve common regional integration objectives, and narrow the development gap within and between ASEAN countries. It includes a new bilateral trade capacity-building programme; extended cooperation under AANZFTA; and increased development cooperation in the area of agriculture.

In order to further strengthen cooperation, ASEAN and New Zealand agreed to undertake the following for mutual benefit:

1. Strengthen cooperation in the promotion of regional peace, security and stability, including through more regular and comprehensive ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue and cooperative activities, and through ASEAN-led regional frameworks, especially the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus.
2. Foster greater cooperation to address security challenges, including traditional and non-traditional issues such as disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation of weapons of mass

destruction (WMD), counter terrorism, cyber and other transnational organised crime issues, and to support the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ).

3. Further promote maritime cooperation, including maritime security and safety, search and rescue, freedom of navigation and overflight, exercise of self-restraint, unimpeded commerce, non-use of force or threat of use of force, and the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with the universally-recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and through the appropriate ASEAN mechanisms.
4. Enhance cooperation to promote good governance, human rights, democracy and rule of law, peace and reconciliation, and encourage the promotion of moderation.
5. Promote greater regional economic integration, development, and resilience, including through support for the ASEAN Economic Community post-2015 agenda, effective implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), and the conclusion of a modern, high quality and mutually beneficial Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement.
6. Enhance economic cooperation in fields such as agriculture, trade, investment, SME development, energy and tourism.
7. Promote stronger people-to-people connections and greater awareness of ASEAN-New Zealand relations in order to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship.
8. Strengthen cooperation in disaster management, environment, climate change, health, and to improve access to clean water and clean air.
9. Explore cooperation to promote social welfare and rights in the region, including on women, children, youth, the elderly/older persons, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, vulnerable and marginalized groups.

10. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States, including the delivery of Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) priorities, and promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

11. Strengthen cooperation on physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity within and between ASEAN and New Zealand, including the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity.

12. Support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat.

We adopt this Joint Statement and tasked our relevant officials to implement and to realise the goals identified in this Joint Statement and the Plan of Action 2016-2020 and other existing ASEAN-New Zealand frameworks for cooperation.

ASEAN-Russian Federation

Joint Media Statement of the 4th AEM-Russia Consultations

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
25 August 2015**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and the Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation met on 25 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Fourth AEM-Russia Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia and H.E. Alexey V. Ulyukaev, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.
2. The Ministers were pleased to note the growth of trade between ASEAN and Russia. Total trade between ASEAN and Russia recorded an increase of 13 per cent, from USD 19.9 billion in 2013 to USD 22.5 billion in 2014. ASEAN exports to Russia increased by 3.3

per cent, from USD 5.2 billion to USD5.4 billion over the same period. ASEAN's imports from Russia also grew by 16.5 per cent year-on-year amounting to USD 17.1 billion in 2014. Russia was ASEAN's eighth largest trading partner in 2014.

3. The Ministers noted the progress of the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Programme and were pleased with the implementation of various activities under the Work Programme, including the annual AEM-Russia Consultations, the 7th SEOM-Russia Consultations, and various projects on technology, agriculture products, energy, and tourism.
4. To deepen economic ties and enhance the trade and investment relationship between ASEAN and Russia, the Ministers endorsed the Post-2015 ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Programme, which was built upon the successful initiatives under the previous ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Programme, in accordance with the ASEAN Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap endorsed by the Ministers on 12 October 2012.
5. The Ministers noted Russia's revised list of 57 new projects to be annexed to the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap. Given the fact that the projects are mostly seeking joint ventures or business opportunities, the Ministers agreed to channel the projects to the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and/or the Russia-ASEAN Business Council.
6. The Ministers commended the ASEAN-Russia Workshop on E-Commerce organised by Russia on 24 August 2015 in Cyberjaya, Malaysia on the margins of the second Russian business mission to ASEAN Member States. The Ministers noted that the Workshop has served as a platform which brings together e-commerce experts from public and private sectors of ASEAN Member States and the Russian Federation to create a common system of e-commerce in the framework of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership.

7. The Ministers welcomed outcomes of the second Russian business mission to ASEAN and expressed a hope that the regular exchanges of the ASEAN-Russia private sector will contribute to enhancing the trade relations between ASEAN and Russia.

LIST OF MINISTERS

Ms Tutiaty Abdul Wahab, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam (representing the Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam); H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State for Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia); Mrs Sondang Anggraini, Adviser to the Minister on Trade and Diplomacy, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; H.E. Alexey V. Ulyukaev, Minister for Economic Development, the Russian Federation; Ms Sulaimah Mahmood, Director of ASEAN, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore); Mr Thawatchai Sophastienphong, Director General, Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam); and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

ASEAN-United States

Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-US Strategic Partnership (2016-2020)

This Plan of Action is aimed at implementing the goals and objectives of the Joint Statement on the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership, the Joint Vision Statement on the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership, and the ASEAN-U.S. Summits, to strengthen the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity. It will continue to pursue the goals and objectives of these documents in the next five years (2016-2020), building upon the strong cooperation between ASEAN and the United States since 1977 and the achievements made in the implementation of the previous Plan of Action (2011-2015).

This Plan of Action identifies priorities and measures to be undertaken by both sides to further enhance their political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation and realise the full potential of the ASEAN-U.S. partnership.

Through the implementation of this Plan of Action, both sides will work on further supporting the ASEAN Community building and integration process, including the ASEAN Community Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together, for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, people-oriented, people-centered and rules-based ASEAN. ASEAN and the United States will also strengthen cooperation and coordination in addressing emerging regional and global challenges of common concern over the next five years and support the continued development of a rules-based regional architecture in the Asia-Pacific.

ASEAN and the United States will work closely to further strengthen the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership, particularly within the five priority areas of cooperation within the ambit of the three ASEAN Community pillars, namely economic integration, maritime cooperation, transnational challenges including climate change, emerging leaders, and women's opportunities. An overarching focus on science and technology, as well as rule of law and good governance, will ensure that cooperation in these priority areas will help deepen ASEAN

centrality, integration and unity, broaden shared prosperity, and help secure dignity and human rights for our people.

ASEAN and the United States hereby endeavor to pursue cooperation in conformity with their obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies.

1. POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1 Political Cooperation

- 1.1.1 Continue to support ASEAN Centrality in the regional architecture, as well as further promote shared values and norms, including those enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and the East Asia Summit (EAS) Declaration on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles), to contribute towards maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond;
- 1.1.2 Enhance cooperation to support ASEAN's efforts in peace and reconciliation in the region through relevant mechanisms, including, where appropriate, the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR);
- 1.1.3 Support ASEAN and U.S. efforts to contribute towards a rules-based regional architecture through relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms;
- 1.1.4 Sustain ASEAN-U.S. dialogue at the highest level through the convening of the annual ASEAN-U.S. Summit;
- 1.1.5 Strengthen the existing mechanisms for consultation and cooperation between ASEAN and the U.S., including the ASEAN-U.S. Summit, the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) with the U.S., the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue, and the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC);
- 1.1.6 Work closely to strengthen the EAS, with ASEAN as the driving force, as a leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic,

political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region, including through regular engagement, inter alia, between the CPR and non-ASEAN EAS Ambassadors in Jakarta;

1.1.7 Strengthen collaboration and coordination in other multilateral frameworks and fora, including the United Nations, on issues of common interest and concern, and support the implementation of the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) Plan of Action (2013-2017);

1.1.8 Consider exploring further implementation of the recommendations, where appropriate, of the ASEAN-U.S. Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on further strengthening and deepening the ASEAN-U.S. partnership.

1.2 Security Cooperation

1.2.1 Promote dialogue and strengthen cooperation to address regional security challenges facing the region through the existing ASEAN-led fora such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM- Plus), and the East Asia Summit (EAS);

1.2.2 Continue to promote the exchange of military officers, defense officials, and coastguard officials between individual ASEAN Member States and the U.S.;

1.2.3 Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded commerce, exercise of self-restraint, non-use of force or the threat to use force, and 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 (UNCLOS) and the relevant standards and recommended

practices by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO);

1.2.4 Deepen ASEAN-U.S. maritime cooperation, including maritime security, search and rescue and safety of navigation in the region through appropriate and relevant ASEAN mechanisms and ASEAN-led fora such as the EAS, the ADMM-Plus, the ARF, the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and its Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) and where appropriate, promote technical cooperation, shared awareness, capacity building, exchange of experience and sharing of knowledge and expertise;

1.2.5 Strengthen cooperation within the ARF and support the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement 2020, including in the areas of preventive diplomacy, disaster relief, counter-terrorism and transnational crime including cyber-security, non-proliferation and disarmament, and maritime security;

1.2.6 Intensify the on-going efforts of States Parties to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) and the Nuclear Weapon States to resolve outstanding issues pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol to that Treaty;

1.2.7 Explore cooperation in strengthening nuclear security, nuclear safety, and nuclear safeguards, in accordance with the IAEA safety and security standards, through capacity building and sharing of experience and best practices;

1.2.8 Continue to hold regular Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)+U.S. Consultations to further strengthen cooperation in combatting transnational crime, particularly trafficking in persons, sea piracy, counter terrorism, and explore possible cooperation in the area of

- illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber listed in the CITES Appendices;
- 1.2.9 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children, and the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia through capacity building and information sharing to enhance law enforcement and prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims, prevention of trafficking in persons, and public awareness campaigns;
- 1.2.10 Promote cooperation to tackle illicit drug trafficking, including through support for the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan for Combatting Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use, as well as the work of the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN-NARCO), including utilising the capacity of the International Law Enforcement Academy for transnational crime cooperation, training, and capacity building, where appropriate;
- 1.2.11 Promote cooperation in addressing humanitarian aspects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region, including through possible financial and technical support for the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC), to be further explored as more details about ARMAC are made available;
- 1.2.12 Continue to support the work of the ADMM Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action;
- 1.2.13 Support ASEAN in counterterrorism programmes, including through regional cooperation against foreign terrorist fighters and sharing of best practices to counter violent extremism, as well as the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT);
- 1.2.14 Support ASEAN in building its capacity to respond to threats to cybersecurity.
- 1.3 Good Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights Promotion**
- 1.3.1 Support ASEAN's efforts in promoting good governance, including through sharing of experiences and best practices;
- 1.3.2 Support the work and mandate of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), including capacity building for the promotion and protection of human rights and its priority programmes/ activities;
- 1.3.3 Support ASEAN Member States in anti-corruption efforts, through inter alia, the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.
- 1.4 Countering Violent Extremism and Promotion of Moderation**
- 1.4.1 Support the implementation of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) and the EAS Declaration on the GMM to promote peace, security, uphold rule of law, sustainable and inclusive development, equitable growth, and social harmony;
- 1.4.2 Encourage cooperation on interfaith and inter-cultural dialogues and further contribute internationally and regionally to the promotion of tolerance and understanding through initiatives such as the GMM and promoting moderation as a core value to counter extremism and acts of violence in all aspects.
- 2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**
- 2.1 Trade and Investment**
- 2.1.1 Work cooperatively on the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (ASEAN-U.S. TIFA) and

the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiative in enhancing overall U.S.-ASEAN economic engagement and supporting the ASEAN Economic Community's goals, including inclusive and sustainable growth;

2.1.2 Continue regular dialogues and consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and their Senior Officials to explore and realise ways to further deepen trade and investment ties in areas of mutual interest;

2.1.3 Promote interaction and networking between ASEAN and U.S. businesses through activities conducted by the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council (USABC) and the American Chambers of Commerce to explore and fully utilise trade and investment opportunities, as well as to maximise the private sector's involvement in promoting two-way trade and investment;

2.1.4 Strengthen collaboration and coordination in multi-lateral frameworks and fora on issues of common interest and concern, such as promoting sustainable and equitable development, as well as liberalisation and facilitating trade and investment.

2.2 Finance Cooperation

2.2.1 Continue dialogues through informal meetings, where appropriate, between the ASEAN Finance Ministers and the USABC to further explore ways to develop ASEAN-U.S. finance cooperation;

2.2.2 Explore further cooperation on financial infrastructure development and capital market development to create strong and robust economic and financial fundamentals for sustainable and balanced growth;

2.2.3 Explore supporting regional financial development and integration through capacity building with a view to

strengthening the competitiveness of ASEAN financial institutions and enhancing the capacity of financial regulators;

2.2.4 Encourage the expansion of trade financing and other available funding support mechanisms for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to stimulate trade;

2.2.5 Promote financial inclusion in the ASEAN region to strengthen the financial system and support trade in goods and services.

2.3 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

2.3.1 Strengthen cooperation in the field of intellectual property (IP), including support for the implementation of the ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Strategic Action Plan (2016-2025);

2.3.2 Continue capacity building and technical assistance to:

(i) enhance knowledge and public awareness in strengthening IPR regimes, including protection and enforcement;

(ii) increase transparency in IP laws and systems; and

(iii) facilitate effective and efficient IP management and commercialisation to benefit stakeholders, including SMEs, through IP policies and practices.

2.3.3 Support ASEAN Member States' efforts in achieving effective IP protection and enforcement consistent with agreed international standards and international agreements to which ASEAN Member States are parties.

2.4 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

2.4.1 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Post-2015 Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025), as well as the development of SMEs, including micro enterprises in ASEAN towards being globally competitive, resilient and innovative;

2.4.2 Continue to provide technical assistance and capacity building to develop ASEAN entrepreneurs, with particular focus on women and youth entrepreneurs, to be able to compete regionally and globally and support ASEAN's efforts to nurture SMEs through exchange programmes and activities between ASEAN and US youth;

2.4.3 Continue to promote sharing of information, best practices and technical assistance relating to e-commerce, e-learning platforms, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) knowledge and skills, and ways to improve access to finance and alternative financing, particularly for business start-ups.

2.5 Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

2.5.1 Support ASEAN in the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan (2016-2020);

2.5.2 Expand ICT cooperation through continued U.S.-TELSOM/TELMIN dialogue and consultations, knowledge sharing, capacity building and joint programmes in areas such as high-skilled ICT professional development, e-government, e-commerce, broadband infrastructure, information technology policy and services, advances in technology, promotion of innovation, and bridging the digital divide.

2.6 Transport

2.6.1 Strengthen cooperation to enhance transport infrastructure, networks and operations, including support for the implementation of the ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025;

2.6.2 Encourage knowledge sharing and exchange of experience on cross-border transportation, civil aviation, and environmentally-friendly transport systems;

2.6.3 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market, as well as enhance aviation relations and engagement between ASEAN and the U.S. through the initiation of the ASEAN Air Transport Working Group+U.S. consultations, developing an ASEAN-U.S. Aviation Cooperation Framework covering comprehensive economic and technical components.

2.7 Energy

2.7.1 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2020, particularly in areas outlined in the U.S.-ASEAN Energy Cooperation Work Plan 2016-2020, namely energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, power sector, natural gas and petroleum, as well as other energy-related issues;

2.7.2 Continue consultations between the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Energy (SOME) and the U.S. to further strengthen ASEAN-U.S. energy cooperation;

2.7.3 Encourage exchange of best practices on energy regulatory frameworks and technical standards and support regional capacity building in civilian nuclear energy power generation for regulators, operators, relevant technical support organisations, and relevant educational institutions;

2.7.4 Promote the sharing of information, knowledge, and experience on technology, as well as a legal and regulatory framework on alternative, clean and renewable energy, including civilian nuclear energy.

2.8 Food, Agriculture and Forestry

2.8.1 Continue cooperation with the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) and its subsidiary bodies in areas of mutual interest;

2.8.2 Explore support for ASEAN's efforts in implementing the ASEAN Integrated

- Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) 2015-2020;
- 2.8.3 Strengthen cooperation in developing productivity, enhancing technologies and best practices that involve optimal land use and sustainable fisheries resources;
- 2.8.4 Support, where appropriate, ASEAN's efforts in farmer empowerment;
- 2.8.5 Enhance regional cooperation on adaptation to address the impact of climate change on food security;
- 2.8.6 Support ASEAN cooperation to improve the governance of trans-boundary fishing and traceability of fishery products to address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing including through, among others, the improvement of regulation and control of fishing vessels through registries, the use of vessel monitoring systems and effective catch documentation schemes, as well as explore possibilities to further the cooperation through regional and international processes;
- 2.8.7 Support the facilitation of concerted and coordinated joint actions and enforcement efforts in the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), including through partnerships between ASEAN and U.S. government agencies and institutions, to address the illegal exploitation and trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna within the ASEAN region, consistent with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- 2.8.8 Support ASEAN's efforts in implementing sustainable forest management and agricultural practices, including technical cooperation, capacity building, partnerships, and exchanges of experiences and best practices;
- 2.8.9 Support ASEAN's Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (2016-2025).
- ### 3. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION
- #### 3.1 Disaster Management
- 3.1.1 Support ASEAN's vision for disaster-resilient nations and safer communities in the region by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme Phase 2 (2013-2015) and the work of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) beyond 2015;
- 3.1.2 Support ASEAN's work in the coordination and mobilisation of humanitarian assistance, and strengthen the existing ASEAN mechanisms through exchange of expertise and knowledge;
- 3.1.3 Support ASEAN's efforts in developing an ASEAN-wide disaster risk assessment system through hazard and vulnerability mapping, as well as support the strengthening of the ASEAN Disaster Management Training Institutes Network (ADTRAIN) and priority training courses under the AADMER.
- #### 3.2 Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity
- 3.2.1 Strengthen cooperation in addressing climate change issues, and support coordination on these issues;
- 3.2.2 Explore cooperation to pursue the effective implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Statement on Climate Change, including submission of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), assistance in climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building for ASEAN Member States for the implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions;

- 3.2.3 Promote, where feasible, cooperation and exchange of experience and best practices, including institutional and human capacity building, in environmental protection and conservation, waste management and pollution control, environmental awareness promotion, environmental monitoring and impact assessment, and environmental law enforcement;
- 3.2.4 Explore cooperation to strengthen ASEAN's efforts in Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), including through support for the implementation of ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2014-2018;
- 3.2.5 Support the development of climate-adapted and resilient cities in ASEAN;
- 3.2.6 Explore collaboration in sustainable water resources management;
- 3.2.7 Support air quality improvement in the ASEAN region;
- 3.2.8 Promote cooperation on the sustainable use of coastal and marine environment, including addressing threats to marine ecosystems and coastal environment, in particular the risks of pollution and other anthropogenic impacts;
- 3.2.9 Explore support for ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Trans-boundary Haze Pollution to effectively address land and forest fires in the region;
- 3.2.10 Promote biodiversity conservation and management through regional capacity building, including through possible support for the work of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB);
- 3.2.11 Support the green economy and green growth in ASEAN through, among others, the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy (AIGE), which will serve as a centre of excellence to encourage and promote policies and practices to improve sustainable development, conservation, and

efficient use of natural resources as well as to address climate change;

- 3.2.12 Strengthen cooperation in addressing issues regarding the management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, oil spills, as well as other threats to the environment, by utilising existing regional and international institutions and agreements;
- 3.2.13 Promote cooperation to provide the peoples of ASEAN access to clean water, clean air, basic health care, and other social services, so that they may lead healthy and productive lives and thereby contribute to ASEAN and the global community.

3.3 Science and Technology

- 3.3.1 Continue ASEAN-U.S. Consultations on Science and Technology to further explore cooperation in areas of mutual interest;
- 3.3.2 Encourage science and technology exchanges and knowledge transfers, where appropriate, through capacity building for ASEAN's science and technology authorities;
- 3.3.3 Encourage collaboration and cooperation among research centres, as well as exchanges of experts and the mobility of scientists and researchers, in conducting joint research programmes, including through the ASEAN-U.S. Science & Technology Fellows Programme;
- 3.3.4 Continue to promote women in science through the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women.

