



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 19TH ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA SUMMIT

13 November 2017, Manila, Philippines

"Partnering for Change, Engaging the World"

1. The 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit was held on 13 November 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK). The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK's commitment to further strengthening ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations as demonstrated by the sending of a Special Envoy to ASEAN immediately following the assumption of office by President Moon Jae-in in May 2017. In this regard, ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's new initiative for the stronger ASEAN-ROK partnership.
3. We noted the significant advances in ASEAN-ROK relations over the past year, including important progress under the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020). We encouraged greater focus on economic cooperation, people-to-people engagement and narrowing development gaps.
4. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK's active role and continued support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus.
5. We reaffirmed our joint commitment to further strengthening cooperation in the political and security fields, including exchanging views on ways to respond collectively to security issues of common concern such as the situation in the Korean Peninsula, violent extremism and terrorism and non-proliferation, maritime security, cybersecurity, and transnational crime. We also reiterate the importance of maintaining peace and security in the region, including freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea.
6. We condemned recent provocative and threatening actions including the sixth nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 3 September 2017 and its launches of ballistic missiles with intercontinental range in July 2017 and Intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) in August 2017. We urged the DPRK to

immediately comply with its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. We reiterated our support for the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We emphasised the importance for the DPRK to stop provocative and threatening actions, thereby creating conditions conducive for dialogue. We supported initiatives to improve inter-Korean relations towards establishing peace in the Korean Peninsula and noted the latest Initiative of the Republic of Korea proposed on 6 July 2017 in Berlin. ASEAN Leaders reiterated ASEAN's readiness to play a constructive role in contributing to peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. In this regard, we expressed the expectation that the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games could serve as a useful occasion to promote peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

7. We underscored the importance of trade and investment between ASEAN and the ROK in achieving mutually beneficial economic growth. With total bilateral merchandise trade reaching USD 124.3 billion, and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows from ROK to ASEAN recorded at USD 5.7 billion, we noted that ROK remained ASEAN's fifth largest trading partner and ASEAN's fifth largest source of FDI in 2016. ASEAN, on the other hand, is ROK's second largest trading partner and second largest investment destination.

8. We recognised that the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has played a vital role in increasing trade and investment significantly between two Parties. We noted with satisfaction the convening of the Meeting between the Economic Ministers of ASEAN and the ROK in September 2017 which also marked the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK FTA. We reaffirmed our commitment to further enhancing ASEAN-ROK trade and investment with a view to achieving the two-way trade target of USD 200 billion by 2020. We invited all Parties to continue the work towards enhancing the FTA to further facilitate trade, such as through the negotiations for further liberalization of Sensitive Track products under the AKTIGA. We encouraged Parties to conclude negotiations earnestly and expediently, and looked forward to the substantive outcomes from the negotiation.

9. We lauded the ASEAN-Korea Center in Seoul for playing a pivotal role to increase the volume of trade, accelerate investment flow, invigorate tourism, promote connectivity, foster people-to-people exchanges, and enrich cultural exchanges between ASEAN and the ROK. In particular, we appreciated the International Conference on ASEAN-Korea Partnership held on 30 August 2017 in Seoul, organized by the ASEAN-Korea Center, reviewing the last 50 years of ASEAN's development and providing prospects for the future of the ASEAN-ROK partnership. We also welcomed the continued contribution of the ASEAN-Korea Centre for its organization of the annual ASEAN Connectivity Forum to facilitate business opportunities and enhance Public-Private Partnerships in connectivity projects, as well as its hosting of the 5th ASEAN Connectivity Forum on 29-30 November 2017 in Seoul.

10. We commended the ASEAN-Korea Business Council (AKBC) for its various initiatives to promote interaction amongst the private sector and its active role in promoting MSME cooperation in the areas of productivity enhancement, innovation capacity, human resource development, better financial and market access and regulatory framework, and sharing of best practices. To this end, we welcomed the

progress in setting up sectoral boards for the steel industry and healthcare, the newly launched ASEAN-Korea SMEs Business Delegation programme, and the progress in establishing the official website for the AKBC, which would facilitate deeper cooperation and networking among companies of ASEAN and Korea.

11. We took note of the holding of the Forum on Public-Private Sector Engagement for SME Development, Export and Linkages for ASEAN and the ROK on 24-25 October 2017 in Siem Reap. We were pleased that this platform afforded the public and private sectors of ASEAN and ROK the opportunity to engage in preliminary discussions to address the recommendations of the AKBC and offered networking opportunities for ASEAN and ROK SMEs in areas ranging from advanced manufacturing to service industries.

