



**ASEAN
CAMBODIA 2022**

**ASEAN A.C.T.:
Addressing Challenges Together**

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 25TH ASEAN-CHINA SUMMIT PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

11 NOVEMBER 2022

1. The 25th ASEAN-China Summit was held on 11 November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Meeting was chaired by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and attended by ASEAN Member States and H.E. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We reiterated our support for Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship and support the efforts to achieve "**ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together**", the theme of ASEAN for 2022. We were encouraged by progress made in the realization of ASEAN's priorities in 2022. We affirmed that ASEAN's unity and solidarity were strengthened, ASEAN Centrality consolidated, ASEAN's active contribution to regional peace and stability duly recognized in accordance with ASEAN's values and principles. We also acknowledged the steady progress in ASEAN's economic integration and regional connectivity with the enhanced capacity of ASEAN to adapt to the changing regional and global dynamics. We congratulated Cambodia for the successful convening of the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings from 31 July to 06 August 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
3. We were also pleased with the long-standing ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations over the past three decades, recognising ASEAN-China relations are among the most dynamic, substantive, and mutually beneficial partnerships between ASEAN and its dialogue partners. We were satisfied with our joint establishment of the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial at the ASEAN-China Special Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations on 22 November 2021. We were committed to implementing the consensus reached on the Special Summit and the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-China Special Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Peace, Security, Prosperity, and Sustainable Development. We welcomed China's initiative to build a peaceful, safe and secure, prosperous, beautiful and

amicable homeland together, so as to realise the common development of the two billion population in ASEAN countries and China.

4. We noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action (POA) to Implement the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2021-2025). We welcomed the adoption of the Annex to the ASEAN-China POA (2021-2025): Advancing ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference 10+1 Session with China on 4 August 2022. We looked forward to the substantive and effective implementation of the Annex in order to further bring the ASEAN-China partnership to a new height.
5. We acknowledged China's active engagement with ASEAN in advancing collaboration and deepening political and security cooperation through its participation in various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). We welcomed the successful convening of the ASEAN-China Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting in June 2022 and also noted China's active participation in ADMM Plus-led mechanism, including co-chairing the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action with Cambodia in the current EWGs cycle (2021-2023).
6. We reiterated the importance of cooperation in combating transnational crimes, including illicit drug trafficking and addressing other non-traditional security issues through various mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus China Ministerial and Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC and SOMTC+China) Consultations and the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD)+China Consultations, and reaffirmed commitment toward the effective implementation of the ASEAN-China Work Plan on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues (2019-2023). We reiterated support to the ASEAN-China Cyber Dialogue to further deepen exchanges and cooperation on cybersecurity and digital governance.
7. On the development sphere, we welcomed the finalisation of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Government of the People's Republic of China and looked forward to the signing of the Agreement by the ASEAN Secretary-General and Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency at an early date. We adopted the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Strengthening Common and Sustainable Development and ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Food Security Cooperation. We agreed to designate the year of 2023 as the ASEAN-China Year of Agricultural Development and Food Security Cooperation and looked forward to the implementation of the proposed activities listed in the Time Table of proposed activities under the ASEAN-China Year of Agricultural Development and Food Security Cooperation, including joint research and training and Research and Development (R&D), among others. We also welcomed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) announced by President Xi Jinping and encouraged participation from both sides to implement priority areas in the GDI, with a view to further promoting cooperation with ASEAN initiatives. We also welcomed the successful convening of the Jakarta Forum

on ASEAN-China Relations: ASEAN-China Cooperation in Advancing the Global Development Initiative held on 20 May 2022 via videoconference.

8. We were encouraged by ASEAN-China cooperation for mutual benefits for people of both sides, enhancing regional peace, security and prosperity, as well as promoting mutual confidence and trust through upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). We were committed to promoting mutually beneficial cooperation between the BRI and the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and exploring development cooperation with the GDI to complement the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
9. We looked forward to the early establishment of an ASEAN-China Partnership on Blue Economy as envisaged in the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030 to promote maritime sustainable development and create new highlights in ASEAN-China cooperation. We welcomed the successful convening of the 3rd Jakarta Forum on Exploring ASEAN-China Partnership on Blue Economy. We welcomed China's continued commitment to supporting and assisting ASEAN with its efforts to promote sustainable development and sub-regional development cooperation. We also welcomed the efforts undertaken in strengthening relevant sub-regional frameworks, including the BIMP-EAGA-China Cooperation (BECC), Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) and other relevant sub-regional framework and cooperation mechanisms to support efforts to narrow the development gap in the region.
10. We recognised that China has remained ASEAN's largest trading partner since 2009, and ASEAN has become China's largest trading partner for two consecutive years. We were satisfied with the increased two-way trade between ASEAN and China in 2021. According to ASEAN's statistics, in 2021, trade volume between ASEAN and China reached a new record of USD 669 billion, making China ASEAN's largest trading partner for the 13th consecutive year; foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from China to ASEAN amounted to USD 13.6 billion in 2021, almost double the USD 7.0 billion in 2020. We looked forward to further increasing trade activities between ASEAN and China.
11. We reiterated our commitment to upholding the multilateral trading system, enhancing regional economic integration, and underscoring the importance of multilateralism and free trade to boost ASEAN-China economic cooperation, especially in the post-COVID-19 recovery. We emphasised the importance to further enhancing the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA), in particular, the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation, focusing on trade opportunities in digital economy and green economy, promotion of investment, tourism flows, e-commerce, consumer protection, development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), local entrepreneurs, start-ups and Fin-tech cooperation in the region. We noted and welcomed the Joint Feasibility Study Report to Further Enhance the ACFTA 3.0. We were pleased to announce the launch of ACFTA 3.0 Upgrade Negotiations. Upgrading the ACFTA on mutual areas of interest, including the digital economy, green economy, supply chain connectivity, non-

tariff measures, competition, consumer protection, and MSMEs, among others, along with transitioning it to modern chapter-based structure, will further Parties' existing commitments and help ensure that the ACFTA remains relevant to our businesses, future-ready, and responsive to global challenges. We were also encouraged by the entry into-force of the RCEP Agreement and committed to working closely together for the effective implementation and full utilisation of the agreement to deliver benefits to businesses in the region. We welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between China and ASEAN Member States on Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation.

