

EAST ASIA SUMMIT LEADERS' STATEMENT ON ASEAN SMART CITIES

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, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States of America, on the occasion of the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Singapore, on 15 November 2018;

RECOGNISING the challenges arising from rapid urbanisation, and the importance of collaboration among the EAS participating countries to address the associated challenges through technological and other solutions;

RECOGNISING the potential benefits of developing a regional smart cities ecosystem which will strengthen the region's capacity to harvest the opportunities associated with the ongoing digital and 4th industrial revolution, and achieve wide-ranging and beneficial, economic, social and environmental outcomes;

AFFIRMING our support for an innovative, inclusive and integrated ASEAN Community through cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and seeking to propel ASEAN towards a digitally-enabled economy that is secure, sustainable and transformative;

WELCOMING the establishment of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN), as part of ASEAN's integration efforts, which would complement initiatives by EAS participating countries to promote greater cooperation among member cities, the private sector, and external partners to spearhead smart city development and sustainable urbanisation;

REAFFIRMING the ASCN's primary goal of improving the lives of ASEAN citizens, using technology and digital infrastructure as enablers;

RECOGNISING the differing priorities of cities in smart city development, in line with each city's unique local needs, challenges, issues and cultural context;

NOTING the ASEAN Smart Cities Framework and the city-specific action plans for the ASCN cities;

RECALLING the Vientiane Declaration on Promoting Infrastructure Development Cooperation in East Asia (2016) and welcoming the adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, which calls for increasing the deployment of smart and sustainable urbanisation models across ASEAN;

REAFFIRMING the Declaration of the 6th East Asia Summit on ASEAN Connectivity (2011) which identified ASEAN Connectivity as a key priority area of cooperation of the EAS;

UNDERLINING the complementarities between the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to uplift the standards of living of the peoples in the region;

NOTING the role of smart cities in the global effort towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda;

DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:

1. **ADOPT** an inclusive approach to smart city development with a focus on people-centric solutions, well-being and the quality of life, which creates opportunities across the rural-urban continuum, amplifies the voice of citizens, and leaves no one behind including women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;
2. **ENHANCE** cross-pillar collaboration across existing sectoral bodies to maximise the positive impact of smart cities projects on citizens' lives, and to minimise the negative impact of urbanisation such as city congestion, water and air pollution, vector-borne diseases, loss of green areas, poverty, lack of mobility and transportation, rising inequalities, urban-rural disparity, insufficient citizen security and safety, and also problems associated with achieving energy conservation as well as the environment;
3. **PROMOTE** greater city-to-city level interactions through the ASCN platform, and other functional platforms, particularly among EAS participating countries, which would deepen cultural links and understanding, as well as strengthen regional community building efforts in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;
4. **BRING** together all relevant stakeholders in both public and private sectors, including industries, citizens, academia, national and local governments, to actively participate in developing a robust regional smart cities ecosystem;
5. **ESTABLISH** and promote mutually beneficial partnerships, among ASEAN, the non-ASEAN EAS participating countries, and other multilateral institutions in mobilising resources and expertise to implement smart cities projects, while acknowledging bilateral and multilateral partner contributions to date and welcoming other potential contributions;
6. **PROMOTE** the deployment of innovative energy solutions, including renewable energy, energy-efficiency, and clean technology applications in the region through various means, such as investment, financing and other forms of funding, sharing of technical expertise, best practices, and technology cooperation; and also encourage collaboration with the private sector and relevant regional and international organisations, and including among EAS participating countries; noting the importance of promoting free and open energy trade and investment markets;
7. **PROMOTE** and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship to unlock the potential of digital technology and start-ups, as well as to share best practices to spur smart cities' development through development and use of suitable international standards and related policies and conformity assessment schemes, while taking into account different levels of city development, cultures and priorities;

- 8. ENHANCE** the quality and accessibility of public and social services in the smart cities through the use of technology, and through exchanging best practices on e-government which is relevant, reliable, secure, seamless, effective and efficient;
- 9. FACILITATE** well connected and integrated infrastructure development in smart cities, as well as promote greater connectivity at the city-to-city level;
- 10. ENCOURAGE** sustainable, quality and resilient infrastructure development policies in smart cities, including public-private partnerships, to benefit urban, peri-urban, and rural surrounding areas and development; and
- 11. PROMOTE** mutual learning through the exchange of ideas, experiences and views on policy, governance, best practices, business solutions, and joint research and innovation opportunities in smart city development, which will contribute to the realisation of inclusive and sustainable development and economic growth in the region.