

**Joint ASEAN-Australia Leaders' Statement on the 40th Anniversary of
ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations
Towards a Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit**

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Australia, gathered in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12 November 2014 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations.

We reaffirmed the significant role played by ASEAN and Australia in defining the political-security, economic, socio-cultural and people-to-people agenda of our region and agreed to elevate our comprehensive partnership to a strategic level, founded on common interests in regional peace and prosperity.

As we usher in this new era of strategic partnership, we welcomed the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Partnership (2015-2019) and undertook to do the following for mutual benefit:

1. Support the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015 and the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision;
2. Support ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture and strengthen all ASEAN-led mechanisms.
3. Hold regular Leaders' Summits in the future and increase high-level visits and exchanges;
4. Strengthen cooperation in the maintenance of regional peace, security and stability, including through deepening ASEAN-Australia consultations;
5. 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;
6. Work together to address the underlying factors of terrorism and strengthen cooperation to support the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), which call on the international community to counter the threat posed by terrorism, in particular action to prevent and disrupt the recruitment, facilitation, financing and travel of foreign terrorist fighters;

7. Promote the rule of law, democracy, good governance, human rights, including gender equality, as well as encourage cooperation in interfaith and inter-civilisation dialogue and the promotion of moderation;
8. Further promote maritime cooperation, including maritime security and safety, search and rescue, freedom of navigation and overflight, marine environmental protection, unimpeded commerce, non-use of force or threat of use of force, and the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with 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;
9. Strengthen cooperation to combat transnational crime, including trafficking in persons, people smuggling, sea piracy, illicit drug trafficking, and cybercrime;
10. Further promote cooperation in various regional and international fora, including in the United Nations (UN), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), and G20;
11. Promote regional economic integration, including through [the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) and conclusion of a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement;
12. Continue cooperation on ASEAN's connectivity agenda, including through support for the agenda's physical, institutional and people-to-people dimensions, and explore links with Northern Australia;
13. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States through the implementation of the 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;
14. Enhance cooperation in combatting emerging infectious diseases, pandemic preparedness, public health, environment, science and technology as well as on disaster management and emergency response issues identified as priorities by ASEAN and Australia to promote the well-being of our peoples;
15. Increase people-to-people exchanges and institutional linkages as well as public awareness of the ASEAN-Australia partnership, through arts, culture, sports and education, including through the New Colombo Plan; and

16. Support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen the capacities of the ASEAN Secretariat.

We task our relevant officials to implement these initiatives to complement the programs and goals identified in the 2015-2019 ASEAN-Australia Plan of Action and other existing ASEAN-Australia mechanisms for cooperation.