3.4 Public Health

- 3.4.1 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda, including sharing of best practices and experiences which may include seminars, workshops, and training courses in the areas of public health and ASEAN's preparedness and response to communicable and emerging infectious diseases,

pandemics, and other potential public health threats.

3.5 Education and Youth

- 3.5.1 Strengthen engagement between U.S. and ASEAN higher education institutions, staff and students and promote ASEAN and U.S. awareness and studies, including through the Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Programme and other scholarship and exchange programmes;
- 3.5.2 Provide support for programmes related to the promotion of ASEAN awareness and identity, to complement efforts related to the ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook and the ASEAN Studies module, which were developed under the US-TATF programme;
- 3.5.3 Continue capacity building programmes, including scholarships for postgraduate studies and English language training, for educators and civil servants in ASEAN;
- 3.5.4 Continue ASEAN-U.S. youth exchange programmes, such as the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), to strengthen networking and leadership development among youth and promote ASEAN;
- 3.5.5 Promote ASEAN studies programmes in universities and academic institutions in the U.S.;
- 3.5.6 Support the continued development of the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Programme (AYVP);
- 3.5.7 Support ASEAN's efforts to cultivate youth entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation through programmes and activities.

3.6 Culture and People-to-People Exchange

- 3.6.1 Continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Communication Master Plan to build ASEAN community awareness and identity;

- 3.6.2 Promote awareness of conservation of intangible and tangible cultural heritage, as well as understanding of each other's arts, culture, customs, faith and religions, cultural networks, and cultural knowledge.

3.7 Social Welfare

- 3.7.1 Support the work of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and its priority areas, including the ACWC Network of Social Service Agencies (NOSSA);
- 3.7.2 Explore support for the ASEAN Children's Forum initiative as a means to promote child participation in ASEAN community-building;
- 3.7.3 Promote exchange of information and best practices, as well as technical cooperation and capacity building in social development, women's empowerment, and the care and protection of children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups;
- 3.7.4 Explore cooperation to promote and protect the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups, such as migrant workers and persons with disabilities.

4. CONNECTIVITY

- 4.1 Promote cooperation on ASEAN Connectivity in its three key dimensions, namely physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity, including through capacity building, outreach, and resource mobilisation for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity;
- 4.2 Promote Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), where appropriate, in infrastructure development and other financing modalities for the implementation of the MPAC.

5. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

- 5.1 Continue to support the realisation of goals under the three ASEAN Community pillars, through inter alia, the ASEAN-U.S.

Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (ASEAN-U.S. PROGRESS) and the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI) programmes;

- 5.2 Increase regional cooperation under the U.S.-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;
- 5.3 Support the convening of Ministerial and Senior Officials Meetings, as appropriate, between the U.S. and Lower Mekong Basin countries on an annual basis;

6. INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI)

- 6.1 Support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap between and within ASEAN, and further promote regional integration through the implementation of the IAI Framework and its Work Plan II and its successor documents, as well as alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development in order to realise the ASEAN Community and regional integration.

7. STRENGTHENING THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT

- 7.1 Work together to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat, particularly in the areas of public outreach and project management, as well as training and capacity building courses for the ASEAN Secretariat staff.

8. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

- 8.1 Regularly review the progress of this Plan of Action through the existing mechanisms of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations, including the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting and the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue; and
- 8.2 Submit progress reports of the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) with the U.S.

Joint Media Statement of the AEM-USTR Consultations

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
24 August 2015**

1. Consultations between the ten ASEAN Economic Ministers and the United States Trade Representative ("the Ministers") were held on 24 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade & Industry of Malaysia and H.E. Michael Froman, the United States Trade Representative.
2. The Ministers were pleased to note the strong growth in trade relations between ASEAN and the United States of America (U.S.). Total merchandise trade between ASEAN and the U.S. in 2014 stood at USD 212.4 billion. The U.S. maintained its position as ASEAN's fourth biggest trading partner, while ASEAN was the fourth largest U.S. export market and trading partner.
3. In term of investment, the U.S. has moved up its ranking to become the third largest foreign direct investor in ASEAN. According to ASEAN Statistics, the region received USD 13 billion of new direct investment from the U.S. in 2014. According to U.S. statistics, cumulative foreign direct investment in ASEAN Member States was USD 204 billion in 2013, up 9.1 percent from 2012.
4. The U.S. welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) at the end of this year, which will enhance ASEAN Member States' competitiveness and strengthen their economies regionally and globally, and expressed the hope that the AEC would make ASEAN a driving force for global trade and investment liberalization.

ASEAN-US Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA)

5. The Ministers noted the activities implemented under the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) and the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3)

Initiatives Work Plan for 2015. ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation to the U.S. for the continued support through the USAID's project "ASEAN Connectivity Through Trade and Investment (ACTI)", particularly in the area of ASEAN Single Window (ASW), SMEs, trade facilitation and standard conformance, which included the following, among others:

- (i) Support major milestones in the development of the ASW;
 - (ii) Development of the ASEAN Online SME Academy;
 - (iii) Launch of the GREAT Women in ASEAN Initiative which provides support to women entrepreneurs;
 - (iv) Various workshops and conferences for SMEs since August 2014 on access to finance, good business practices, regional supply chain integration and, empowering women entrepreneurs; and
 - (v) ASEAN Member States regulator and industry training programs on medical devices.
6. The Ministers thanked the US-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive SMEs, a partnership between the US-ASEAN Business Council and USAID, in providing support to these SME programmes. The Ministers also noted the increasing interest of U.S. businesses in doing trade and investment in ASEAN, which was showcased through the healthcare and medical technology trade missions to Indonesia and the Philippines led by U.S. Department of Commerce in February 2015.
 7. The Ministers noted the on-going discussions on the Shared Principles for International Investment, the Trade Principles on Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and ASEAN-US Best Practices on Transparency and Good Regulatory Practices.

ASEAN-US Trade and Environment Dialogue

8. The Ministers welcomed the upcoming first workshop on Trade and Environment Dialogue, which will be hosted by Malaysia, tentatively in October 2015. The Minister noted that the focus for the first workshop would be

on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, and encouraged active discussions on topics for the Dialogue.

New Areas of Cooperation

9. The Ministers agreed to explore expanding our TIFA/E3 cooperation to new topics that have a regional impact and are of mutual interest. The Ministers also recognized recent efforts at broadening overall ASEAN-U.S. economic engagement by solidifying institutional links with ASEAN's sectoral bodies through new Dialogues on Telecommunications and Aviation.

3rd AEM Roadshow to the US

10. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed the 3rd AEM Roadshow to the US, jointly organised by the USTR and the US-ASEAN Business Council in the first quarter of 2016.

Dialogue with US-ASEAN Business Council

11. The Ministers noted the activities undertaken by the US-ASEAN Business Council (USABC), and welcomed its support to facilitate trade and investment between ASEAN and the U.S.

WTO 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya

12. Recognizing the important opportunity the meeting represents, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to seek to conclude the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) at the 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, and revitalize the multilateral trading system. The Ministers agreed on the importance of WTO members in ensuring the entry into force of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation by the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi in December 2015.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State for Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia); Mrs Sondang Anggraini, Adviser to the Minister on Trade and Diplomacy, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E.

Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; Mrs Ow Foong Pheng, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister of Trade and Industry, Singapore); Mr Thawatthai Sophasienphong, Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Michael Froman, United States Trade Representative; H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Statement on the ASEAN-US Strategic Partnership

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015**

1. We, Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United States of America, gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 November 2015 for the 3rd ASEAN-U.S. Summit. Today, we elevated our relationship to the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership to strengthen the role our relationship plays in realising this common vision of a peaceful, prosperous Asia-Pacific region that offers security, opportunity and dignity to all its citizens.
2. The ASEAN-United States relationship has expanded dramatically since formal relations began in 1977. The United States acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia in 2009, was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint a resident Ambassador to ASEAN in 2010, and joined the

East Asia Summit in 2011. We institutionalised annual ASEAN-U.S. Summits in 2012.

3. We recognise that our relationship is grounded in shared principles, including the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the ASEAN Charter. We are committed to a rules-based approach in Asia, respect for international law and peaceful resolution of disputes. Our partnership is committed to strengthening democracy, enhancing good governance and the rule of law, promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, encouraging the promotion of tolerance and moderation, and protecting the environment.
4. ASEAN and the United States dedicate themselves to the ASEAN integration process and to building a strong, stable, politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community, as reflected in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its Blueprints. In realising these objectives, we will also work together to strengthen ASEAN connectivity and narrow the development gap, including through development cooperation.
5. Further we are dedicated to ASEAN Centrality in the evolving rules-based regional architecture of the Asia-Pacific. We recognise the important role we have each played, and that we have played together, in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.
6. Today we usher in a new era for our relationship as we come together to set a path for our future partnership with shared goals and priorities. We welcome the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership (2016-2020) to further strengthen this partnership, particularly within the five priority areas of cooperation, namely economic integration, maritime cooperation, transnational challenges including climate change, emerging leaders and women's opportunities. We will continue to cooperate through important ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum, and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus. We will also continue

to engage through the track 1.5 Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum.

7. We also reaffirm 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 reaffirm the collective commitments contained in the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) to ensure 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 (UNCLOS) and the relevant regulations, standards and recommended practices of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), without resorting to the threat or use of force and while exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities. We support ASEAN-China on-going efforts to fully and effectively implement the DOC in its entirety, and to work toward the expeditious conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct (COC).
8. The ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership will also play an increasingly prominent global role in tackling transnational challenges. We will build on existing cooperation such as the 2014 ASEAN-U.S. Joint Statement on Climate Change, and will work together to address challenging global issues such as terrorism, violent extremism, climate change, environmental degradation and pollution, energy, infectious diseases, disarmament, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cybersecurity, trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing.
9. As to economics, American firms have been the largest cumulative investors in Southeast Asia, creating millions of jobs in the United States and in ASEAN Member States, while investment in America from Southeast Asia has increased more than from any other region in the past decade. The ASEAN Economic Community will create many further opportunities for our citizens as it binds the region more closely together. Going forward, we will work towards increasing two-way trade and investment,

promoting trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, encouraging sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job creation, and deepening connectivity. We also reaffirm our Leaders' commitment to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. Our people-to-people ties are more robust than ever with millions of our citizens crossing to each other's shores every year. We endeavour to continue to strengthen these linkages and cultural ties, especially among young people, as well as to promote opportunities for all our peoples, particularly the most vulnerable.
11. Today we dedicate ourselves anew to bringing security and opportunity to our peoples and addressing emerging regional and global challenges in the continued promotion of a peaceful, stable, integrated, and prosperous Asia-Pacific community.
12. Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the Twenty First Day of November of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Chairman's Statement of the 3rd ASEAN-US Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015**

1. The 3rd ASEAN-United States Summit was held on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia. The Meeting was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States. The United States was represented by the Honourable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America. The Secretary General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and the United States, had a frank and constructive discussion on strengthening

ASEAN-United States relations as well as a productive exchange of views on regional and global issues of common concern.

3. We welcomed the United States support for the establishment of the ASEAN Community, which is a culmination of an almost five-decade long effort of regional integration that is aimed at building towards a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged the United States to contribute towards the realisation of the vision and goals outlined in the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
4. The ASEAN Leaders also appreciated the United States continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving rules-based regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus One mechanism, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), as well as the United States support for the strengthening of the East Asia Summit as it commemorated its 10th anniversary in 2015.
5. We endorsed the United States request to elevate the ASEAN-United States dialogue relations to a strategic level. We acknowledged the continued support of the United States for Southeast Asia's rapid economic growth and maintaining peace and stability. We adopted the Joint Statement on the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership which elevated the ASEAN-United States dialogue relations to a new height by launching the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership that is forward-looking and comprehensive. We decided to commemorate our strategic partnership with a special summit to be held in the United States in the first half of 2016.
6. We noted the successful implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-United States Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity 2011-2015 which has been instrumental in furthering our dialogue relations and promoting the establishment of a peaceful, stable, integrated, prosperous, and caring ASEAN Community in 2015.
7. We welcomed the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership (2016-2020) which identified priorities and measures to be carried out by both sides to further enhance political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation and realise the full potential of the ASEAN-United States partnership. This Plan of Action would serve as the blueprint of ASEAN-United States dialogue relations and we shall endeavour to implement all identified measures over the next five years.
8. We reaffirmed our commitment to prevent and combat transnational crimes particularly trafficking in persons, sea piracy, counter terrorism and trafficking of wildlife. We will continue to work together in counter terrorism programmes, including through regional cooperation against foreign terrorist fighters and sharing of best practices to counter violent extremism, as well as the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. We welcomed the signing of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and its Plan of Action which the United States supports through technical assistance, capacity building and information sharing.
9. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, as well as upholding freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea. We shared the concerns expressed by some Leaders over the recent and on-going developments in the South China Sea, including land reclamation, which have eroded trust and confidence amongst parties, and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea. We noted proposals put forward by various parties to address current and on-going developments as well as to lower tensions in the South China Sea.
10. We welcomed the commitment of ASEAN Member States and China in ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, as well as to work

towards the early establishment of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). We emphasised the importance for the states concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with international law including 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

11. We pledged to continue our economic cooperation to increase trade and investment as well as create job opportunities in both regions, and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of this year. We noted the progress of the ASEAN-United States Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement and the ASEAN-United States Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiatives, which would enhance ASEAN-United States economic relationship. We also welcomed the exploration of new topics to expand our cooperation in the area of trade and investment. We also noted that the ASEAN-US Roadshow will be held in the United States in 2016.
12. We underscored our joint support for the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI) Programme. We welcomed the major progress of the ASEAN Single Window, which the United States has provided technical and financial support to since 2007, the launch of the ASEAN-United States Innovation Challenge Programme, as well as the expansion of ASEAN-United States cooperation with the United States-ASEAN Business Council to support Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, including the upcoming ASEAN SME Academy.
13. We also welcomed the new dialogues between ASEAN and the United States which commenced this year on ICT and aviation, and its ongoing support for greater broadband connectivity in ASEAN as well as on aviation safety.
14. We noted the conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership which is aimed to promote economic growth, support the creation of jobs; enhance innovation, productivity and competitiveness; raise living standards and reduce poverty; and promote transparency and good governance; and contains strong labour and environmental protections. The TPP could complement efforts being undertaken by ASEAN towards the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community and beyond.
15. We expressed our commitment to further enhance maritime cooperation through, among others, developing maritime connectivity as well as improving the governance of trans-boundary fishing and traceability of fishery products to address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing based on relevant regional and international standard and instruments. We look forward to further capacity building and other work in this area during 2016. We welcomed the United States announcement of its five-year Oceans and Fisheries Partnership to promote sustainable marine fisheries and combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.
16. We reiterated our commitment under the ASEAN-United States Joint Statement on Climate Change 2014 to continue working together through a wide range of activities towards a low carbon economic growth trajectory, enhancing the adaptive capacity of ASEAN to current impacts of climate change and building more climate resilient societies. We recognised the need for urgent and concrete action to address climate change and reaffirmed our commitment to closely cooperate towards the adoption of an ambitious protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Twenty First Conference of the Parties (COP 21), to be held in Paris, France in December 2015.
17. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhance cooperation in disaster management and emergency response in line with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and its Work Programme. We expressed our appreciation to the United States for its continued support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) especially in responding to humanitarian assistance needs

in the region and providing support for the victims of natural disaster.

18. We recognised the great importance of youth development in ASEAN and welcomed the United States initiative to promote people-to-people exchange through various programmes and initiatives in particular the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiatives (YSEALI), Fullbright Scholarship Programme and the BD-United States English Language Enrichment Programme. We welcomed the new class of the ASEAN-United States Science and Technology Fellows. We encouraged the United States to continue its collaboration with ASEAN on youth development programmes under the ASCC Blueprint 2025.
19. We noted the United States programs for women entrepreneurs in ASEAN as well as United States technical support for a victim-centric approach to domestic violence in ASEAN. We welcomed the announcement of a new five-year commitment for the ASEAN-United States Science Prize for Women.
20. We are determined to protect the human rights of women, children, youth and the older persons as well as those of migrant workers, persons with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities groups, people in vulnerable situations and marginalised groups, and promote their interest and welfare in ASEAN's future agenda including through the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
21. We reaffirmed our commitment to ASEAN's efforts to narrow the development gap and enhance sub-regional integration through various initiatives including the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and the Lower Mekong Initiatives (LMI).
22. We are also determined to continue all our cooperation on economic, social and environmental matters consistent with and in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015 to promote the well-being of the peoples of ASEAN and the United States.

23. We emphasised the importance of sustaining our dialogue relations at the highest level and looked forward to the 4th ASEAN-United States Summit to be held in Lao PDR in 2016.

ASEAN Plus Three

Joint Media Statement of the 14th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan and Republic of Korea) Tourism Ministers

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 26 January 2015

1. The Fourteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea) Tourism Ministers was held on 26 January 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, in conjunction with the Eighteenth Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) and the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2015. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. U Htay Aung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar and H.E. Mrs. Du Yili, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration. The Meeting was preceded by the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) NTOs held on 24 January 2015.
2. The Ministers were pleased with the growth in the arrival of international visitor where the APT region welcomed 241 million of visitors in 2014, an increase of 6.9% from 2013. The Ministers noted that intra-APT travel remained the main source of tourism growth in the region, accounting for 66% of the total international visitor arrivals in 2013.
3. The Ministers welcomed the successful conclusion of the 17th APT Summit and the respective ASEAN Plus One Summits held on 13 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and encouraged the Plus Three Countries to continue to support the implementation of the 2012 Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Plus Three Partnership on Connectivity in order to further enhance connectivity in the region.

4. The Ministers commended the progress made in the implementation of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 including the APT Tourism Students Summit held on 19-26 October 2014 in both Bangkok and Pattaya, and the APT Media Familiarisation Tour Programme to promote tourism knowledge and skills development.
5. The Ministers noted the importance of development of framework to exchange ideas on tourism statistics for APT countries and new methods for tourism statistics in order to have a better understanding of the development of tourism in APT countries. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the progress made in implementing the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan including the Nara Tourism Statistics Week held on 17-21 November 2014 in Nara, Japan.
6. The Ministers applauded the roles of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting tourism and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries during the year 2014.
7. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers expressed their gratitude to China for the provision of complimentary booths at China International Travel Mart 2014, production of Discovery ASEAN and Taste of ASEAN which was screened on CCTV, live radio broadcast highlighting destinations in ASEAN, familiarisation tour by Chinese media to ASEAN Member States, and workshop for tour operators.
8. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers also expressed their appreciation to Japan for ASEAN-Japan Centre's Annual Work Program for FY2014 which includes exchange program for youth, technical workshop on community-based tourism for BIMPS, tourism and exchange public relations activities, CLMV Travel Mart, theme-based tourism promotion, exchange program on capacity building and culture, and career development support for ASEAN Students in Japan.
9. The ASEAN Tourism Ministers further expressed their gratefulness to the Republic of Korea (ROK) for their support to develop ASEAN Tourism through promotional activities and capacity building, amongst others, including the establishment of an official website of ASEAN-Korean Partnership <http://www.korea-asean.com>.
10. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Myanmar for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meetings.

Joint Statement of the 18th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting

Baku, Azerbaijan, 3 May 2015

I. INTRODUCTION

1. We, the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea (ASEAN+3), convened our 18th meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Dato' Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, Minister of Finance II of Malaysia, and H.E. Kyunghwan Choi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy and Finance of Korea. The President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Director of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN, and the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were also present at our meeting.
2. We exchanged views on recent global and regional economic developments and policy responses. We reviewed the progress of regional financial cooperation achieved since our last Meeting, including the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), AMRO, the Asian Bond Markets Initiatives (ABMI), Future Priorities, the ASEAN+3 Research Group (RG), and ASEAN+3 New Initiatives. We also discussed measures to further strengthen regional financial cooperation.

