

# **ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Enhancing Green and Sustainable Development Cooperation**

(Final)

We, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, gathered at the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit on 26 October 2021;

Recalling the important documents that lay the groundwork and chart the course for cooperation on environmental protection and sustainable development between the two sides, including the *ASEAN-China Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity* signed in October 2003, the *ASEAN-China Leaders' Joint Statement on Sustainable Development* issued in October 2010, the *ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030* adopted in November 2018, and the *Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2021–2025)* adopted in November 2020;

Reaffirming the needs to enhance ASEAN-China cooperation in support of the *ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework* adopted at the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2020, in the post-pandemic era for long-term sustainable development;

Emphasising the importance of carrying out sustainable

development cooperation amid the global fight against COVID-19 and promoting transformation towards green and low-carbon economic development after COVID-19;

Recognising the significance of exploring cooperation in implementing the *ASEAN Community Vision 2025*, the *ASEAN - China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030*, the *Outline of China's 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035*, and the *United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* to jointly contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Commending China for the successful hosting of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Part One) in Kunming, China in October 2021, and ASEAN side for their contribution to the *Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*;

Welcoming the meaningful activities carried out by both sides under the 2021 ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation;

Emphasising the importance and shared aspiration of cooperation in ecological conservation and environmental protection, climate

change response, poverty eradication, food security, disaster prevention and mitigation, and other areas related to sustainable development;

Hereby agree to:

1. Support the implementation of the *ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework*, under which practical cooperation would be undertaken on sustainable development and other key areas set out in the Framework; support the implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025) to promote sustainable development in the region, as well as explore cooperation with relevant ASEAN institutions such as the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD);

2. Welcome the adoption of the *Framework of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan (2021–2025)* and look forward to its effective implementation, support the important role of the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre in this context and commend the organisation of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum to strengthen exchanges of experiences and best practices, dialogue and pragmatic cooperation in the field of environment;

3. Support the implementation of the *United Nations Framework*

*Convention on Climate Change* and the *Paris Agreement*, join efforts to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation, including through cooperation in energy transition and strengthening energy resilience, advance ASEAN-China cooperation in implementation of sustainable forest management, protection and sustainable use of mangroves, promotion of climate smart agriculture, knowledge sharing on climate change tackling, etc., explore nature-based climate solutions, and promote sustainable management of natural resources;

4. Facilitate cooperation between the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation, and enhance biodiversity conservation capability, so as to make regional contribution to implementing the *Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework* when adopted;

5. Under the framework of ASEAN-China Partnership for Eco-Friendly Urban Development, promote international exchanges and cooperation on “environmentally sustainable city”, intensify experience exchanges in circular economy areas such as sound and environmentally-friendly management of solid waste life cycle, plastic pollution control, and marine plastic pollution prevention, monitoring and control, utilising ASEAN city-related platforms and

initiatives, such as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) to promote capacity building, knowledge sharing, and partnerships in these areas for cities in the region;

6. Facilitate the implementation of the Project under the East Asian Cooperation Initiative on Poverty Reduction (Phase II) and continue to organise activities such as the ASEAN-China Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the ASEAN+3 Village Leaders Exchange Programme, to strengthen exchanges and cooperation to implement the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2021-2025, focusing Strategic objective (3) Protective: Institutionalise disaster preparedness programmes to environment and climate change risks towards resilient communities and households;

7. Support ASEAN in narrowing the development gap through implementing the *Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025)*, and by aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN including through cooperation with sub-regional mechanisms such as the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, ACMECS and the BIMP-EAGA - China Cooperation, while promoting equitable, inclusive, green, and sustainable development across the region, ASEAN integration and

ASEAN Community building efforts;

8. Facilitate cooperation under the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) Plus China mechanism, to support the implementation of the *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2021-2025* through the exchange of knowledge and experience, and to jointly enhance disaster management capabilities;

9. Foster and expand cooperative partnerships for regional sustainable development, and encourage cooperation among government, international organisations, research institutions, financial institutions, the private sector and communities to jointly promote green and sustainable development in the region.