12. We noted the on-going efforts of ASEAN and Korea to strengthen economic cooperation through various initiatives such as the Technology Advice and Solutions from Korea (TASK) Project which intends to provide technical assistance to the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in ASEAN. We welcomed the developments in the ongoing implementation of the TASK Project in Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar. We also expressed optimism towards the full implementation of the said Project in the Philippines and Cambodia by next year.

13. We noted the progress made by our joint efforts in advancing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. In view of the large potential of the RCEP to promote global trade and growth, we urged RCEP Participating Countries to exert their best efforts to swiftly and successfully achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually-beneficial RCEP agreement.

14. The ROK welcomed the progress made in ASEAN Community-building efforts following the launch of the ASEAN Community in 2015 and reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's continued support in implementing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III with a view to promoting connectivity (VN), and narrowing the development gap within ASEAN, which are essential pillars for the ASEAN's endeavor to realize the ASEAN Community. The ASEAN Leaders looked forward to support from ROK on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as envisaged in the MPAC 2025.

15. We noted the commitment of the ASEAN and ROK Transport Ministers to further enhancing air transport connectivity between ASEAN and ROK and looked forward to the convening of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Working Group on Regional Air Services Arrangements in 2018, for the conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial air services agreement.

16. We looked forward to further cooperation in the area of sustainable development, including the sharing of ROK's experience in combining rapid economic growth with poverty reduction, clean energy, green growth, and ICT in pursuit of ASEAN's economic integration and poverty alleviation.

17. Noting the various commemorative activities that have taken place in ASEAN and the ROK, we agreed that the Year of ASEAN-ROK Cultural Exchange 2017 has contributed to facilitating closer cooperation and mutual understanding between ASEAN and the ROK, and in enhancing people-to-people linkages, which represent a key pillar of ASEAN-ROK cooperation. In particular, we welcomed the opening of the ASEAN Culture House in Busan, ROK on 1 September 2017. The ASEAN Culture House, which is the first of its kind among ASEAN's dialogue partnerships, will serve as a venue to further promote mutual understanding between the peoples of ASEAN and the ROK. This ROK-initiated project reflects the strong resolve of the ROK in further deepening the bond of friendship and cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK. We also look forward to the ASEAN-ROK Flute Festival: Celebrating ASEAN Traditions Across Cultures, which will be held in the Philippines and Korea, respectively, on 26 November - 9 December 2017 as well as other cultural activities between ASEAN and the ROK in the future.

18. Cognizant of gains from sustaining ASEAN-ROK cooperation, we lauded efforts to deepen mutual understanding, trust and friendship among our youth through the ASEAN-ROK Youth Exchange Visit this December in Siem Reap, Cambodia with the theme "Nurturing Youth Leadership, Cultivating Future Leaders". In this light, we looked forward to further exchanges and scholarship programs to reinforce the ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership. We looked forward to further initiatives that deepen cultural understanding among our youth and inspire volunteerism to sharpen their sense of an East Asian community.

19. We welcomed the establishment of ASEAN-ROK Programme Management Team (AKPMT) in Jakarta in December 2016 as well as the development of the New Framework for the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund 2017-2020, which serve as vehicles to broaden ASEAN-ROK development cooperation in all key areas. In this connection, we welcome the convening of the Workshops on the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Mechanism in Vietnam and Myanmar in 2017 respectively with the support of AKPMT. We shared the view that this programme-based approach, which will begin next year, requires both ASEAN and the ROK to progressively come up with necessary project proposals and programmes targeting priority areas namely education, environment, and culture sectors.

20. We noted with appreciation the support of the ROK in developing the ASEAN Science-Based Disaster Management Platform (ASDMP) that would serve as a repository of evidence-based disaster related research and publications for the benefit of ASEAN's disaster management practitioners and professionals. In this connection, we look forward to the finalization of the Research Road Map and welcome the continued support of ROK toward its implementation.

21. We noted that ongoing projects and activities being implemented under the ASEAN-ROK on Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) Agreement will strengthen forest cooperation, particularly in preventing deforestation and forest degradation, supporting capacity building for improving forest resources assessments, and enhancing sustainable forest management. In this regard, we agreed to continue to work together for the early establishment of the Asia Forest Cooperation Organization.

21. We welcomed the expansion of ASEAN-ROK ties over the past 28 years with our dialogue relations elevated to a strategic partnership for peace and prosperity, a manifestation of the importance both sides attach to good neighborliness and beneficial cooperation based on mutual trust and respect.

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