II. RECENT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION

3. We are pleased to note that the ASEAN+3 region posted relatively high growth last year and is poised to sustain this momentum in 2015. This is attributable not only to external factors such as strong demand from the U.S. and low oil prices, but also in large part to robust domestic demand brought about by constant structural adjustment efforts and to the timely implementation of macroeconomic policy.
4. We recognize that the changes in monetary policy in some of the advanced economies should be clearly communicated in the current environment of diverging monetary policy settings and rising financial market volatility and carried out with keen awareness of their global impact and hence help us to take mitigating measures.
5. We note the need to respond preemptively to new challenges posed by changes in the economic environment and at the same time, consistently manage existing risks and vulnerabilities. With ample global liquidity and the high levels of public and private debt, greater attention needs to be paid to the potential market volatility and asset price declines triggered by capital outflows. Meanwhile, though the unexpectedly low oil prices have benefited most economies, the possibility of a sharp run-up in oil prices cannot be ruled out.
6. We are committed to carrying out the necessary structural adjustments to improve the resilience and growth potential of our economies. Further, while dealing with macroeconomic and financial stability risks arising from large and volatile capital flows, the necessary macroeconomic policy adjustments could be supported by macro-prudential measures and capital flow management measures, where appropriate. We will work towards strengthening the region's responses to external shocks through continuing regional financial cooperation.

III. STRENGTHENING REGIONAL FINANCIAL COOPERATION**[Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM)]**

7. We remain committed to ensuring that the CMIM is operationally ready, as well as to further strengthening the mechanism as an essential part of the regional financial safety net. In this regard, we welcomed the amended CMIM Agreement, which entered into force on 17 July 2014. We also welcomed the Deputies' achievements in enhancing the CMIM Operational Guidelines (OG), conducting CMIM Test Runs under various scenarios, and undertaking the CMIM peace-time preparation exercise. We reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring the operational readiness of the CMIM, and thus tasked the Deputies, in cooperation with AMRO, to continue working on these exercises, and to reflect the lessons learnt in the OG.
8. With the introduction of the CMIM crisis prevention facility ("CMIM Precautionary Line" or "CMIM-PL") in July 2014, it is crucial to develop and operationalize the qualification assessment framework for member economies to access the CMIM-PL. In this regard, we welcomed the continuing work of our Deputies and AMRO to further develop the qualification indicators for the CMIM-PL, based on the Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD) Matrix, which consists of key economic and financial indicators of all ASEAN+3 members. We assigned the Deputies, in cooperation with AMRO, to continue to develop the ERPD Matrix and to explore ways to further utilize this tool in a more forward-looking manner.
9. We took note of the progress in the work on the potential increase in the IMF De-linked portion and tasked the Deputies to further advance the work on strengthening the CMIM as a part of the regional financial safety net.
10. We welcomed the commencement of the CMIM Studies on "Troika's Financial Assistance Programs in the Euro Area for CMIM's Future Reference" and "Comparative analysis of CMIM arrangement and market practices under International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA)" while taking into account the conditions within each region.

[ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO)]

11. We acknowledged the steady development of AMRO as an independent surveillance organization of the region, and welcomed its continuous efforts to improve the quality of its surveillance activities. We encouraged AMRO to continue its efforts to improve its analysis on the regional macroeconomic and financial situation, including through incorporating forward-looking elements to effectively highlight emerging risks in the region. We also welcomed AMRO's contribution towards enhancing the effectiveness of the CMIM and continuing with its effort.
12. Establishing AMRO as an international organization remains crucially important. We welcome the signing of the Agreement Establishing ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO Agreement) in October last year. We reaffirmed our commitment to expedite our respective domestic procedure for the entry into force of the AMRO Agreement this year.
13. We welcomed the Deputies' decision to strengthen AMRO's capacity by formulating a strong strategic vision and having two Deputy Directors and one Chief Economist. We are confident that these three new senior management positions will be beneficial in building AMRO's capacity and the fulfilling of its mandate as an independent surveillance unit. We encouraged the further development of a medium-term strategic vision for AMRO.
14. We appreciated the progress made by AMRO in cooperation with relevant International Financial Institutions (IFIs), such as frequent exchanges with the IMF and ADB on macroeconomic developments in the region, hosting joint seminars, and conducting joint studies. We encouraged AMRO to further strengthen such cooperation in order to enhance its institutional capacity and to establish strategic partnerships with other IFIs to this end.

[Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)]

15. We recognized that the ABMI has contributed to developing local currency bond markets

across the region, in order to allow the region's large savings to be channeled to finance its own investment needs. Against the backdrop of heightened volatility in the global financial market, our efforts under the ABMI to develop efficient and liquid regional bond markets will also help to alleviate the effects of such volatilities and contribute to the economic and financial stability in our region.

16. We took note of the increase of project guarantees by the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF), and we expect CGIF to seek more opportunities to provide guarantees to viable bond issuances, including project bonds, in the region. We welcomed the progress of discussion on facilitating demand for local currency-denominated bonds. We also noted the outcome of a study by the ADB on examining hedging markets in the region. We recognized the progress of the ASEAN+3 Multi-currency Bond Issuance Framework (AMBIF), and expect the first AMBIF pilot issuance in the first half of this year. We noted the progress of the Cross-Border Settlement Infrastructure Forum (CSIF) in exploring the viability of starting with bilateral linkages and ultimately developing and making transition into an integrated solution to advance regional settlement infrastructure that promotes cross-border securities transactions in the region. As an important step for the said goal, we welcomed the efforts by the CSIF for conducting the desktop study of bilateral CSD-RTGS linkage between HKMA and BOJ. We appreciated the on-going technical assistance programs for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam under the Technical Assistance Coordination Team (TACT).

[Future Priorities of ASEAN+3 Financial Cooperation]

17. We took note of the completion of the study on Infrastructure Financing. We welcomed work on disaster risk insurance based on the past study and expect further progress.

[ASEAN+3 Research Group (RG)]

18. We acknowledged that the RG has produced valuable researches throughout its 10 years of activities. We agreed to integrate the RG's

research works into AMRO's thematic study so that the resources could be better oriented to meet members' needs and be utilized more efficiently.

[ASEAN+3 New Initiatives]

19. We endorsed non-binding high-level guiding principles for macro-prudential policies (MPPs) and capital flow measures (CFMs) as reference in dealing with risks to financial stability. We are also pleased to share our own experiences and future agenda in structural reforms to assist us in removing structural bottlenecks to sustainable growth. In addition, we welcomed the progress made in the study 'Using currency swap-financed trade settlement facility' which may facilitate the local currency usage in trade settlements.

IV. CONCLUSION

20. We expressed our appreciation to the governments of Malaysia and Korea for their excellent arrangements as the co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Process in 2015. We also thanked the Republic of Azerbaijan for its warm hospitality.
21. We agreed to meet in Frankfurt, the Federal Republic of Germany in 2016. Lao PDR and China will be the co-chairs of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Process in 2016.

ANNEX

ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting 3 May 2015 / Baku, Azerbaijan.

- ASEAN+3 Non-binding High-level Principles for Macro-Prudential Policies (MPPs) and Capital Flow Measures (CFMs)
- A Collection of Members' Structural Reforms Experiences and Future Agenda.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 4 June 2015

1. The Fifth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth (5th AMMY+3) was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 4 June 2015. The Meeting was held in conjunction with the Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY IX) and was preceded by the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 5th AMMY+3 on 3 June 2015.
2. The Meeting was officially opened and co-chaired by His Excellency Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of Kingdom of Cambodia and (H.E) Assistant Minister Aelee Shon of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea. H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron welcomed all Ministers and their delegations to the meeting and to Cambodia, where he also expressed his appreciation for the initiatives and activities carried out under Brunei Darussalam's chairmanship, which further strengthened regional partnership in youth affairs and development in the region towards the ASEAN Community 2015.
3. The Ministers noted the relevant decisions of other ASEAN Meetings since they last met in 2013 and exchanged views on the future priority areas of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation on youth in line with the directives given by the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders. In this connection, the Ministers stressed on the importance of fostering long-term and mutually beneficial youth exchanges through effective and practical youth cooperation activities.
4. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Plus Three countries for their continuous support and friendship in organising youth exchange programmes. The Ministers noted that China continues to organize the China-ASEAN Youth Camp, GMS Youth Friendship Program and the ASEAN Young Leaders Training Program, to further promote the mutual trust and understanding between the Chinese and

ASEAN young people, and contribute to the regional economic development and social cooperation. China will continue to send young volunteers to ASEAN countries according to their practical necessity, engaging in the field of the local economy, education, sports development, language teaching, healthcare, etc. The Ministers also took note that China has been actively preparing and proceeding with the establishment of China-ASEAN Youth Exchange and Activity Center, with the aim of providing a permanent headquarter with better facilities and environment for the China-ASEAN youth exchanges and activities.

5. The Ministers noted that Japan has implemented the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) with the support of ASEAN Member States since 1974 to promote friendship and mutual understanding between youth in Japan and ASEAN. With the aim to strengthen “heart-to-heart” understanding, “JENESYS 2.0” (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) was successfully implemented in various themes from 2013 to 2015 under Japan’s initiative. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed the subsequent project “JENESYS2015”, which aims at promoting mutual trust and understanding among the youths of Japan and participating countries to build basis for future friendship and cooperation.
6. The Ministers acknowledged that the Republic of Korea has promoted mutual understanding between Korea and ASEAN Member States by consistently implementing the Intergovernmental Youth Exchange Program, and various exchange programs through youth organizations and has supported interactions and cooperation between youth of ASEAN Member States and Plus Three countries by holding events including International Youth Forum and Youth Camp for Asia’s Future annually. The 16th ASEAN-Korea Future-Oriented Youth Exchange Project was held in January 2015 to promote cross-cultural understanding and trust between ASEAN and ROK youths, with the theme ‘ASEAN-Korea Youths, United as One through Sports Activities’. In addition, the 5th ASEAN-Korea

Frontier Forum was held in November 2014 in Busan that provided the youth participants with a simulation forum and a model of ASEAN-ROK Summit, where they can voice out their opinion, debate responsibly and practice public speaking skills.

7. The Ministers commended SOMY+3 for strengthening mutual understanding between the youths in ASEAN Plus Three countries. They shared views in promoting social dialogues and people-to-people exchanges including exchanging views on youth policy and youth cooperation projects between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.
8. The Ministers looked forward to engaging more youth cooperation in efforts to building peace, stability and a brighter future for younger generations in East Asia.
9. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting the 5th AMMY+3 and looked forward to meet again in 2017 in Indonesia.

Chairman’s Statement of the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 6 August 2015

1. The 16th Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 6 August 2015. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dato Sri’ Anifah Annan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

Review and Future Direction of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

2. The Ministers welcomed the substantive progress made in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation since its formation in 1997 and reiterated their commitment to further intensify and expand cooperation under the ASEAN Plus Three framework with ASEAN as the

driving force for enhanced peace, security and prosperity in the East Asian region, with the long-term goal of building an East Asian community.

3. Mindful that within the next two decades, the ASEAN region is set to account for 40% of global GDP and 60% of the world's middle class, the Ministers reiterated the importance of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as a main vehicle towards achieving greater regional integration, including through realising the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015.
4. The Ministers recalled the East Asia Vision Group II Report, adopted by the ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 19 November 2012 and which recommended the realisation of an East Asia Economic Community by 2020 as the main pillar of ASEAN Plus Three vision. They looked forward to the final report on the follow-up to the EAVG II Report, to be submitted to the 1st ASEAN Plus Three Summit in November 2015.
5. The Ministers expressed satisfaction with progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017) and looked forward to its full and effective implementation.
6. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in maintaining peace, security and stability, which are indispensable conditions for development in the East Asia region and agreed to further strengthen political-security cooperation as provided in the Work Plan.
7. The Ministers welcomed the continued growth in trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three Countries and expressed confidence that the region's economies will maintain their positive trajectory despite challenges due to uncertainties in the global economy. Given the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership's (RCEP) potential to further integrate ASEAN into the global economy, uphold ASEAN centrality and further improve the region's influence on the global stage, the Ministers welcomed the progress made in negotiations

and urged participating countries to intensify efforts with the aim of a substantive conclusion by the end of 2015.

8. The Ministers acknowledged the continuous efforts by the East Asia Business Council to promote ASEAN among the private sector and entrepreneurs of East Asian countries. The Ministers looked forward to positive outcomes from the 18th ASEAN Plus Three Economic Ministers' Consultations in August 2015 and welcomed the East Asia Business and Investment Forum to be co-hosted by Malaysia and China in August 2015.
9. Recognising the importance of a regional financial safety net, particularly during financial crises, the Ministers welcomed the achievements made in enhancing the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) Operational Guidelines, conducting CMIM Test Runs under various scenarios and conducting a CMIM peace-time preparation exercise. To further complement the CMIM, the Ministers welcomed the signing of the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office in October 2014 and reaffirmed their commitment to exert their best efforts to complete their respective domestic procedures for the entry into force of the Agreement in 2015, to transform AMRO into an international organisation.
10. The Ministers noted the progress made under the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), particularly in developing efficient and liquid bond markets in the region through the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF), the ASEAN+3 Multi-Currency Bond Issuance Framework (AMBIF) and the ASEAN+3 Bond Market Forum (ABMF). The Ministers welcomed ASEAN+3 new initiatives comprising non-binding high-level guiding principles for macro-prudential policies (MPPs) and capital flow measures (CFMs), sharing of experiences and future agenda in structural reforms as well as a study on 'Using currency swap-financed trade settlement facility'.
11. The Ministers underscored the importance of tourism as a tool in promoting economic development and people-to-people connectivity, including through joint tourism

- marketing and promotion and exchange of cultural programmes. The Ministers noted the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017 and looked forward to its full and effective implementation. They looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation in 2016.
12. The Ministers expressed concern over the adverse effects of climate change to the East Asia region and welcomed continued cooperation and initiatives among ASEAN Plus Three countries to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change to agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The Ministers acknowledged the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement, ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) and ASEAN Plus Three Comprehensive Strategy on Food Security and Bio-energy Development (APTCS-FSBD) in ensuring food security in the region.
 13. Noting the convening of the 3rd APTERR Council Meeting on 22-23 April 2015 in Brunei Darussalam, the Ministers welcomed the implementation of APTERR's project for natural disasters as well as noted the efforts to transform AFSIS into a permanent mechanism to further strengthen food security in the region through systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of food security related information. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of establishing food value chains through Public Private Partnership and affirmed the importance of sustainable use of aquatic fishery resources, including cetaceans, based on scientific evidence.
 14. The Ministers recognised the need for ASEAN Plus Three Countries to collaborate in conducting various energy cooperation projects to enhance energy security as well as new and renewable energy in pursuing environmental sustainability. The Ministers welcomed ASEAN's target of reducing regional Energy Intensity by 8% based on 2005 levels and of increasing the share of Renewable Energy to 15% by 2015 and looked forward to the convening of the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Energy Ministers' Meeting on 8 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.
 15. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of contributions by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as the backbone to ASEAN's economic integration, generating between 51% and 97% of employment in ASEAN. The Ministers acknowledged the progress made by the SME Working Group in drafting an ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development Post-2015 with a focus on access to finance, technology and innovation, markets, human resource development and an enabling policy and regulatory environment.
 16. The Ministers recognised that youth are the leaders of tomorrow and pillars of a nation's development and welcomed the convening of the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth (5th AMMY+3) on 2-5 June 2015, in Siem Reap, Cambodia. They looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN Young Leaders' Summit 2015 on 18-20 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with the theme Maximising Young Leaders' Potential Towards One ASEAN Community.
 17. The Ministers recognised the importance of addressing environmental issues including transboundary environment pollution and ensuring sustainable development and welcomed the convening of the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers' Meeting on 26-31 October 2015 in Viet Nam. They reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of sustainable forest management through enhancing capacity-building and strengthening cooperation and joint approaches in addressing forestry and environmental management issues.
 18. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Plan of Action on Education (2010-2017) and welcomed the convening of the 3rd Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus Three countries on 11 June 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand and the Experts Meeting for ASEAN Plus Three Guidelines on Transcripts for Exchange Students in March 2016 in Tokyo, Japan.

19. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of strengthening cooperation on civil service and noted the progress made under the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters Plus Three (ACCSM+3) in implementing the Luang Prabang Joint Declaration on ASEAN Plus Three Civil Service Cooperation 2010. The Ministers welcomed the formulation of the ACCSM+3 Work Plan 2016-2020 and highlighted the need for projects to foster effective civil service cooperation.
20. The Ministers underscored the need to enhance cooperation in the information sector to promote awareness of ASEAN and the East Asia region. The Ministers noted progress in the implementation of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation through Information and Media (2012-2017) and called for its implementation to be accelerated.
21. The Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 in which clear and effective mechanisms for further cooperation with Dialogue Partners will be underlined. They noted the progress of implementation of the various initiatives under ASEAN COST+3 and looked forward to the convening of the 4th ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey in Serpong, Indonesia from 24 to 29 August 2015, the 10+3 Young Scientists Exchange Programme in Beijing, China from 19 to 23 October 2015, the 9th ASEAN Plus Three Centre for the Gifted in Science Board of Directors Meeting from 24 to 27 November 2015 in Jeju Island, ROK and the ASEAN Plus Three Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Forum in Daejeon, ROK on 20 October 2015 in conjunction with the World Science and Technology Forum.
22. The Ministers underscored the importance of cooperation in the areas of pandemic preparedness and response, communicable diseases and emerging infectious diseases and noted the continuous progress made in health cooperation through the ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN), ASEAN Plus Three Partnership Laboratories (APL), Risk Communication and disease-intervention activities including malaria, rabies and dengue. The Ministers called for the full implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015) and looked forward to continuous support from the Plus Three countries to achieve the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda.
23. In light of recent developments regarding the spread of MERS in the region, the Ministers welcomed the convening of the APT Health Ministers' Video Conference on the Outbreak of MERS-CoV on 27 July 2015, which aims to strengthen cooperation in addressing threats and outbreaks of pandemic diseases in the region.
24. The Ministers underscored the importance of forging closer collaboration in disaster management, given the increasing number of calamities occurring in the region. Complementing disaster relief efforts, the Ministers called for the full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the full implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2010-2015 as part of its commitment towards establishing a disaster resilient community by the year 2015.
25. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of forging closer cooperation in poverty alleviation. They underscored that rural development and poverty eradication were crucial to building a strong ASEAN community. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed China's offer of RMB100 million to facilitate poverty alleviation in rural areas in East Asia as well as the setting up of pilot programmes on poverty reduction cooperation in the region.
26. The Ministers recognised that regional integration and narrowing development gaps are priorities in the ASEAN community-building process and in this regard welcomed a post-2015 Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) agenda and a successor document to the IAI Work Plan II. Noting that IAI is cross-cutting in nature, the Ministers called for closer collaboration among the various ASEAN

sectoral bodies in ensuring the full participation and realisation of regional commitments and initiatives.

27. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) in promoting economic growth, narrowing development gaps and contributing to ASEAN integration and community-building and looked forward to the formulation of a post-2015 Connectivity Agenda which should be bold, visionary and contain concrete and feasible measures which will contribute to seamless connectivity in the East Asia region. Noting that financing mobilisation is an important factor in moving the ASEAN Connectivity agenda forward, the Ministers welcomed progress in the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank by China as well as the proposed Partnership for Quality Infrastructure by Japan to address infrastructure financing needs in the region.
28. The Ministers acknowledged the important contribution of the East Asia Forum (EAF) as a think-tank incorporating government, business and academia with a view to deepening East Asia regional cooperation and noted the convening of the 13th EAF held in Jeju, Republic of Korea on 20-21 May 2015 with the theme Prosperous East Asia through Non-Traditional Security Cooperation and noted Cambodia's proposal to host the 14th East Asia Forum in 2016.
29. The Ministers also acknowledged the important contribution of the Network of East Asia Think-tanks (NEAT) towards the APT cooperation process and commended the initiative of the APT Senior Officials to invite the Chair of NEAT for a dialogue with a view to encouraging closer interaction and gaining deeper insights into the work and deliberations of NEAT as well as encouraging both sides to share ideas on how to further strengthen APT cooperation. In this connection, we welcomed the convening of the 22nd Country Coordinators Meeting (CCM) of NEAT in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in May 2015 and looked forward to the convening of the 23rd NEAT CCM/13th Annual Conference in Bandung, Indonesia in September 2015.
30. The Ministers took note of the convening of the Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Training Institutions of ASEAN Plus Three countries, which met for the tenth time in 2015 in Bali, Indonesia on 8-10 April 2015 to share experiences and best practices as well as promote greater institutional collaboration among the diplomatic institutions of the APT countries.
31. The Ministers recognised the role and contribution of the ASEAN-China Centre, the ASEAN-Japan Centre and the ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges between the ASEAN Member States and individual Plus Three countries. They urged the three Centres to collaborate more closely in the larger context of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation.

Exchange of Views on Regional and International Issues

32. The Ministers expressed concern over recent developments on the Korean Peninsula and underlined the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security in the region. They registered deep concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's recent ballistic missile launches and highlighted the importance of trust-building activities on the Peninsula, the need to fully comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and for all parties to comply with commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. The Ministers called for the creation of necessary conditions for the early resumption of Six-Party Talks which would pave the way for the complete and verifiable de-nuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.
33. The Ministers discussed preparations for the upcoming ASEAN Plus Three Summit, scheduled to be held in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
34. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 17th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting, to be held in Lao PDR in 2016.

Joint Media Statement of the 18th AEM Plus Three Consultations

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
23 August 2015**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and Economic Ministers of People's Republic of China ("China"), Japan, and Republic of Korea ("Korea") met on 23 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Eighteenth AEM Plus Three Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohammed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia, H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce of China, H.E. Yoichi Miyazawa, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan, and H.E. Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry, and Energy of Korea.
2. The Ministers were pleased with trade performance in the region. According to ASEAN Statistics, total trade of ASEAN with Plus Three countries reached USD 727.1 billion in 2014, accounting for 28.8 per cent of total ASEAN trade. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow from Plus Three Countries in 2014 amounted to USD 26.7 billion.
3. The Ministers reiterated that collaboration between ASEAN and Plus Three Countries remained important to keep the economic foundation in the region strong, especially in light of recent global financial instability. The Ministers reaffirmed leaders' statement that ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with the Plus Three Countries would significantly contribute to enhancing the sustainability of the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region.
4. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to East Asia Business Council (EABC) for the continuous support to promote economic integration in the region. The Ministers noted the report by the EABC on the progress of its activities, and its submission of the recommendations which included, among others, supporting SMEs access to non-collateral financing; enabling SMEs access to project fund under the ASEAN Secretariat;

promoting cross-border e-commerce in East Asia; and engaging stakeholders in RCEP negotiations and early conclusion thereof. The Ministers welcomed the inputs and looked forward to further inputs from the private sector to facilitate regional economic integration as envisaged under the RCEP.

5. The Ministers underscored the role of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting trade and investment in the larger context of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. The Ministers also encouraged the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC), EABC and the three Centres to establish relevant linkages to support and promote MSMEs.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia; H.E. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce, China; Mrs Sondang Anggraini, Adviser to the Minister on Trade and Diplomacy, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Yoichi Miyazawa, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; H.E. Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea; H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan, Minister of International Trade and Industry II, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; Mrs Ow Foong Pheng, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore); Mr Thawatchai Sophastienphong, Director General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam); and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Press Statement of the 15th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (15th AMAF Plus Three)

**Makati City, Philippines,
11 September 2015**

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held our Fifteenth Meeting on 11 September 2015 in Makati City, Philippines, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Proceso J. Alcala, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Philippines.
2. We were pleased with the significant progress made in the implementation of cooperation activities and projects under the nine Strategic Thrusts of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) on Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2011-2015, including: strengthening food security; enhancement of capacity-building and human resource development, sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, strengthening of information system and knowledge networking and exchange; and enhancement of productivity, quality and marketability of agriculture and agricultural products.
3. In support of the Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on ASEAN plus Three Cooperation on Food Security and Bioenergy Development adopted by the ASEAN Leaders in 2009, we reaffirmed the promotion of bioenergy towards sustainable agriculture and rural development. In this regard, we adopted the ASEAN Plus Three Bioenergy and Food Security Framework 2015-2025 with the objective to assist ASEAN Member States in ensuring that sustainable, food-secure and climate-friendly bioenergy contributes to the economic development.
4. We appreciated the good progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement as it is the main mechanism for strengthening regional food security and reducing poverty. We noted that the implementation of Tier 3 programme to aid the Super Typhoon Haiyan victims in the Philippines was completed with distribution of the total amount of 6,730 MT of rice contributed by China, Thailand, Malaysia and Japan. The last distribution was 580 MT of rice from Japan. We noted that the APTERR Secretariat has started the implementation of Tier 3 (pre-positioned stockpiled rice system) under Japan's 2015 contribution by seeking the prospective host countries to store the donated rice.
5. We noted the need to have preparatory stage to work on the details of ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) permanent mechanism, including consideration of various possible mechanisms and the arrangement of AFSIS Secretariat.
6. The ASEAN Ministers extended their appreciation to the Plus Three Countries for providing support in the implementation of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) on Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2011-2015.
7. We agreed to meet again at the 16th Meeting of AMAF Plus Three in Singapore in 2016.
8. We expressed our sincere appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Philippines for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the 15th AMAF Plus Three Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Ouk Rabun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia; H.E. Dr. A. Amran Sulaiman, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia; H.E. Dr. Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkhan, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Minister of Agriculture

and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia; H.E. U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; H.E. Proceso Alcala, Secretary of Agriculture, Philippines; Ms. Tan Poh Hong, Chief Executive Officer, Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority, Singapore; Dr. Wimol Jantrarotai, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand; H.E. Dr. Le Quoc Doanh, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam; H.E. Chen Xiaohua, Vice Minister of Agriculture, People's Republic of China; H.E. Toshiko Abe, State Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan; H.E. Oh Kyung Tae, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Republic of Korea; H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Joint Statement of the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (7th AMMTC+3) Consultation

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
30 September 2015**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea responsible for combating transnational crime, convened the Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (7th AMMTC+3) Consultation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 30 September 2015. The 7th AMMTC+3 was chaired by Hon. Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Malaysia.
2. We remain committed to further strengthen efforts to prevent and combat transnational crimes that continue to threaten our region, in order to ensure peace and stability.
3. We took note of the outcomes of the Thirteenth ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (13th SOMTC+3) Consultation held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 10 June 2015.

4. We exchanged views on the need to further strengthen the existing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in combating transnational crimes, including addressing the emergence of new forms of transnational crimes.
5. We acknowledged the progress in the efforts to fulfill the transnational crime component of the Revised ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017.
6. We agreed that it is pertinent to utilise the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APCTF) for the implementation of the activities under the Revised ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017.
7. We welcomed the convening of the 8th AMMTC+3 Consultation in Myanmar in 2017.
8. We expressed our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Malaysia for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

Chairman's Statement of the 18th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

1. The 18th ASEAN Plus Three Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak and was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 November 2015. It was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
2. We noted with satisfaction the progress in ASEAN Plus Three cooperation over the past 17 years and reiterated our commitment to further intensify and expand it to include all areas of cooperation, including cross-cutting issues such as Connectivity and narrowing the development divide. We reaffirmed ASEAN Plus Three cooperation as a driving force for

- enhanced peace, security and prosperity in the East Asian region, with the long term goal of building an East Asia community.
3. Recalling the East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II Report which was adopted at the ASEAN Plus Three Commemorative Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 19 November 2012 recommending the realisation of an East Asia Economic Community by 2020 as the main pillar of ASEAN Plus Three vision, we adopted the Final Report on the Follow-up to the EAVG II Recommendations which would pave the way towards greater ASEAN Plus Three integration, complementing the initiatives of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017.
 4. We acknowledged the importance of maintaining and enhancing peace, security and stability in the East Asian region and emphasised the need to enhance efforts to address emerging challenges in the areas of traditional and non-traditional security. Towards this end, we agreed to strengthen political-security cooperation as contained in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017).
 5. We welcomed the continued growth in trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. Total trade with Plus Three countries reached US\$727.1 billion in 2014, which accounted for 28.8 per cent of total ASEAN trade, while Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow from Plus Three Countries reached US\$26.7 billion, which amounted to 19.6 per cent in 2014. We expressed confidence that through trade and investment relations, the region would maintain its positive growth trajectory despite on-going global financial instability.
 6. We acknowledged that collaboration between ASEAN and Plus Three countries remained important in ensuring the strong economic foundation in the region and underlined that the full utilisation of the ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreement with the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea respectively would contribute significantly to enhancing sustainability of the Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the region.
 7. We recognised the important role of the private sector in enhancing economic cooperation in the East Asian region and appreciated the continuous efforts made by the East Asia Business Council (EABC) in providing private sector feedback to deepen intra-regional trade and investment and in strengthening cooperation among the private sectors in ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea through its various initiatives and activities. We welcomed the positive outcome of the inaugural ASEAN Plus Three interface with the East Asia Business Council and looked forward to more such dialogues between ASEAN Plus Three Leaders and the Council.
 8. We expressed confidence that the region's economies will remain resilient and maintain their positive trajectory despite the volatile global economic environment. Given the immense potential of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to further regional economic integration, uphold ASEAN centrality and further improve the region's influence on the global stage, we welcomed the substantial progress achieved in all areas of negotiations and tasked our Economic Ministers to further intensify efforts towards the early conclusion of negotiations.
 9. Against the backdrop of heightened volatility in the global financial market, we reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as part of the regional financial safety net to maintain financial stability in ASEAN and East Asia. To further complement CMIM, we welcomed the transition of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) to an International Organisation, operating as an independent regional surveillance unit to monitor and analyse regional economies and support CMIM initiatives.
 10. We acknowledged progress made under the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI), particularly in developing efficient and liquid regional bond markets through the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF), the Cross-border Settlement Infrastructure Forum (CSIF), the ASEAN+3 Multi-Currency

Bond Issuance Framework (AMBIF) and the ASEAN+3 Bond Market Forum (ABMF) to help alleviate financial volatility and contribute to economic and financial stability in the East Asia region.

11. We underscored the importance of strengthening and broadening tourism cooperation in promoting people-to-people linkages in the East Asian region and looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation in 2016.
12. We emphasised the importance of mitigating the threat of climate change to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors in East Asia. We reaffirmed the important role of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement as a mechanism to strengthen regional food security and reducing poverty. To further improve its efficiency, we took note of the need to consider alternative staple food crops in addition to rice. To further complement APTERR, we encouraged the development of technology and a framework to have early warning information on impending food emergencies in the region through the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS). We further welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Plus Three Bioenergy and Food Security Framework 2015-2025 with the objective of supporting ASEAN Member States' efforts to ensure sustainable, food-secure and climate-friendly bioenergy for economic development. We also acknowledged the importance of establishing food value chains through Public-Private Partnership, and encouraged the sharing of best practices, development and exchanges of agro and agro-industry technologies, and market management to increase the value of food supply chains.
13. We recognised the need to ensure energy security in the region by promoting energy diversification through renewable energy development, energy efficiency and conservation and the use of green technology. We welcomed the enhancement and deepening of cooperation through knowledge transfer at an affordable cost in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Further, we took note that clean coal, including high efficiency coal-fired power generation would contribute towards energy security and the potential reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

14. We recognised youth as an essential asset to a nation's development and stressed the importance of continuous engagement at all levels. With over 60% of the ASEAN population today comprising those under 35 years of age, they will be the driving force in shaping the future of ASEAN. We welcomed the outcome of the ASEAN Young Leaders' Summit 2015, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 18-20 November 2015 with the theme 'Youth Driving the ASEAN Community', which was an avenue for youth from around ASEAN to build and leverage networks towards creating a cohesive ASEAN identity.
15. We highlighted the need to address environmental issues effectively, particularly on trans-boundary pollution and to intensify efforts to ensure sustainable development in the region. We reaffirmed our commitment to the implementation of sustainable forest management through enhancing capacity-building and the need to further strengthen cooperation and joint approaches in addressing forestry and environmental management issues.
16. The Plus Three Countries welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change at the 27th ASEAN Summit, which reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to collectively work towards addressing climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We emphasised the commitment to conclude an ambitious, durable and legally binding global climate agreement acceptable to all at the Paris Climate Conference in December 2015.
17. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhancing cooperation in education at the regional level. The Plus Three Countries welcomed the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Higher Education at the 27th ASEAN Summit. We noted the progress in developing the ASEAN Plus Three Guidelines on Student Exchange and Mobility.

18. We noted with satisfaction the implementation of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters Plus Three (ACCSM+3) Work Plan (2012-2015) and looked forward to the adoption of the ACCSM+3 Work Plan 2016-2020 to further promote good governance.
19. We acknowledged the important role played by the information sector to ensure that multi-flow of information is in place to raise awareness on ASEAN and in the East Asia region. Towards this end, we looked forward to the full and effective implementation of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation through Information and Media (2012-2017).
20. We recognised the importance of Science and Technology as powerful enablers of economic development in the East Asia region and looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 with clear and effective mechanisms to further cooperation with Dialogue Partners.
21. We expressed concern over the threat of infectious diseases in the region, including the recent outbreak of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and encouraged the Plus Three Countries to continue supporting the Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) Programme, which has engendered fruitful collaboration in the region. We acknowledged the need to pursue stronger cooperation under the ASEAN post-2015 Health Development Agenda.
22. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen regional cooperation in the area of disaster management and emphasised the importance of continued support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), including its post-2015 work programme.
23. We recognised the importance for ASEAN to be better connected in ensuring freer movement of people, goods, services and capital. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the Plus Three countries' support in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and welcomed their support and assistance to further enhance regional connectivity. We looked forward to the conclusion of a post-2015 ASEAN Connectivity agenda which would be bold, visionary and contain concrete and feasible measures which would contribute to seamless connectivity in the East Asia region. Noting that financing mobilisation is an important factor in moving the ASEAN Connectivity agenda forward, we welcomed progress in the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank by China as well as the proposed Partnership for Quality Infrastructure by Japan to address infrastructure financing needs in the region.
24. We also recognised that regional integration and narrowing the development divide are priorities in the ASEAN community-building process and welcomed a post-2015 Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) agenda and a successor document to the IAI Work Plan II. Noting that IAI is cross-cutting in nature, we called for closer collaboration among the various ASEAN sectoral bodies in ensuring the full participation and realisation of regional commitments and initiatives.
25. We acknowledged the contribution made by Track 1.5 and Track 2 initiatives in promoting rich discussions on a wide range of issues, including the East Asia Forum (EAF), which provides a platform for think-tanks, business and academia to provide proposals for deepening East Asia regional cooperation. We further welcomed the contribution of the Network on East Asia Think-tanks (NEAT) in supporting East Asian community-building and noted with interest NEAT Memorandum No. 12.
26. We acknowledged the role played by the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre in promoting trade and investment, tourism and cultural exchanges. We encouraged these Centres to establish greater synergies with other establishments such as the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC), East Asia Business Council (EABC) and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat in promoting ASEAN in the East

Asia region in the larger context of the ASEAN Plus Three framework.

27. The ASEAN Leaders congratulated the Leaders of the Plus Three Countries on the successful convening of the 6th Trilateral Summit, held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea on 1 November 2015 and expressed the view that the positive momentum in China-Japan-ROK trilateral cooperation would contribute to the promotion and maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

ASEAN-CER (Australia and New Zealand)

Joint Media Statement of the 20th AEM-CER Consultations

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
23 August 2015**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and from Australia and New Zealand (Closer Economic Relations - CER) met on 23 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Twentieth ASEAN-CER Consultations. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia; the Honourable Andrew Robb, Australia's Minister for Trade and Investment and the Honourable Timothy Groser, Minister of Trade of New Zealand.
2. The Ministers acknowledged the strengthened and long-term partnership among the Parties with the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of ASEAN's Dialogue Relations with Australia last year, and with New Zealand in 2015. The Ministers further welcomed the deepening economic relations between ASEAN and CER through the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations and the steady growth of trade and investment in the region.

3. The Ministers, in particular, noted ASEAN's total merchandise trade with Australia and New Zealand at combined value of USD 81.1 billion in 2014, with ASEAN being a net exporter to CER.
4. ASEAN was Australia's second largest trading partner in 2014, with total two-way merchandise trade of USD70.4 billion, and was the recipient of foreign direct investment stocks of USD23.9 billion from Australia at 31 December 2014. In the same year, merchandise trade between ASEAN and New Zealand reached USD 10.7 billion and ASEAN received USD 319 million of FDI inflows from New Zealand. With ASEAN becoming a strategic location in global supply chains, the Ministers noted the need to ensure that the trade and investment regime among the Parties is progressing and business-friendly.

ASEAN Australia New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA)

5. The Ministers were encouraged by the utilisation of AANZFTA tariff preferences. The Ministers encouraged Parties to continue the work that would enable businesses to maximize the use of the opportunities arising from AANZFTA.
6. The Ministers recalled the signing of the First Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the AANZFTA in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in August 2014. The Ministers noted the progress of each Party's domestic ratification process and confirmed that the First Protocol should enter into force on 1 October 2015 for at least ten Parties. The Ministers noted that the First Protocol should make AANZFTA more business-friendly, transparent and administratively efficient.
7. The Ministers stressed the need for Parties to exercise the utmost flexibility in the transition to First Protocol's implementation to avoid confusion among traders and businesses, and endorsed the arrangements for implementation so far agreed, which include: (a) the revised Certificate of Origin Form for AANZFTA and its continuation sheet and (b) transitional guidelines on completing the information of the origin conferring criterion

on the AANZFTA Certificate of Origin Form. These arrangements will help to ensure that businesses are adequately informed about the changes resulting from the First Protocol.

8. The Ministers highlighted the need to progress the effort to facilitate trade and increase business use of AANZFTA through the timely transposition of tariff reduction schedules and product specific rules from Harmonized System (HS) 2012 to HS 2017, and development of a framework for a pilot project on full origin cumulation for certain products or sectors aimed at facilitating the voluntary participation of all Parties.
9. The Ministers also noted that further work is required to achieve concrete and meaningful outcomes in AANZFTA implementation and that there is a need to accelerate progress in the FTA's built-in agenda, particularly in the: (a) review of non-tariff measures (NTMs), (b) review of the cumulation rule and the product specific rules (PSRs), (c) review of services commitments, and (d) schedules of reservations in the Investment Chapter.

Broader Economic Cooperation

10. The Ministers welcomed the FTA Joint Committee (FJC)'s assessment of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program (AECSP) which covered the following elements: progress in AANZFTA implementation; degree of AANZFTA's relevance to business; extent of the Agreement's contribution to enhancing regional economic integration; and effectiveness of the AECSP in supporting these elements.
11. The Ministers noted that the AECSP has delivered results and tangible outcomes in terms of capacity-building, at individual and institutional levels, by developing technical expertise among officials and enhancing ASEAN Member States (AMS) institutions in the areas of trade in goods, services, investment, intellectual property and competition.
12. The Ministers agreed to extend AECSP up to 30 June 2018 subject to budget availability and relevant financial approval processes,

with priority given to supporting projects which focus on areas of FTA implementation that have not been achieved, particularly the built-in agenda. The Ministers tasked the FJC to make recommendations for the design of a possible new economic cooperation program (to succeed AECSP), alongside the General Review of AANZFTA in 2016.

13. The Ministers noted the progress in communicating the benefits and impact of AECSP through program highlights and series of factsheets on several economic cooperation activities and encouraged Parties to continue to demonstrate the benefits and mainstream AECSP beyond the immediate term.

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Hon. Andrew Robb AO MP, Minister for Trade and Investment, Australia; The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State for Commerce, Cambodia (representing H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia); Mrs Sondang Anggraini, Adviser to the Minister on Trade and Diplomacy, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia); H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar; The Hon. Timothy Groser, Minister of Trade, New Zealand; H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines; Mrs Ow Foong Pheng, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore); Mr Thawatchai Sophastienphong, Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand (representing H.E. Gen. Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce, Thailand); H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam); and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

East Asia Summit

Plan of Action to Implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on EAS Development Initiative (2015-2017)

This Plan of Action will serve as framework to implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative, which was adopted on 20 November 2012 and pursuant to the decision of the 3rd EAS Foreign Ministers Meeting on 2 July 2013.

This Plan of Action will ensure practical coordination and implementation of the Leaders' decisions consistent with the principles of the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit and the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary of the East Asia Summit, the Leaders' agreed priority areas of cooperation at the 2nd East Asia Summit in Cebu, Philippines in 2007, the 2011 Declaration of the 6th East Asia Summit on ASEAN Connectivity in Bali, Indonesia.

The following cooperation in EAS streams of work will be undertaken in conformity with the EAS participating countries' obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies:

1. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COOPERATION

1.1 Work toward further mainstreaming sustainable development, promoting balanced, inclusive, and sustainable approaches:

1.1.1 Seek to develop initiatives linked to the implementation of regionally relevant outcomes, building on existing ASEAN programs, other relevant regional activities of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Statement of the 2012 APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Environment where appropriate.

1.2 Increase the policy dialogue and communication and forge greater collaboration through mechanisms, including the EAS Environment Ministers' Meeting and EAS Energy Ministers' Meeting.

1.3 Recognize the *Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security*; and the *Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment*.

1.3.1 Promote active participation of the US-Asia Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership (USACEP).

1.4 Support the implementation of the initiatives, action plans, and research studies on energy cooperation being undertaken under the ASEAN framework and between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners as follows:

1.4.1 ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2010-2015;

1.4.2 EAS energy cooperation work plan;

1.4.3 East Asia Low Carbon-Growth Partnership Initiatives; and

1.4.4 Research Studies on the following areas by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), for EAS Energy Cooperation:

(i) EAS energy outlooks for the medium-to-long term;

(ii) strategic usage of coal through Clean Coal Technology;

(iii) optimum electric power infrastructure;

(iv) nuclear power safety management;

(v) smart urban traffic promoting energy efficiency of the transport sector; and

(vi) sustainable natural gas market in the EAS region.

1.5 Conduct joint research and development (R&D) and investment on renewable and alternative energy:

1.5.1 Encourage the active role of the Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes Work Stream and the Renewable and Alternative Power Generation Work Stream;

1.5.2 Support the new research studies by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA); and

- 1.5.3 Continue to support the EAS New Energy Forum.
- 1.6 Stimulate discourse analyzing the barriers to renewable energy policies and of investment in renewable energy.
- 1.6.1 Promote dialogue on reform of fuel subsidies, which encourage wasteful consumption, while recognizing the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services in order, among other benefits, to encourage productive allocation of capital and to level the playing field for renewable energy investment.
- 1.7 Promote the deployment of advanced technologies on energy efficiency and conservation.
- 1.7.1 Encourage the active role of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Work Stream and support the research study on smart energy management by ERIA.
- 1.8 Enhance research and cooperation in urban sustainable development as well as raise the environmental awareness of the general public:
- 1.8.1 Encourage support for programs on sustainable cities, including to continue holding the High-Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS-ESC).
- 1.9 Bring to a higher level the work on EAS cooperation in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- 1.9.1 Continue cooperation through the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership in order to build awareness of mitigation;
- 1.9.2 Continue to hold the EAS Seminar on Climate Change Adaptation Capacity Building bearing in mind that adaptation and mitigation are both important in addressing the short and long-term effects of climate change in the East Asia Summit region;
- 1.9.3 Encourage cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network under the auspices of UNEP's Global Adaptation Network;
- 1.9.4 Encourage support for China's initiative to establish the East Asia Center for Climate Change Research and International Cooperation;
- 1.9.5 Promote dialogue and cooperation in the field of advanced energy technologies, including carbon capture and storage, energy storage, and energy efficiency and clean and renewable energy technologies in electrical power generation and transport; and
- 1.9.6 Continue to promote the usage of renewable energy resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, biomass, and ocean energy.
- 1.10 Encourage support to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), a regional organization and center of excellence dedicated to the promotion of regional collaboration on biodiversity conservation.
- 1.11 Continue to promote the conservation, protection and preservation of the marine environment through sustainable use of marine resources responsibly, building on initiatives of various ASEAN-led mechanisms.
- ## 2. EDUCATION COOPERATION
- 2.1 Increase communication and dialogue in educational policies through the EAS Education Ministers' Meeting and other mechanisms.
- 2.2 To further promote cooperation to implement the EAS Education Action Plan (2011-2015), including by implementing associated projects, with an emphasis on improving the quality of primary, secondary and higher systems and strengthening cooperation on technical and vocational education and training (TVET).
- 2.3 To develop and promote school programs in history, culture, geography and social studies to enhance mutual understanding among EAS participating countries.

2.4 Encourage interested EAS participating countries to engage with the development of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) and consider referencing against the AQRF in the future, once established and fully functional.

2.5 Promote student and youth exchanges among countries in the region, including through the continued conduct of study programmes and scholarship programmes among EAS participating countries.

2.5.1 Continue to carry out “JENESYS 2.0” and “KAKEHASHI Project”; and

2.5.2 Expand the New Colombo Plan scholarships and mobility grants to multiple locations across the Indo-Pacific.

2.6 Support the establishment of Nalanda University as an international institution of excellence.

2.7 Promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the region:

2.7.1 Continue to conduct the activities of ESD;

2.7.2 Continue to enhance the quality education by implementing the activities of ESD; and

2.7.3 Support for the UNESCO World Conference on ESD to be held in Japan in November 2014.

2.8 Encourage promotion of a life-long learning society.

3. FINANCE COOPERATION

3.1 Work closely to strengthen the global economic recovery and regional financial cooperation through exchanges of views on macro-economic and financial developments, including via greater collaboration in the financial sector; strengthen the communication of monetary policies and urge regional countries to adopt a responsible monetary policy in order to jointly cope with regional financial risks.

3.2 Convene the Informal EAS Finance Ministers’ Meetings, as mutually agreed, to further develop and consolidate finance as a priority area of EAS cooperation through the exchange of views on regional and international finance developments.

3.3 Continue to implement decisions and measures outlined in the 2009 Joint Press Statement of the East Asia Summit on the Global Economic and Financial Crisis.

3.4 Strengthen the human resource development and capacity-building in finance to narrow development gaps in the region.

3.4.1 Conduct the EAS Workshop on Trade and Finance.

4. COOPERATION ON GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUES AND PANDEMIC DISEASES

4.1 Enhance regional preparedness and capacity through comprehensive and integrated approaches to (i) prevention; (ii) control; (iii) care; (iv) management; (v) surveillance; and (vi) timely response to communicable diseases such as HIV and AIDS, dengue, tuberculosis; emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as drug-resistant malaria; and impacts of pandemics. Specific relevant activities may include but not limited to the following:

4.1.1 Support the implementation of the Declaration of the EAS on Regional Responses to Malaria Control, and Addressing Resistance to Antimalarial Medicine; and

4.1.2 Support the work of the Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) to enhance East Asia cooperation in dealing with malaria issues in the region.

4.2 Encourage cooperation, based on the principles of Universal Health Coverage, to increase access to primary health care services for people of the region especially in maternal health and for newborns, children and elderly, through the following:

4.2.1 Access to affordable health care services;

- 4.2.2 Strengthening countries cooperation to ensure access to adequate primary health care, CLMV in particular, for example to promote the role and capacity building efforts of health village volunteer;
- 4.2.3 Enhancing regional coordination and cooperation on public health policies and regulations.
- 4.2.4 Establishing and sustaining networks of health care services; and
- 4.2.5 Promoting the sharing of good practices in primary health care and consumer protection to promote the region public health status in achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- 4.3 Strengthen regional cooperation to enhance access to affordable and essential healthcare services, and safe, high-quality and affordable medicines, as well as to promote a healthy lifestyle.
- 4.4 Enhance coordination and cooperation on public health.
- 4.5 Enhance capacity building of EAS participating countries in the area of public health which may include, but not limited to the following:
 - 4.5.1 Conduct training courses on public health human resources.
 - 4.5.2 Conduct the Round Table on Tertiary Health Care with Focus on Trauma and Nursing.
 - 4.5.3 Explore ways to promote regional cooperation in enhancing national health system response to all hazards such as natural disasters, pandemics or emerging infectious diseases, which may include among others emergency and disaster medicines.
- 4.6 Promote sharing of best practices and information exchange and transfer of health-related technologies.
- 4.7 Improve the health status of the people of the region towards achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and post-2015 development agenda as appropriate.
- 4.8 Promote collaborative research and development on relevant health intervention and technologies for the prevention, treatment, care, and management of emerging infectious and communicable diseases.
- 5. COOPERATION ON NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT**
 - 5.1 Implement decisions and measures outlined in the Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on EAS Disaster Management and continue to discuss the linkage between the EAS Paper on a Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2010-2015.
 - 5.2 Support the operation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and encourage all EAS participating countries to provide funding and technical support.
 - 5.3 Build on the linkage between the EAS Paper and other disaster management activities under the EAS and ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2010-2015 as well as promote information-sharing, rapid response, and coordinated action.
 - 5.3.1 Follow-up to the Australia-Indonesia Rapid Disaster Response Workshops held on 23-24 September 2013 and 11-12 June 2014.
 - 5.4 Deepen engagement between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and national disaster management authorities of non-ASEAN EAS participating countries to guide cooperation in disaster management:
 - 5.4.1 Support the ACDM Session on EAS Cooperation on Disaster Management; and
 - 5.4.2 Consider establishing a network of 24x7 Points of Contacts among the National Disaster Response Agencies of the EAS participating countries.

5.5 Conduct disaster response and recovery exercises, in coordination with other regional forums, keeping in mind the importance of avoiding unnecessary duplication to strengthen the capacity of regional countries to cope with natural disasters:

5.5.1 Support the EAS Earthquake Response and Relief Joint Exercise.

5.5.2 Continue to support the Mentawai Megathrust Disaster Relief Exercise.

5.6 Conduct capacity-building, exchange of experiences, and sound practices in disaster management;

5.6.1 Welcome the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 in Japan to share experiences and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake;

5.6.2 Conduct capacity-building activities on disaster risk reduction and response; and

5.6.3 Discuss further the establishment of Virtual Knowledge Portal to share knowledge and best practices related to natural disaster risk assessment, mitigation and response.

5.6.4 Promote exchange of knowledge and experience on medical rehabilitation treatment, both mental and physical health under the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO).

6. COOPERATION ON ASEAN CONNECTIVITY

6.1 Support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and encourage EAS participating countries to provide funding, technological, and intellectual support on the following areas of cooperation:

6.1.1 Implement the outcomes of the EAS Regulatory Roundtable.

6.1.2 Encourage deeper engagement between the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Connectivity (ACCC) and non-ASEAN EAS participating countries.

6.1.3 Strengthen transport infrastructure connectivity including by facilitating the establishment of a green, safe and efficient transport network, for the promotion of economic prosperity and sustainable development.

6.1.4 Enhance the development of infrastructure, services and institutional connectivity.

6.2 Encourage public and private sectors to actively participate in the priority projects of the MPAC to enhance connectivity and encourage business enterprises to directly engage in the investment, construction and operation of the projects.

6.3 Encourage the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) to also engage with other external partners, including the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and World Bank in implementing the Declaration of the 6th EAS on ASEAN Connectivity.

6.4 Enhance people-to-people connectivity through the promotion of tourism, education and cultural cooperation, including through North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

6.5 Enhance business connectivity which leads to building effective supply chain networks across the region with upgrading of industries and development of supporting industries.

6.6 Encourage the EAS participating countries to play active roles in ASEAN Connectivity through multi-layered regional frameworks and sharing best practices.

6.7 Encourage the EAS participating countries to play active roles in enhancing people-to-people connectivity through the tourism cooperation in order to achieve equitable and sustainable development via:

6.7.1 Development and improvement of infrastructure related to tourism;

- 6.7.2 Travel facilitation at international portals;
- 6.7.3 Support and assist community-based tourism development aimed to accelerate poverty reduction at rural, disadvantaged communities as well as to further contribute to protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritages.
- 6.8 Enhance cooperation on maritime connectivity, including through collaborative efforts in developing environment- and user-friendly port infrastructure, establishment of integrated, competitive and seamless maritime transport network, and promotion of the safety and security of navigation and shipping, to promote economic growth, narrow development gaps, and contribute to regional integration and community building process, as well as to increase greater people mobility.

7. TRADE AND ECONOMICS COOPERATION

- 7.1 Strengthen cooperation and dialogue in economics and trade through the EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting, EAS Senior Economic Officials' Meeting, and other mechanisms, including business forums.
- 7.2 Support regional economic integration efforts and strengthen trade and investment among the EAS participating countries:
 - 7.2.1 Support the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC);
 - 7.2.2 Maintain the momentum of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations in supporting and contributing to economic integration, equitable economic development, and strengthening economic cooperation among participating countries through working towards a comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial agreement; and
 - 7.2.3 Promote the FTA negotiations among China, Japan and ROK, contributing to the ongoing process of open economic integration in East Asia as well as Asia-Pacific region.

8. FOOD SECURITY COOPERATION

- 8.1 Support the implementation of the EAS Declaration on Food Security and strengthen EAS cooperation in the field of food security.
- 8.2 Participate in activities of the EAS Track II Study Group on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environmental Conservation on a voluntary basis.
- 8.3 Promote responsible and sustainable fishing.

9. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN OF ACTION

- 9.1 The initiatives mentioned in this Plan of Action will be implemented through existing regional frameworks and mechanisms of ASEAN, in close consultation with and support from EAS participating countries, and with appropriate support and from relevant regional and international organizations, including Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), World Bank, and Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).
- 9.2 The relevant EAS ministerial meetings and senior officials' meetings are in-charge of reviewing their respective work streams and assessing the progress at regular intervals.
- 9.3 Submit progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Chairman's Statement of the 5th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 6 August 2015

- 1. The 5th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 6 August 2015. The

meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

Review and Future Direction of the East Asia Summit

2. The Ministers acknowledged the growing importance of the EAS in the regional architecture and reaffirmed its role as a Leaders'-led forum to discuss broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.
3. The Ministers reiterated that the East Asia Summit would continue to be an inclusive, transparent and outward-looking forum in which the participating countries shall strive to strengthen global norms and uphold universally recognised principles, with ASEAN as the driving force working in partnership with the other participating countries of the East Asia Summit.
4. The Ministers noted that 2015 marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the East Asia Summit and discussed the strengthening of its work processes with the aim of enabling major powers in the region to discuss issues of common interest and concern based on the agenda and methods of work set by ASEAN, which is an important manifestation of ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture. They looked forward to the Leaders adopting a declaration celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the East Asia Summit and outlining the way forward.
5. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the 4th EAS Workshop and Dialogue on Regional Security Architecture in the Asia Pacific Region co-hosted by Cambodia and India in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 20-21 July 2015, which discussed various proposals introduced during the four workshops. They noted China's offer to host a 5th Workshop in 2016.

Priority Areas of Cooperation

6. The Ministers welcomed the proposal to extend the Plan of Action to Implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development

Initiative (2014-2015) until the year 2017, which focuses on EAS cooperation in the six priority areas, namely energy, education, finance, global health issues including pandemic diseases, environment and disaster mitigation, and ASEAN Connectivity as well as other areas of cooperation. The extension was agreed upon ad-referendum and will take effect once confirmed by all East Asia Summit participating countries.

Energy

7. The Ministers noted progress made in the work streams of Energy Efficiency and Conservation; Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes; and Renewable and Alternative Power Generation under the EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force (ECTF) Work Plan 2013-2014. They acknowledged the outcome of the 8th EAS Energy Ministers' Meeting, held on 24 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR which discussed ways to improve energy efficiency, utilise biofuels for transport and other purposes, and promote sustainable natural gas market, clean coal technologies and alternative and renewable energy in the EAS region as the total energy demand of the EAS participating countries would account for approximately 65 per cent of the global energy demand by 2035.
8. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the Energy Research Network (ERIN) in September 2014 in Brunei Darussalam, comprising a network of research institutes and universities in the EAS region to promote joint research and development on energy. The Ministers noted that the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) has commenced a study on promoting oil stockpiling and reinforcement of emergency response measures in EAS participating countries and welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between ERIN and ERIA on 6 September 2014 in Bandar Seri Begawan to enhance collaboration between the two Institutes.

Education

9. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the 2nd EAS Education Ministers' Meeting on 12 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR

and noted the review of the EAS Education Cooperation Plan of Action (2011-2015) to identify, collate and analyse lessons learnt in order to facilitate the development of a post-2015 vision and action plan.

Finance

10. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of financial stability in supporting economic growth by consistently managing risks and vulnerabilities. The Ministers expressed support to further strengthen the region's response to external shocks through continual regional financial cooperation and closer collaboration with international financial institutions.

Global Health Issues including Pandemic Diseases

11. The Ministers expressed the need to effectively implement the Declaration of the 7th East Asia Summit on Regional Responses to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance to Anti-malarial Medicine adopted in Cambodia in 2012 and noted with concern the continued spread of Multidrug Resistant Malaria in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region and that combating antimicrobial resistance has been identified as one of the health priorities of ASEAN's Post-2015 Health Development Agenda. They welcomed the activities undertaken by the Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) since its inception in October 2013 and reaffirmed commitment to the goal of an Asia Pacific Free of Malaria by 2030. The Ministers also noted the development of the APLMA Malaria Elimination Roadmap as a framework for shared action and looked forward to the Roadmap being presented to Leaders at the 10th EAS.
12. The Ministers also noted with concern the spread of dengue in an increasing number of countries and that existing vector control methods have not reached the desired effects in most dengue endemic countries. They called for collaboration and cooperation to test proof new technologies and to take advantage of new tools which are on the horizon.
13. The Ministers expressed concern over the outbreak of the Middle East Respiratory

Syndrome (MERS) and its spread to countries in the region. They emphasised the need to strengthen regional mechanisms and increase national capacity to contain its reach as well as prevent the spread of other pandemic diseases through increased surveillance, prevention and control so as to minimise risks to public health.

14. The Ministers noted the importance of achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and acknowledged the need to enhance coordination and cooperation in areas such as infectious diseases, maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases and strengthening of health systems, based on the principle of universal health coverage for the region.

Environment and Disaster Mitigation

15. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the 4th EAS Environment Ministers' Meeting on 31 October 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR which discussed ways to further enhance EAS cooperation in this important area.
16. The Ministers expressed concern over the grave impact of climate change on the economy, livelihood and sustainable development of all countries in the region. They recognised the need for urgent and concrete action to address climate change and reaffirmed their commitment to closely cooperate towards the adoption of an ambitious protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all Parties under the UNFCCC at COP21 in Paris to be held at the end of 2015.

ASEAN Connectivity

17. The Ministers noted the on-going implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), and highlighted the important role of MPAC initiatives towards supporting greater ASEAN integration and growth. They looked forward to the convening of the 6th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium entitled The Connectivity Agenda for an Integrated ASEAN Community, to be held on 16 October 2015 in Penang, Malaysia, which would bring together relevant stakeholders to share views and discuss ASEAN's post-

2015 Connectivity Agenda as well as the best methodology to address challenges in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity post-2015.

Other Areas of Cooperation

Disaster Management

18. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the 3rd ACDM Session on EAS Cooperation in Disaster Management held on 15 October 2014 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam and the 4th Session held on 22 April 2015 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Through these sessions, ASEAN further familiarised the non-ASEAN EAS participating countries with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2010-2015 and explored cooperation in various areas.
19. The Ministers noted the launch of the EAS Earthquake Risk Reduction Centre with the Virtual Knowledge Portal (VKP) in December 2014 in New Delhi, India and encouraged EAS participating countries to make active use of the VKP. The Ministers welcomed the launching of the EAS Rapid Disaster Response Toolkit at the Indonesia-Australia EAS Rapid Disaster Response Workshop which was held on 10-11 June 2015 in Bali, Indonesia, and noted the convening of the Indonesia-New Zealand EAS Disaster Recovery Workshop on 12 June 2015 in Bali, Indonesia. The Toolkit endeavours to streamline disaster response amongst EAS participating countries, building on existing regional mechanisms with a view to providing a practical platform to strengthen technical cooperation. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the Australia-Thailand EAS Search and Rescue Lessons Learned Seminar to be held on 20-21 September in Sydney, Australia.

Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Security in the Use of ICTs

20. The Ministers noted the outcome of the EAS Symposium on Religious Rehabilitation and Social Integration, held in Singapore on 16-17 April 2015 which aims to mitigate the threat of terrorism and violent extremism by building community resilience against radical

narratives and help re-integrate rehabilitated individuals into mainstream society.

21. The Ministers highlighted the need for countries to support efforts to counter terrorist and violent extremist ideology and propaganda; to work with members of civil society and the private sector to promote positive messages of respect, inclusion and moderation; to build resilience and prevent the process of radicalisation, particularly online and to this end welcomed the initiative of an EAS statement on countering violent extremism.
22. The Ministers expressed concern over the emerging threat of cyber-crime and the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for terrorist purposes as well as those that are inconsistent with international peace and security. They noted an initiative to issue an EAS statement on transnational cyber issues.

Maritime Cooperation

23. The Ministers underscored the importance of peace and stability in the region and reiterated the Leaders' call for regional efforts to enhance cooperation in promoting maritime safety and security. In this regard, the Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 4th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum back-to-back with the 6th ASEAN Maritime Forum, to be held in Manado, Indonesia. The Ministers further noted a proposal to elevate the EAMF into a Track 1 Forum as well as an initiative of an EAS statement on enhancing regional maritime cooperation in the Asia-Pacific.

Regional and International Issues

24. The Ministers discussed developments in the South China Sea and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security and freedom of navigation in and over-flight over the South China Sea.
25. The Meeting discussed matters relating to the South China Sea and took note of the serious concerns expressed by some Ministers over the recent and on-going developments in the area, including land reclamation, which have resulted in the erosion of trust and confidence

- amongst parties, and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea.
26. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea.
 27. The Meeting emphasised the need for ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China (DOC) in its entirety: to build, maintain and enhance mutual trust and confidence; to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities; to not to resort to threat or use of force; and for the parties concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with international law including 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
 28. The Meeting welcomed the recent agreement between ASEAN Member States and China to proceed to the next stage of consultations towards the establishment of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) and looked forward to the expeditious establishment of the COC.
 29. The Ministers expressed concern over recent developments in the Korean Peninsula and underlined the importance of peace, stability and security in the region. They registered deep concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's recent ballistic missile launch and highlighted the importance of trust-building activities on the Peninsula and the need to fully comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and for parties to abide by their commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. The Ministers called for the creation of necessary conditions for the early resumption of Six-Party Talks which would pave the way for the complete and verifiable de-nuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.
 30. The Ministers expressed support for the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to an independent state of Palestine with the realisation of two states, Palestine and Israel, living side-by-side, and called upon Israel and Palestine to constructively engage in peace negotiations. The Ministers called on all parties to make every effort to remove obstacles related thereto, in particular the construction and expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territories, and expressed support for all efforts towards finding a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
 31. The Ministers welcomed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) reached between the E3/EU+3 (China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 14 July 2015 and issued a Statement on this matter.
 32. The Ministers expressed grave concern at the continued expansion of activities of the terrorist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and resolved to step up efforts to counter violent extremism by strengthening intelligence and security cooperation while highlighting that terrorism must be addressed in a comprehensive manner and not through the use of force alone, including commitment to international law, peaceful resolution of conflicts, democratic values, equitable and inclusive economic growth, tolerance and mutual respect and adherence to social justice.
 33. Recognising moderation as an approach to counter extremism in all its forms, the Ministers highlighted its important role in the pursuit of long lasting peace and as a tool to counter violent extremism and terrorism, diffuse tensions and negate radicalism and welcomed the adoption of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates at the 26th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the proposal for an EAS Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates.
 34. The Ministers recognised the importance of strengthening economic relations among EAS participating countries and the significance of the on-going negotiations on the Regional

Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). RCEP would affirm ASEAN centrality in the regional economic architecture and the interests of ASEAN's FTA Partners. Once concluded, RCEP would provide a platform for trade and investment integration in Asia and the wider region. The Ministers recognised that RCEP contributes to economic integration, equitable economic development and strengthening economic cooperation among participating countries, through working towards a modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement.

35. The Ministers reaffirmed the need for comprehensive, transparent and efficient multilateral approaches to addressing global challenges, and underscored the central role of the United Nations in on-going efforts to find common solutions to such challenges. They reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including revitalisation of its General Assembly to become the chief deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the United Nations as well as the reform of the Security Council, guided by the principles of democracy, transparency and accountability and achieved through open-ended and inclusive consultations. The reform of the Security Council should reflect contemporary geo-political realities and make it more effective, efficient, transparent, democratic and representative so that it could better respond to today's global challenges. They recognised the challenges associated with the process and therefore urged all UN Member States to work in a concerted manner towards this end.
36. The Ministers discussed preparations for the upcoming East Asia Summit, which would commemorate the 10th anniversary of its establishment. The Summit is scheduled to be held in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
37. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 6th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting, to be held in Lao PDR in 2016.

Joint Media Statement of the 3rd EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
24 August 2015**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States met on 24 August 2015, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Third East Asia Summit (EAS) Economic Ministers Meeting. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the EAS regional economic developments as well as trade and investment relations and noted that according to ASEAN statistics, the combined GDP of the EAS participating countries stood at USD 42.0 trillion in 2014, an increase from USD 40.5 trillion in 2013.
3. The Ministers also noted that ASEAN's total trade with the non-ASEAN EAS countries grew by 1.1 per cent year-on-year to USD 1.1 trillion in 2014. The eight non-ASEAN EAS countries accounted for 43.9 per cent of ASEAN's total trade. Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows from the non-ASEAN EAS participating countries in 2014 reached USD 46.6 billion, or 34.2 per cent of ASEAN's total FDI inflows.

Updates on Regional and Global Economic Developments

4. The Ministers exchanged views on regional and global economic developments. Global growth is projected to remain moderate and uneven in 2015 with a growth forecast of 3.3 per cent. In the developed economies, growth is expected to increase from 1.8 per cent in 2014 to 2.1 per cent in 2015. In contrast, growth in emerging and developing countries is forecast to decelerate from 4.6 per cent in 2014 to 4.2 per cent in 2015, reflecting the impact of lower commodity prices, structural bottlenecks and geopolitical tension. Looking closer at the region, ASEAN's economic performance remained robust in 2014 with a total GDP of USD 2.57 trillion. ASEAN's

economy is projected to grow by 4.6 per cent this year, and 5.1 per cent in 2016. Nevertheless, the continued moderation in China's growth and financial vulnerability due to the strengthening of the U.S. dollar and the Greek debt crisis may pose potential risks to growth in the region, calling for close monitoring and timely policy actions.

5. The Ministers reiterated their commitment towards regional and global engagement, which deepen economic integration, especially in the East Asia and Asia Pacific region.
6. The Ministers also reaffirmed their support for ASEAN's effort to bring about the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community in December 2015, which will contribute to regional and global resilience, peace, and prosperity.
7. The Ministers agreed on the importance of WTO members in ensuring the entry into force of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation by the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC10) in Nairobi in December 2015. The Ministers welcomed agreement on the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA expansion), which involves tariff elimination on roughly 200 products valued at about USD 1 trillion in annual trade, and urged ITA expansion participants to finalise the scheduling for this before MC10. Recognising the important opportunity which the meeting represents, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to advance and seek to conclude the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) at MC10 and revitalise the multilateral trading system.
8. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting held on 23-24 May 2015 in Boracay, the Philippines, which, amongst others, include: continuous support to the multilateral trading system; enhancing regional economic integration; investing in human capital development, building sustainable and resilient communities; strengthening economic and technical cooperation; and the adoption of the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to

foster MSME participation in regional and global economy.

Updates on ERIA's Activities

9. The Ministers welcomed the updates on the activities and research undertaken by ERIA, including the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) 2.0: Infrastructure for Connectivity and Innovation, energy such as on clean coal technologies, the collaboration with UNCTAD to improve database on non-tariff measures (NTMs), the development of three communication tools for its research products, namely research institute network, policy briefs and capacity building programmes, particularly for CLMV countries. The Ministers underscored the importance of quality infrastructure and expected CADP 2.0 to contribute to better quality infrastructure in the region.
10. The Ministers noted the Study on Regulatory Management Systems (RMS) in ASEAN and EAS countries undertaken by ERIA and New Zealand Institute of Economic Research and looked forward to workshops related to RMS. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of interaction between ERIA and the policy makers of all EAS countries. The Ministers encouraged ERIA to identify from the range of its research recommendations addressing key economic challenges facing the region for consideration and discussion among Ministers in future meetings with the view to develop actionable points.
11. The Ministers welcomed the statement of the 8th ERIA Governing Board Meeting delivered on 5 June 2015, which underscored the importance of promoting regional development and integration efforts to the larger global community and also outlined the necessary actions that ERIA needs to focus on to contribute to ASEAN and East Asia community building.
12. The Ministers thanked ERIA for its continuous support and looked forward to its continued contributions to the region's integration efforts. The Ministers encouraged EAS participating countries to continue their support for ERIA.

Chairman's Statement of the 10th East Asia Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

1. The 10th East Asia Summit (EAS) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015. It was chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak and attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.
2. Noting that 2015 marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the East Asia Summit, we reaffirmed our commitment to the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the EAS, the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the EAS and the 2011 Declaration of the EAS on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations, which emphasised the role of the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concern with the aim to promote peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.
3. We reaffirmed ASEAN's central role in the EAS, and ASEAN's commitment to work in close partnership with all EAS participating countries to ensure that the EAS would continue to be an integral component of the regional architecture. We are pleased with the substantive discussions since 2014 and throughout 2015 on strengthening of the East Asia Summit which also reflect the sustainability of the forum. In further strengthening the EAS and on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, we adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Tenth Anniversary of the East Asia Summit.
4. We welcomed the extension of the Plan of Action (POA) to implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit

Development Initiative until the end of 2017. We acknowledged that the POA is a comprehensive document aimed at enhancing EAS cooperation in the six priority areas of energy; education; finance; global health including pandemics; environment and disaster management; and ASEAN Connectivity.

PRIORITY AREAS OF COOPERATION

Energy

5. The Leaders affirmed the importance of continued efforts towards improved energy access and energy affordability, addressing regional energy security and sustainability challenges, promoting high quality energy infrastructure and keeping energy markets transparent and competitive. In this regard, the Leaders underscored the importance of clean energy, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean technology applications to meet the rising energy demand of the EAS region, and particularly stressed the usefulness of sharing energy supply and demand outlooks across the EAS region to provide input for energy analysis and policy formulation to better understand potential impacts of supply shocks and disasters.

Education

6. We reiterated the importance of education cooperation and the need to further strengthen human resource development in the region. We looked forward to the review of the EAS Education Cooperation Plan of Action (2012-2015) to identify, collate and analyse lessons learnt in order to facilitate the development of a post-2015 vision and action plan.

Finance

7. We acknowledged the risks posed by financial market volatility, including possible capital flow reversals, and reiterated the importance of financial stability in supporting economic growth by consistently managing risks and vulnerabilities. We supported the further strengthening of the region's response to external shocks through continual regional financial cooperation and closer collaboration with international financial institutions.

Global Health including Pandemics

8. Reaffirming our commitment to the goal of an Asia Pacific free of malaria by 2030, we endorsed the Asia Pacific Leaders' Malaria Elimination Roadmap as a framework for shared action. We are committed to the Roadmap's six priority areas and called for a rapid and sustained scale-up effort in the Mekong region to prevent the spread of drug-resistant malaria.
9. We also noted with concern the spread of dengue in an increasing number of countries and that existing vector control methods have not achieved the desired effects in most dengue endemic countries. We called for collaboration and cooperation to develop new technologies and to take advantage of new tools which are on the horizon.
10. We noted with concern the outbreak of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and the public health threat posed to the region. We emphasised the need to strengthen regional mechanisms and enhance national capacities to contain as well as prevent the spread of pandemics through increased surveillance, coordinating outbreak investigations, timely sharing of information and ensuring adequate infection prevention and control measures in order to minimise risks to public health. In this regard, we adopted the EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Health Security relating to Communicable Diseases with Epidemic and Pandemic Potential.

Environment and Disaster Management

11. We expressed concern over the adverse impact climate change presents to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development of all countries. We recognised the need for urgent and concrete action to address climate change and reaffirmed our commitment to closely cooperate towards the adoption of an ambitious protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the twenty first Conference of the Parties (COP 21), to be held in Paris, France in December 2015.

12. Noting that natural disasters have caused tremendous loss of life and damage to property in the region in recent years, we recognised the importance of strong collaborative efforts at all levels to achieve rapid, effective and efficient disaster response. In this regard, we welcomed the launch of the EAS Rapid Disaster Response Toolkit and reaffirmed our determination to continue working together in disaster management, particularly with a view to enhance regional rapid response capabilities and humanitarian assistance.

ASEAN Connectivity

13. We noted the commendable progress achieved in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. Bearing in mind that ASEAN is in the process of drawing up a new Connectivity plan for the next decade, the Leaders took note of the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiatives, and looked forward to the early establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the implementation of the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure. We took note of the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan 2.0 (CADP 2.0) by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and its potential contribution towards this process. We encouraged ERIA to continue its support to the Chair of the ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit.

OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION

Maritime Cooperation

14. We underscored the importance of enhancing regional cooperation in promoting maritime safety and security and adopted the EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation. We were also pleased with the convening of the 4th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum back-to-back with the 6th ASEAN Maritime Forum which was held in Manado, Indonesia on 9 September 2015. Cognisant of the implementation of numerous maritime-related cooperation activities in the region, we tasked our officials to explore the possibility of including maritime cooperation as a priority area of EAS cooperation.

Security of and in the Use of ICTs

15. We noted that information and communication technologies (ICTs) bring immense economic and social benefits but could also be used for purposes inconsistent with international peace and security. We decided to cooperate to improve regional stability and reduce risk in this area through intensifying our efforts to strengthen information-sharing, incident response, capacity-building and other practical cooperation. Recognising the gravity of the matter, we adopted the EAS Statement on Issues related to Security of and in the Use of ICTs.

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

16. We welcomed ASEAN's commitment to preserving Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and the contribution of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty to regional security and the global non-proliferation regime. We reiterated our commitment to continue to work with Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) to resolve all outstanding issues, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

South China Sea

17. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security and upholding freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea.
18. We took note of the serious concerns expressed by some Leaders over recent and on-going developments in the area, which have resulted in the erosion of trust and confidence amongst parties, and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region.
19. We welcomed assurances given by China as expressed by President Xi Jinping during his visit to the United States of America recently that China does not intend to pursue militarisation in the South China Sea.

20. We underscored the commitment of ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety: to build, maintain and enhance mutual trust and confidence; to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities; not to resort to the threat or use of force; and for the states concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with international law including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS 1982).
21. We noted the outcomes of the 10th ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on DOC and the 15th ASEAN-China Joint Working Group (JWG) in Chengdu, China on 19 - 20 October 2015. We are encouraged by the recent agreement of ASEAN Member States and China to proceed to the next stage of consultations towards the establishment of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) and looked forward to the expeditious establishment of an effective COC.

Korean Peninsula

22. We noted with concern recent developments on the Korean Peninsula and underlined the importance of peace, security and stability in the region. We registered deep concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's ballistic missile launch in May 2015; opposed any action which would raise tensions; highlighted the importance of trust-building activities on the Peninsula; the need to fully comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions; and for parties to abide by their commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks, which would pave the way for the complete and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We also emphasised the importance of addressing issues of humanitarian concern, including the abduction issue.

Middle East and Palestine

23. The Leaders expressed grave concern over the provocations and escalating violence in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza and urged all parties to

exercise restraint and uphold respect for the sanctity of the Holy Sites. We condemned attempts to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in violation of United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. We expressed support for the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to an independent state of Palestine with the realisation of two States, Palestine and Israel, living side-by-side, and called upon Israel and Palestine to constructively engage in peace negotiations. We called on all parties to make every effort to remove obstacles related thereto, in particular the construction and expansion of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and expressed support for all efforts towards finding a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Terrorism and moderation

24. We strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in recent weeks and underlined the need to address the threats of violent extremism and terrorism in a comprehensive manner, particularly by identifying and addressing the underlying factors that contribute to terrorism, lead to radicalisation and the spread of violent extremism. In this regard, we reaffirmed our support for the Global Movement of Moderates, recognising moderation as one of the approaches to counter violent extremism and stressed the importance of doing so through multi-pronged cooperation. In this regard, we adopted the EAS Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates and the EAS Statement on Countering Violent Extremism.

70th anniversary UN

25. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, we reaffirmed our commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and underscored its central role in on-going multilateral efforts to find common solutions to addressing global challenges. We reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including revitalisation of its General Assembly and the reform of the Security Council, guided by principles of democracy, transparency and

accountability and achieved through open and inclusive consultations.

Sustainable Development

26. We welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) therein, which among others aims to end poverty and hunger in all their forms everywhere; reduce inequality within and among countries; and strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.

Refugees/Migrants

27. We expressed utmost concern over the large displacement of people caused by internal strife as well as the loss of lives in the Mediterranean and Andaman Seas. We called on the Governments of all countries involved - source, transit and destination - to provide responses in the spirit of cooperation, international burden sharing and shared responsibility, acting with humanity, compassion and in accordance with international law.

Regional Economic Integration

28. We reaffirmed support for the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN's commitment towards further regional economic integration in East Asia and the Asia Pacific region. We noted the conclusion of negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement as well as progress achieved in negotiations towards a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and urged all parties to intensify efforts to conclude negotiations, as contained in the Joint Statement on the RCEP Negotiations of 22 November 2015. We reiterated our commitment to avoid protectionist measures affecting trade and investment which are inconsistent with World Trade Organisation (WTO) commitments and as reaffirmed at the 7th East Asia Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2012.

APEC

29. The Leaders welcomed the outcomes of the 2015 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting which was held in Manila, Philippines on

18-19 November 2015 and noted APEC's on-going contribution to enhancing regional economic integration, fostering small and medium enterprises' participation in regional and global markets, and investing in human capital development and building sustainable and resilient communities. We further supported the forum's emphasis on services and structural reform, strengthening economic cooperation and capacity building towards achieving regional economic integration and economic prosperity for the region.

G20

30. We welcomed the outcome of the G20 Summit which was held in Antalya, Turkey on 15-16 November 2015, which aimed at robust, sustainable, balanced as well as inclusive growth, both at the national and international levels as well as the establishment of Women-20, with a view to increasing women's participation in the global economy. We commended the G20's continued engagement with ASEAN through the regular participation of the ASEAN Chairman at the G20 meetings and G20 Summit. We looked forward to active cooperation between ASEAN and the G20 under China's presidency.
31. We looked forward to the convening of the 11th East Asia Summit in Lao PDR in 2016.

East Asia Summit Declaration on the Global of Moderates

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, the People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of the 10th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

UNDERLINING our common vision of the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation

on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and prosperity.

WELCOMING the ASEAN Leaders' adoption of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates at the 26th ASEAN Summit in April 2015, further reinforcing moderation as an ASEAN value.

RECALLING the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations which calls for the recognition and respect for the diversity of ethnic, religious, cultural traditions and values as well as diversity of views and positions, including by promoting the voices of moderation.

RECALLING FURTHER that during the 7th East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2012 the Leaders welcomed the progress made in the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM).

RECOGNISING that ancient wisdom described the middle way and the golden mean as a path of moderation.

RECOGNISING FURTHER that moderation guides action which emphasises tolerance, understanding, dialogue, mutual respect and inclusiveness and is a tool to bridge differences and disputes.

COGNISANT that the EAS Member States are ethnically, culturally and religiously diverse and welcoming efforts at the community, national, regional and international levels in promoting cohesion of the multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural community, whose diversity is a source of strength in promoting moderation.

EMPHASISING the important role that the EAS can play in furthering the moderation agenda, which promotes a culture of peace and complements other initiatives, including the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations.

ACKNOWLEDGING that moderation, as a means to promote tolerance and mutual understanding, includes engaging in dialogues on political, economic and socio-cultural issues.

RECOGNISING that moderation is an all-encompassing approach not only in resolving differences and conflicts peacefully but also for

ensuring sustainable and inclusive development and equitable growth as well as promoting social harmony and mutual understanding within the country and region.

FURTHER RECOGNISING that moderation is a core value in the pursuit of long-lasting peace and a tool to diffuse tensions and counter violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations.

EMPHASISING that violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, should not be associated with any culture, civilisation or religion and should be neither tolerated nor condoned.

ENCOURAGED that the Global Movement of Moderates has received widespread support from the international community, academic institutions and civil society organisations.

DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:

1. Promote moderation as a universal value that promotes peace, security, development and social justice;
2. Further promote the approach of moderation and uphold the rule of law in the conduct of relations among states, including in the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law;
3. Elaborate a common agenda for peace and prosperity, which promotes political and social stability and inclusive political processes; sustainable growth which provides opportunities for all and upholds dignity; and social justice with emphasis on mutual respect, balance and moderation;
4. Reaffirm our commitment to democratic values, good governance, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, equitable and inclusive economic growth, tolerance and mutual respect as well as adherence to social justice, which are vital to countering terrorism and violent extremism and addressing their root causes;
5. Empower civil society, community and religious leaders as well as encourage the business sector and the media to promote and strengthen the voices of moderation through inclusive dialogue and awareness raising;
6. Work with regional and international institutions to counter the voices of extremism and encourage academic discourse and exchanges to amplify the voices of moderates;
7. Reaffirm our commitment to promote education as an effective means of instilling respect for life, for diversity and the values of moderation, tolerance, non-violence and mutual understanding towards preventing the spread of violent extremism and addressing its root causes;
8. Organise outreach programmes, inter-faith and cross-cultural dialogues as well as the sharing of best practices on moderation in various formats at the national, regional and international levels, including supporting the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and the ASEAN Foundation to conduct seminars, workshops and training programmes in promoting the voices of moderation; and
9. Endorse the observance of a Year of Moderation at the United Nations to underscore the importance of moderation.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 22nd Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 10th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, gathered in Kuala Lumpur on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the East Asia Summit.

REAFFIRMING the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit in setting the broad vision, principles, objectives and modalities of the East Asia Summit.

REITERATING the Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary of the East Asia Summit, which outlined the mutual benefit and closer linkages among the participating countries brought about by the East Asia Summit process, thus contributing to community-building in the East Asian region.

RECALLING the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations, which evidenced the increasingly important role of the East Asia Summit in promoting norms of behaviour and further strengthening a rules-based approach to managing inter-state relations in the region.

REAFFIRMING ASEAN as the driving force within the East Asia Summit, working in close partnership with the other participating countries in which we strive to promote strategic trust and ensure transparent, predictable and responsible behaviour.

SATISFIED with the significant progress and achievements of the East Asia Summit over the past ten years, including the elaboration of priority areas of cooperation.

DESIROUS of consolidating and further strengthening the East Asia Summit on the basis of its established principles and objectives.

DO HEREBY DECLARE on the tenth anniversary of the East Asia Summit:

1. That the East Asia Summit will continue to be a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia;
2. That the East Asia Summit will actively contribute to a rules-based approach in managing inter-state relations in the region; promote strategic trust; and help ensure transparent and predictable behaviour;
3. That the East Asia Summit process will remain positive and useful over time, focusing on dialogue and deliberations which would benefit the common interest of ASEAN and the region.

WE HEREBY UNDERTAKE the following efforts to strengthen the East Asia Summit:

1. Retain the informal nature of the East Asia Summit while encouraging interactive discussions among Leaders on issues of concern as well as collaborative efforts for mutual interest;
2. Promote coherence with mutually reinforcing ASEAN-led processes to avoid duplication of work, where possible;
3. Encourage countries hosting East Asia Summit Ministerial-level meetings on the priority areas of cooperation to report to the Chair of the East Asia Summit, with a view to promoting further cooperation to be undertaken, if any;
4. Enhance the role of the East Asia Summit Chair, who is also the ASEAN Plus Three and ADMM-Plus Chair, to encourage synergy among the mechanisms with regard to the implementation of Leader's decisions;
5. Evolve to become a proactive process, with better preparation, follow-up and timely response to pressing challenges;
6. Undertake a periodic review of areas of cooperation, reflecting current priorities, challenges and interests. Cognisant that maritime cooperation has increasingly featured in East Asia Summit discussions, its inclusion as a priority area of cooperation merits further consideration;
7. Establish regular engagement between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN and the non-ASEAN Ambassadors of East Asia Summit participating countries in Jakarta to discuss implementation of Leaders' decisions as well as exchange information on regional development cooperation initiatives and security policies and initiatives;
8. Create a dedicated Unit within the ASEAN Secretariat focusing on the East Asia Summit, which among others will prepare on an annual basis a matrix of implementation of proposals deemed to have met with general agreement by the Leaders and provide recommendations on areas of cooperation which require further attention.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 22nd Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

EAS Statement Regional Maritime on Enhancing Cooperation

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, the People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of commemorating the 10th anniversary of the East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

UNDERLINING our common vision of the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in East Asia;

REITERATING our commitment in the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit to move progress and cooperation in the EAS further forward, including the priority areas;

DESIRING to consolidate and strengthen the EAS on the basis of its established principles, objectives and modalities;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN as the driving force in the EAS, working in close partnership with the other participating countries of the EAS;

CONVINCED that the East Asia Summit could play a significant role in ASEAN's community building and regional integration as well as in the implementation of the forthcoming ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

RECOGNISING the need to support efforts to build a strong ASEAN Community which will serve as a solid foundation for our common peace and prosperity;

EMPHASIZING the importance of promoting maritime cooperation through dialogue and cooperation, utilizing opportunities to address common challenges on maritime issues through ASEAN-led mechanisms and in cooperation with relevant regional bodies;

RECOGNIZING that a maritime regime in the region based on international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that sets out a legal order for the peaceful use of the seas and oceans, including freedom of navigation and overflight, and other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to these freedoms, has facilitated our region's impressive economic growth;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the seas and oceans connect our region and link it to other regions of the globe, and that the stability of this maritime area anchors our growth and our future;

OUTLINING the maintenance of peace, stability, safety and security, unimpeded lawful commerce; freedom of navigation, freedom of overflight and other internationally lawful uses of the sea and airspace; the promotion of the protection preservation, and conservation of the marine environment including its resources, as well as a sustainable and responsible fisheries regime, including the long-term conservation and management of fish stocks as our highest priorities;

REITERATING that the EAS is an integral part of the evolving regional architecture which includes other mutually-reinforcing processes such as the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and other relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms;

REITERATING the need to promote trust and confidence and to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would affect peace and stability in all seas and oceans in the region;

REAFFIRMING the principles for friendly and mutually beneficial relations as stipulated in the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations, which outlines our desires to create a peaceful environment for further enhancing cooperation and strengthening the existing bonds of friendship among our countries in keeping with the principles of equality, partnership, consultation, and mutual respect, thereby contributing to peace and stability, and prosperity in the region and the world at large;

RECALLING our commitment as outlined in the 2012 Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative and its Plan of Action to enhance cooperation within the EAS;

CONVINCED that EAS participating countries should enhance cooperation to respond to maritime challenges and promote the sustainable development of the seas and oceans;

DO HEREBY AFFIRM to encourage ASEAN through its related mechanism to consider the possibility of elevating the current Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) to include a dedicated Track 1 forum in addition to the existing Track 1.5 of the EAMF on the basis of consultation and consensus among EAMF participating countries;

DO HEREBY DECLARE that maritime cooperation has increasingly featured in East Asia Summit discussions, its inclusion as a priority area of cooperation merits further consideration and determine to take concrete actions in the following priorities under the areas of maritime cooperation, namely:

1. We are committed to enhance our cooperation in sustainable marine economic development to achieve sustainable development of the seas and oceans in accordance with relevant international instruments, particularly the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, as follows:

- To support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its focus on people, planet, and prosperity, peace and partnership, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 14 which recognizes the need to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- To enhance food security and nutrition in the region, including the promotion of sustainable and responsible fisheries and security management and fishery development including long-term conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks as well as encourage the assessment and implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), with reference to the EAS Track Two Study Group Report

on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environmental Conservation;

- To encourage all EAS participating countries to put forward project proposals on sustainable marine economic development, explore approaches to enhancing and facilitating the development of sustainable marine economic development, and to share experiences and best practices on sustainable marine economic development related cooperation, including community empowerment;
- To encourage cooperation in marine-based energy development, including in the fields of technology, equipment, management and engineering, to utilize marine-based renewable energy;
- To protect and preserve the marine and coastal environment, marine biodiversity, ecosystem and resources as well as people who depend on them for their livelihood from harmful activities such as land-based and sea-based pollution; illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; unsustainable and unregulated development; unregulated bottom trawling; destructive fishing methods such as dynamite fishing; and cyanide fishing; coral exploitation; destruction of corals, reefs and shoals; illicit trafficking in wildlife; as well as from the adverse impacts of climate change and ocean acidification;
- To enhance activities and cooperation on marine and coastal conservation and rehabilitation including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans;
- To prevent fish and fisheries products derived from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- To enhance cooperation in building coastal resilience for disaster risk reduction as mandated in ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which serves as the main regional policy backbone and coordinating platform for

disaster management in ASEAN through relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), working in partnership with relevant regional and international agencies;

- To address transboundary marine and coastal pollution damage resulting from land-based and sea-based sources of marine debris, offshore exploration and exploitation as well as other marine activities, through measures such as promoting mutual assistance in preparing for, controlling and combating oil spill incidents in the region taking into account relevant international agreements, including the 1990 International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, and related regional arrangements such as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response, signed on 28 November 2014 in Mandalay, Myanmar;
 - To promote economic development cooperation and sustainable marine resources management, through maritime and marine investment schemes, sustainable marine-tourism; marine and fisheries industry development including in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mechanism involving small scale fisheries, cooperatives and fishers community; port and logistics management, ship building, ship repairing and ship breaking;
 - To increase technical assistance and capacity building based on EAS participating countries' common needs and interest in order to foster and strengthen the sustainable coastal and marine environment and economic cooperation in the region;
 - To promote scientific cooperation by improving observation systems in this region to enhance understanding of the oceanographic processes for better delivery of ocean information and advisory services;
 - To build synergies with other regional frameworks aimed at protecting and preserving marine and coastal environment and ecosystem including its resources.
2. We are promoting peace, stability and security in the region by redoubling our cooperative efforts, namely:
- Fostering a sense of maritime community of common interest to respond and address the shared challenges and conduct more pragmatic maritime cooperation for common development;
 - Encouraging more countries to:
 - accede to the 1982 UNCLOS, adhere to its provisions, follow its spirit and to abide by international law in the exercise of rights, obligations, and responsibilities in good faith,
 - ensure the universal application of international law and respect for the sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction of all countries, while also respecting the rights and freedom of all countries, taking into account of both the reasonable utilization and scientific protection and preservation of the seas and oceans,
 - strengthen cooperation and coordination for sustainable development of the seas and oceans;
 - Promoting maritime security through dialogue and cooperation in accordance with the relevant international legal instruments and guidelines;
 - Ensuring that all countries enjoy and exercise freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS;
 - Undertaking to resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force, through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; as well as to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that

would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting on the presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, cays, and other features and to handle their differences in a constructive manner.

- Promoting maritime security and safety through confidence building and preventive measures, such as promoting international efforts in the fight against piracy on the high seas off the coast of Somalia, strengthening the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF), Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), Head of Asian Coast Guard Agency Meeting (HACGAM), and Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise.
- Supporting the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) on the basis of consensus;
- Preventing and managing accidents and incidents at sea by, among others, developing the region's capacity to conduct Search and Rescue operations for people and vessels in distress at sea; enhancing hotline communications between relevant focal points, in consultation with the relevant Search and Rescue authorities, national maritime agencies and authorities; enhancing coordination through the establishment of contact group/s, sharing of information, and sharing of best practices, dialogue and joint exercises on maritime safety, including Search and Rescue as appropriate; in accordance with current established International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions;
- Utilizing the role of the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) as an effective platform to constructively engage in open and substantive dialogue;
- Promoting confidence building measures and enhancing cooperation to promote peace, stability and regional security through other relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms, including ADMM-Plus, and

ARF by convening regional maritime workshops and exercises that promote practical cooperation, transparency and common understanding of the rule of law at sea;

- Promoting cooperation and coordination between maritime law enforcement agencies such as among Coast Guards and other relevant agencies;
 - Implementing international Convention including the 1972 Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs), the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention as amended, other related rules and regulations issued by IMO as well as other relevant instrument including the Code of Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES), especially to encourage the widespread adoption of a CUES in the region;
3. We are committed to strengthen cooperation in addressing transboundary challenges, by:
 - Utilizing the relevant ASEAN led-mechanisms, as appropriate venues to ensure that the region is free of drugs trafficking, illicit trafficking in wildlife, transboundary pollution, IUU fishing, irregular movement of persons at sea particularly those linked to trafficking in persons and people smuggling as well as piracy and armed robbery against ships;
 - Working to ensure that the region is a safe region for unimpeded lawful commerce in accordance with international law;
 - Building regional capacity through training and workshops aimed at combating piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea, such as the Expanded ASEAN Seafarer Training (EAST);
 4. We are determined to increase our efforts to develop maritime connectivity in line with and in support of the vision and goals of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and its successor documents, and develop sustainable and resilient infrastructure, logistics and port management, navigation cooperation to promote economic growth that will not only contribute to narrowing development gaps but also promote regional integration and the

community building process, as well as better mobility of people, skilled labour, goods and services.

5. We are committed to promote cooperation between research institutions on maritime issues, among others:

- To encourage EAS participating countries to address the capacity building needs, especially of developing countries on the preservation of the seas and oceans through sharing experiences and best practices for sustainable marine economic development;
- To carry out joint research; exchange expertise; and recommend methodologies, technologies and best practices, for addressing issues and combating threats, such as terrorism, trafficking in persons, people smuggling, piracy and armed robbery against ships, irregular movement of persons at sea, drug trafficking, illicit trafficking in wildlife, IUU fishing, marine pollution, marine biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management, arms smuggling, adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters, issues relating to genetic resources, risk assessment research of marine products, and marine biotechnology, as well as marine renewable energy;
- To enhance the engagement between research institutions by convening activities in the form of meetings, seminars and conferences or through sharing experiences and best practices;
- To encourage collaborative activities/programs between ASEAN's maritime and/or marine institutions with dialogue partners and other related international institutions on the area of marine science;
- To establish an online communication platform for the purpose of exchanging information which contains key documents, key publications, outcomes of peer reviews, reports on progress to the outcomes of meetings, news, press releases and other related information.

ADOPTED by the Heads of State/Government of the Participating Countries of the East Asia Summit on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

East Asia Summit Statement on Enhancing Regional Health Security Relating to Infectious Diseases with Epidemic and Pandemic Potential

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, Peoples' Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States of America, on the occasion of the 10th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 22 November 2015.

RECOGNIZING, that maintaining robust and well-functioning national health systems, in particular, for preventing, detecting, and responding to infectious disease threats with epidemic and pandemic potential across the region, is a prerequisite for sustained shared economic growth, development and prosperity which our region has enjoyed in the recent decades.

MINDFUL that increasing cross-border travel, rapid urbanization, human-animal-ecosystems interface and enhanced connectivity render public health emergency anywhere a potential emergency everywhere, and that our region's health security constitutes an integral part of the global health security.

NOTING with concern the substantial and wide-reaching negative socio-economic impacts of infectious disease outbreaks in the region, including the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003, Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in 2005, Influenza Pandemic (H1N1) in 2009, Ebola Virus Disease in 2014, and the recent outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) that highlighted the transboundary nature of infectious diseases, which

also work to undermine our collective efforts to deepen regional integration;

APPRECIATING that the experience gained and lessons learned from past pandemic and epidemic outbreaks have been valuable in enhancing awareness and triggering the establishment and bolstering of various regional frameworks and mechanisms to stem such outbreaks, as well as partnerships with international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) contributing to improvements in overall regional preparedness for communicable and emerging infectious diseases with epidemic and pandemic potential.

RECOGNIZING in this context the 2005 International Health Regulation (IHR) of the WHO as the key global instrument for the protection against the international spread of infectious diseases and the need for all countries to achieve the needed capacity for their full implementation.

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the role of various regional mechanisms including the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM), ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting (APTHMM), ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network, Emerging Infectious Disease website, ASEAN Risk Communication Research Center (ASEAN RCRC), and the Partnership Laboratories in supporting the development of integrated national and regional outbreak control strategies.

RECALLING also the 2009 ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015), and the ASEAN post-2015 Health Development Agenda which lays out action lines to enhance regional preparedness and capacity through integrated approaches to prevention, surveillance, and timely response to known and emerging infectious diseases, and contribute to charting a comprehensive and action-oriented plan for establishing, maintaining and strengthening national and regional health security strategies and activities designed to prevent, detect and respond to emerging outbreaks, and welcoming other relevant global initiatives for strengthening infectious disease control;

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO, the achievements in regional cooperation and collaboration on malaria elimination made by the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) in agreeing on the goal of a region free of Malaria by 2030 at the 9th East Asia Summit in 2014 and in endorsing the roadmap presented at this 10th East Asia Summit.

RECOGNIZING that despite many ongoing efforts, much of our region's initiatives to prevent or mitigate the impact of infectious diseases can be better harmonized, including across sectors, and that recent outbreaks heightened the need for more effective and better-coordinated health security cooperation at local, national and regional levels at all stages, including outbreak prevention, surveillance, detection, response, and evaluation and monitoring in line with the IHR (2005).

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the vision of enhancing regional health security relating to infectious disease threats with epidemic and pandemic potential, and mindful of the value to all of our governments in mobilizing immediate as well as medium and long term investments in our respective public health systems for overall outbreak preparedness as a priority.

Do hereby declare our intent to strengthen our national and regional capacities to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease threats with a focus in the following areas:

1. Promote the effectiveness of surveillance systems in each nation, and enhance timely information sharing through the designated IHR focal points among the member countries, for an early detection of infectious disease threats;
2. Strengthen capacities of national and regional human resources in the field of prevention, surveillance, laboratory capacity, epidemic investigation, and control of infectious disease outbreaks, taking into account the usefulness of sharing lessons learned from previous outbreaks including medical and social practices; and
3. Make efforts to build a safe, secure, resilient, inclusive, accessible, and sustainably financed health system in each nation that is responsive to public health emergency, in line with the relevant targets under the Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and promote regional cooperation to support each other in technical and substantive ways,

as appropriate to each country, for enhancing regional health security.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty-second of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen at the 10th East Asia Summit.

East Asia Summit Statement on Issues Related to Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of the 10th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015;

REAFFIRMING UN Resolution A/RES/69/28 which noted that information and communication technologies (ICTs) bring immense economic and social benefits, but also can be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international peace and security;

RECALLING the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) on the political-security cooperation to respond effectively, in accordance with the principles of comprehensive security, to all forms of threats, transnational crimes, and transboundary challenges, as well as Bali Concord III Plan of Action 2013-2017;

WELCOMING the establishment of the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Working Group on Cybercrime as stated in the Joint Statement of the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime to further strengthen the regional cooperation on combating the criminal misuse of ICTs;

EXPRESSING support for ongoing work by bilateral partners and within relevant regional organizations, including the ASEAN Regional Forum and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), to build regional stability of and in the use of ICTs and increased ICT capacity through practical cooperative and capacity building efforts;

Decided that EAS participating countries should endeavor to strengthen national and regional stability in this field by:

1. Intensifying efforts to build robust domestic security of and in the use of ICTs, consistent with their international obligations and domestic law, and to cooperate on transnational issues of and in the use of ICTs, including capacity building and cooperation on combating the criminal misuse of ICTs; and preventing the use of technology, communications and resources for criminal or terrorist purposes;
2. Developing and strengthening practical cooperation on risk reduction confidence-building measures, in accordance with the ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan on Security of and in the use of Information and Communication Technologies; and
3. Strengthening international cooperation in confidence and capacity building, incident response, and information sharing to address the range of threats to and in the use of ICTs to individuals, businesses, national infrastructure and Governments, consistent with norms, rules and principles of responsible state behavior.

East Asia Summit Countering Violent Statement on Extremism

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of the 10th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015;

RECALLING the 2014 East Asia Summit (EAS) Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria;

WELCOMING the EAS Symposium on Religious Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration hosted by Singapore and the EAS ad hoc informal meeting on ISIL and extremist organizations convened in Jakarta on 26 April 2015;

TAKING NOTE of the process launched by the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism in February 2015, and the outcomes of the Sydney Regional CVE Summit in June 2015 and the Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism held in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015;

RECALLING the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism;

WELCOMING initiatives by civil society including the Content Creators' Workshop on Countering the Narrative of Violent Extremism, organised by the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation and Google in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 19 May 2015;

EXPRESSING grave concern about the spread of violent extremism and terrorism that undermines local communities and threatens peace and security, including in the Asia-Pacific region;

WELCOMING efforts to establish a centre focusing on narratives to counter terrorism at the regional level in Malaysia;

RECOGNISING that responding to the threat of terrorist groups exploiting the Internet and social media platforms to recruit and radicalise to violent extremism vulnerable individuals requires international cooperation as well as action by all tiers of government, together with civil society and the private sector;

EMPHASISING that terrorism and violent extremism should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization, and should be neither tolerated nor condoned;

RECOGNISING that moderation guides actions that emphasize tolerance, understanding, dialogue, mutual respect and inclusiveness, and is a core value in countering radicalism and extremism;

REAFFIRMING support for the effective implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2129 (2013), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), and relevant statements by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2014/23 and S/PRST/2015/11);

RECOGNIZING the role of governments and their competent bodies, international and regional institutions and civil society in countering violent extremism and terrorism, and in international cooperation in this field.

DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:

DENOUNCE terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including the spread of violent extremist ideologies and propaganda;

CONDEMN the heinous terrorist attacks in Bamako, Paris, Beirut, Ankara and against Russian aircraft over the Sinai, and elsewhere, which are an affront to all humanity, and emphasise our unshaken resolve to stand together in countering terrorism and violent extremism;

WORK to support each other's efforts to counter violent extremism, including through coordination of efforts, capacity building, and sharing of information, research, experience, best practice and lessons learned;

SUPPORT and share research and expertise drawn from both the public and private sectors that contribute to a thorough collective understanding of what drives individuals to violent extremism;

COOPERATE to counter terrorist and violent extremist ideology and propaganda, and promote positive messages of respect, inclusion and moderation, including through developing a compendium of regional counter-narratives and a regional network for civil society organisations to amplify effective messages across the region and to foster peer-to-peer learning;

INVEST in enhancing the ability of communities and individuals to challenge terrorist propaganda, including building technical capacity and capability of grass roots organisations, community leaders and people with influence to promote non-extremist messages that resonate with vulnerable individuals;

PROMOTE the role of education in building resilience against violent extremism, through fostering respect for different cultures and beliefs and providing opportunities for social and economic inclusion, given that violent extremist propaganda often targets youth;

EMPOWER youth, women, families, religious, cultural and education leaders, and community groups to amplify alternative messages of respect, inclusiveness, social cohesion, diversity and moderation,

WORK closely with the private sector, particularly the media and technology sectors, to support and promote government and civil society efforts to build resilience in communities and prevent the process of radicalisation to violent extremism, particularly online;

DEVELOP and implement comprehensive strategies, to counter violent extremism that include non-legislative, legislative and law enforcement responses to the threat, including efforts to address the underlying conditions that are conducive to the spread of violent extremism;

CALL for the promotion of religious tolerance, mutual understanding and interfaith dialogue to build integrated and inclusive societies;

CONTINUE to work with the United Nations and other international and regional institutions, including the UN's Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism, Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation and the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Adopted at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty-Second Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen at the 10th East Asia Summit.

ASEAN-United Nations

Chairman's Statement of the 3rd ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
21 November 2015**

1. The 3rd ASEAN-United States Summit was held on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia. The Meeting was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States. The United States was represented by the Honourable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America. The Secretary General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and the United States, had a frank and constructive discussion on strengthening ASEAN-United States relations as well as a productive exchange of views on regional and global issues of common concern.
3. We welcomed the United States support for the establishment of the ASEAN Community, which is a culmination of an almost five-decade long effort of regional integration that is aimed at building towards a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged the United States to contribute towards the realisation of the vision and goals outlined in the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
4. The ASEAN Leaders also appreciated the United States continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving rules-based regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus One mechanism, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus and the Expanded

ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), as well as the United States support for the strengthening of the East Asia Summit as it commemorated its 10th anniversary in 2015.

5. We endorsed the United States request to elevate the ASEAN-United States dialogue relations to a strategic level. We acknowledged the continued support of the United States for Southeast Asia's rapid economic growth and maintaining peace and stability. We adopted the Joint Statement on the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership which elevated the ASEAN-United States dialogue relations to a new height by launching the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership that is forward looking and comprehensive. We decided to commemorate our strategic partnership with a special summit to be held in the United States in the first half of 2016.
6. We noted the successful implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-United States Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity 2011-2015 which has been instrumental in furthering our dialogue relations and promoting the establishment of a peaceful, stable, integrated, prosperous, and caring ASEAN Community in 2015.
7. We welcomed the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership (2016-2020) which identified priorities and measures to be carried out by both sides to further enhance political-security, economic and sociocultural cooperation and realise the full potential of the ASEAN-United States partnership. This Plan of Action would serve as the blueprint of ASEAN-United States dialogue relations and we shall endeavour to implement all identified measures over the next five years.
8. We reaffirmed our commitment to prevent and combat transnational crimes particularly trafficking in persons, sea piracy, counter terrorism and trafficking of wildlife. We will continue to work together in counter terrorism programmes, including through regional cooperation against foreign terrorist fighters and sharing of best practices to counter violent extremism, as well as the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism.

We welcomed the signing of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and its Plan of Action which the United States supports through technical assistance, capacity building and information sharing.

9. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, as well as upholding freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. We shared the concerns expressed by some Leaders over the recent and on-going developments in the South China Sea, including land reclamation, which have eroded trust and confidence amongst parties, and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea. We noted proposals put forward by various parties to address current and on-going developments as well as to lower tensions in the South China Sea.
10. We welcomed the commitment of ASEAN Member States and China in ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, as well as to work towards the early establishment of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). We emphasised the importance for the states concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with international law including 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
11. We pledged to continue our economic cooperation to increase trade and investment as well as create job opportunities in both regions, and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of this year. We noted the progress of the ASEAN-United States Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement and the ASEAN-United States Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiatives, which would enhance ASEAN-United States economic relationship. We also welcomed the exploration of new topics to expand our cooperation in the area of trade and investment. We also noted that the ASEAN-US Roadshow will be held in the United States in 2016.

12. We underscored our joint support for the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI) Programme. We welcomed the major progress of the ASEAN Single Window, which the United States has provided technical and financial support to since 2007, the launch of the ASEAN-United States Innovation Challenge Programme, as well as the expansion of ASEAN-United States cooperation with the United States – ASEAN Business Council to support Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, including the upcoming ASEAN SME Academy.
13. We also welcomed the new dialogues between ASEAN and the United States which commenced this year on ICT and aviation, and its ongoing support for greater broadband connectivity in ASEAN as well as on aviation safety.
14. We noted the conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership which is aimed to promote economic growth, support the creation of jobs; enhance innovation, productivity and competitiveness; raise living standards and reduce poverty; and promote transparency and good governance; and contains strong labour and environmental protections. The TPP could complement efforts being undertaken by ASEAN towards the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community and beyond.
15. We expressed our commitment to further enhance maritime cooperation through, among others, developing maritime connectivity as well as improving the governance of trans-boundary fishing and traceability of fishery products to address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing based on relevant regional and international standard and instruments. We look forward to further capacity building and other work in this area during 2016. We welcomed the United States announcement of its five-year Oceans and Fisheries Partnership to promote sustainable marine fisheries and combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.
16. We reiterated our commitment under the ASEAN-United States Joint Statement on Climate Change 2014 to continue working together through a wide range of activities towards a low carbon economic growth trajectory, enhancing the adaptive capacity of ASEAN to current impacts of climate change and building more climate resilient societies. We recognised the need for urgent and concrete action to address climate change and reaffirmed our commitment to closely cooperate towards the adoption of an ambitious protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Twenty First Conference of the Parties (COP 21), to be held in Paris, France in December 2015.
17. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhance cooperation in disaster management and emergency response in line with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and its Work Programme. We expressed our appreciation to the United States for its continued support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) especially in responding to humanitarian assistance needs in the region and providing support for the victims of natural disaster.
18. We recognised the great importance of youth development in ASEAN and welcomed the United States initiative to promote people-to-people exchange through various programmes and initiatives in particular the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiatives (YSEALI), Fullbright Scholarship Programme and the BD-United States English Language Enrichment Programme. We welcomed the new class of the ASEAN-United States Science and Technology Fellows. We encouraged the United States to continue its collaboration with ASEAN on youth development programmes under the ASCC Blueprint 2025.
19. We noted the United States programs for women entrepreneurs in ASEAN as well as United States technical support for a victim-centric approach to domestic violence in ASEAN. We welcomed the announcement of a new five-year commitment for the ASEAN-United States Science Prize for Women.

20. We are determined to protect the human rights of women, children, youth and the older persons as well as those of migrant workers, persons with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities groups, people in vulnerable situations and marginalised groups, and promote their interest and welfare in ASEAN's future agenda including through the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
21. We reaffirmed our commitment to ASEAN's efforts to narrow the development gap and enhance sub-regional integration through various initiatives including the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and the Lower Mekong Initiatives (LMI).
22. We are also determined to continue all our cooperation on economic, social and environmental matters consistent with and in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015 to promote the well-being of the peoples of ASEAN and the United States.
23. We emphasised the importance of sustaining our dialogue relations at the highest level and looked forward to the 4th ASEAN-United States Summit to be held in Lao PDR in 2016.

Chairman's Statement of the 7th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit

Our People, Our Community, Our Vision

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
22 November 2015**

1. The 7th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN

Member States and H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General.

2. The UN welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Community under Malaysia's Chairmanship which marks the culmination of decades of community building efforts by ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the UN's support to the enhancement of ASEAN's role in addressing global challenges through the implementation of the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) and encouraged the UN's contribution towards the realisation of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.
3. Noting that 2015 marks the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations, the Summit welcomed the formal adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We expressed confidence that both the ASEAN 2025-Forging Ahead Together and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will complement each other, guiding development in Southeast Asia in areas of critical importance to the people and the planet. We will continue to conduct regular reviews and evaluation to monitor the progress and outcome achieved in the implementation of both ASEAN 2015: Forging Ahead Together and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. We welcomed the ASEAN Ministerial Statement on the Occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations, which was adopted in New York on 29 September 2015, reaffirming ASEAN's support for the central role that the UN plays in the global multilateral system and the UN's continued contribution to promoting international peace and security, development, and human rights.
5. We expressed commitment to strengthen and broaden ASEAN-UN cooperation with the aim to maintain a stable, peaceful and prosperous Southeast Asia as well as to promote an ASEAN-centred regional architecture as reflected in the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN. ASEAN welcomed regular interface between the UN Liaison Presence in Jakarta and

ASEAN on all areas of cooperation under the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership.

6. We welcomed the formal review of the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership as espoused in the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership 2013-2015 Report jointly submitted by the ASEAN and UN Secretariats and encouraged ASEAN and the UN to take the necessary measures to advance ASEAN-UN cooperation based on the recommendations contained in the Joint Report.
7. We looked forward to the development of a five-year Plan of Action (2016-2020) to implement the Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN, which will take into account the key elements of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Summit recognised the importance of the financing for development as one of the means of implementation for the process of development as enshrined in the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development: Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
8. The UN Secretary-General expressed gratitude to the ASEAN Leaders for their significant contribution to global peace and security through the deployment of military, police and civilian personnel from the region to engage in UN Peace Operations around the world.
9. The Summit welcomed the UN's contribution to the progress made in enhancing the capacity within ASEAN on conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and maintenance of peace and stability through sharing of expertise and best practices, and training via cooperation in relevant ASEAN mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ADMM, ADMM Plus as well as ASEAN-UN collaboration to support the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR). In this regard, the Summit noted the convening of the Fourth ASEAN-UN Workshop: Regional Dialogue II (AURED II) on Political-Security Cooperation in Support of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) held on 24-26 February 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and encouraged the UN to support the work of AIPR in accordance to its Terms of Reference through collaborative projects within the framework of the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action.
10. The Summit underscored the need for collective efforts in combating transnational organised crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the support by the United Nations for ASEAN Member States in their effort to effectively implement the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols.
11. The Summit affirmed the continuing importance of the promotion and protection of human rights at the national, regional and international levels, and of the need to strengthen the collaboration between the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the UN in areas of mutual interest. We encouraged the AICHR and the UN to form a sustainable partnership in enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights through exchanges of best practices and capacity building.
12. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN's cooperation with ASEAN in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) as well as the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015.
13. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN's support to ASEAN's pursuit of economic integration both within the region and into the global economy and efforts to create effective operational and regulatory frameworks, where necessary, for a competitive ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). ASEAN Leaders encouraged cooperation between ASEAN and the UN to address existing development challenges, including rising social and economic inequalities and environmental sustainability, calling on the UN to continue to strengthen its support for regional economic cooperation in areas such as trade, transportation, energy, science, technology and innovation.

14. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN's support in finalising the Draft Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025) and strengthening the capacity of ASEAN Member States in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS) and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPAFS) 2015-2020.
15. We welcomed ASEAN-UN collaboration in supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015) with a focus on matters pertaining to the four key regional strategies drawn from the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, namely enhancing food security and safety, access to healthcare and promotion of healthy lifestyles, improving capabilities to control communicable diseases, and building disaster-resilient nations and safer communities.
16. We encouraged the ASEAN Member States to ratify and implement the Multilateral Environmental Agreements at the regional and international levels, which will help to ensure our people's access to clean water and clean air, as well as cooperation in knowledge sharing with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the UN. We looked forward to the development of the ASEAN-UN Work Plan on Environment and Climate Change (2016-2020), which will lay out specific measures to be undertaken by both sides to enhance cooperation in this area. We also urged all parties to the UNFCCC to work together to secure a balanced and comprehensive climate change agreement under the Convention, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, to be concluded at COP 21 UNFCCC, in Paris, December 2015.
17. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the UN's contribution in the area of disaster risk reduction and management and welcomed its continued support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and encouraged enhanced cooperation in the implementation of the Work Programme for the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).
18. We welcomed the work of the UN Liaison Presence in Jakarta to facilitate ASEAN-UN cooperation on disaster management and humanitarian assistance and fully supported the development of the next ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management, which will identify the priorities for ASEAN-UN collaboration in disaster management and humanitarian assistance in the 2016-2020 period.
19. The ASEAN Leaders also expressed their support for the World Humanitarian Summit including the processes and events leading up to the event in Istanbul in May 2016.
20. We agreed to strengthen cooperation in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children through information and knowledge sharing and capacity building for ASEAN Member States, as well as through support for the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Actions on Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW), the ASEAN Regional Plan of Actions on Elimination of Violence Against Children (EVAC), and the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and its Plan of Action.
21. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN's contribution to the Final ASEAN Regional MDG Assessment, which reviewed the status of MDG achievement, identified emerging post-2015 development challenges, and recommended areas of regional support. This assessment will help in identifying key policies and programmes for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in ASEAN.
22. We seriously condemned the recent large-scale terrorist attacks in several parts of the world, which resulted in loss of many civilian lives, and extended our deepest condolences to the Governments and the families of the victims. We expressed grave concern on the violence and brutality committed by terrorist groups and violent extremist organisations,

affiliates, splinter groups and individuals in Iraq and Syria and other parts of the world, whose impact increasingly poses a great global threat to all regions of the world and reiterated our commitment in combating terrorism, including our support for UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014), and 2178 (2014) which, among others, called on the international community to prevent and stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

UN, including through an S2S Dialogue, in the Southeast Asian region in early 2016, especially to discuss the draft five-year Plan of Action (2016-2020).

23. We reaffirmed our commitment to the full implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, and the relevant provisions of international law and the UN Charter and to work with the international community in its fight against terrorism, extremism and radicalism and to address its root causes, and to promote tolerance and respect for diversity, including through the promotion of the Global Movement of Moderates. The Summit looked forward to the United Nations Secretary-General's forthcoming Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism which will be presented to the General Assembly in the near future.
24. We called for a humane and compassionate response by all countries in dealing with the issue of irregular movement of persons. We underlined the need to resolve irregular movement of persons, as well as human trafficking and people smuggling, in a comprehensive and sustainable manner by addressing the root causes and other contributing factors in the spirit of cooperation, international burden sharing and shared responsibility.
25. The Summit reiterated the importance of the existing mechanisms for the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership, namely the Secretariat-to-Secretariat Dialogue (S2S), the ASEAN-UN Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting, the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM), and the ASEAN-UN Summit. We called for enhanced interaction between ASEAN and the UN system, including through holding dialogue meetings in the region. In this regards, the Summit looked forward to the engagement between ASEAN and the

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