12. We commended China's numerous supports to and collaboration with ASEAN in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic through ASEAN-China public health cooperation, including the provision of medical supplies and vaccines to ASEAN Member States and contribution to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund. We also appreciated support from China for ASEAN's efforts to recover from the impact of COVID-19 by actively implementing the ASEAN-China Public Health Cooperation Initiative: Programme on Public Health Emergency Preparedness Capacity (PROMPT) and ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Cooperation in Support of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), to promote sustainable and comprehensive recovery and resilient and inclusive development in the region, as outlined in the Fact Sheet on China's Efforts to Implement the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Cooperation in Support of the ACRF shared by China.
13. We reaffirmed the continued commitment of ASEAN and China to working together under the three pillars as well as cross-pillar sectors to strengthen ASEAN Centrality in the ASEAN-led mechanisms in maintaining and upholding peace, security, and prosperity, to sustain a positive momentum of the ASEAN's proactive contribution to UN peacekeeping operations and the incorporation of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, to strengthen joint efforts for robust, resilient and sustainable recovery, the ASEAN's competitiveness and regional integration, and to ensure the health, well-being, and social protection, of our peoples. We congratulated Cambodia for successfully convening of the 2nd ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit in Phnom Penh on 12 October 2022 in a hybrid format. ASEAN looked forward to working closely with China to further implement the Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum.
14. We took note of Cambodia's idea to establish an ASEAN Green Deal with the aim to gradually transform ASEAN region towards a green future, sustainability, effective use of resources, resilience, and economic competitiveness.
15. Aiming at strengthening regional climate resilience and green development, as the year 2022 is designated as the ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation, we highlighted cooperation in areas such as climate change, environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management, marine debris, poverty alleviation and elimination, disaster prevention and mitigation, renewable energy, and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources, as outlined in the Fact Sheet on 2021-2022 ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development

Cooperation shared by China. We agreed to advance discussion on experience sharing and synergies for sustainable development.

16. We commended the successful convening of the 2nd ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management, and fully recognized the importance of strengthening cooperation in disaster management and emergency response under the ASEAN-China Work Plan on Disaster Management endorsed by the First ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM plus China), and AHA Centre, to improve capacity building and disaster response coordination in the region.
17. We underlined the importance of moving forward the implementation of the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Synergising the MPAC 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and working to enhance linkages in the region to facilitate a more conducive business environment and to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. We reaffirmed the commitment to foster closer people-to-people exchanges, including through culture, education, technical and vocational education and training, tourism and media, with a view to promoting mutual trust and understanding between the people of ASEAN and China. We also welcomed China's continued support for human resource development in ASEAN and China's strong commitment to increasing the number of scholarships and exchange programs for ASEAN students.
18. We reaffirmed the role of education in human resource development as well as economic development and prosperity and reiterated our commitment to education cooperation for sustainable economic and social development. We welcomed the successful convening of the 3rd ASEAN-China Education Ministers Roundtable Conference on 23rd August 2022 and commended China's numerous support to upgrade ASEAN-China education cooperation, in particular, by the launch of Building an Amicable Home Together: Vision and Action on ASEAN-China Education Cooperation and Development (2022-2030), highlighting cooperation in areas such as improving the quality of human resource in the region, strengthening the research collaboration, advancing digital transformation of education and consolidating Asian Cultural Consensus.
19. We agreed to further leverage the role of the ACCF and noted with appreciation the on-going implementation of the ASEAN-China Young Leaders' Scholarship (ACYLS), and China's efforts to promote youth exchanges and cooperation to enhance mutual understanding and friendship with ASEAN, as outlined in the Fact Sheet on China's Activities in Support of the Year of ASEAN Youth 2022 shared by China. We appreciated the outcomes of the two Working Group Meetings on "ASEAN-China Partnership: Mainstreaming the ASEAN Blue Economy to Accelerate Post-pandemic Recovery" and "Forging ASEAN-China Partnership: Empowering Youth in the Digital Era" by the Network of ASEAN-China Think-Tanks (NACT) this year.
20. In light of commitment toward post-COVID-19 recovery, tourism sector plays an important role in contributing to the recovery process. In this regard, we put the focus on developing new strategic cooperation measures and considered gradually resuming the travel reflecting the importance of implementing the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Tourism Cooperation and further

strengthening cooperation in the tourism sector. We also highlighted the need for innovative ways to revitalise the tourism industry and ensure safe international travel in line with public health measures of each country, with a view to promoting economic recovery and people-to-people exchanges, including businesses, tourists and students. We commended China's response to ease travelling-related issues, especially air transport. We looked forward to working closely together toward further liberalisation of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (AC-ATA), which will further enhance regional connectivity as well as the progressive resumption of more direct flights between ASEAN Member States and China.

21. We reiterated commitment to further advance cooperation in ICT cooperation to cope with the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), especially through the effective implementation of the Joint Statement on the ASEAN-China Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation. We agreed to promote cooperation on ASEAN-China information and communication infrastructure connectivity, technological innovation, ICT development, emergency communication technologies, network security and industry development.
22. We took note of the Global Security Initiative (GSI) proposed by China with core elements consistent with the principles and spirit of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and looked forward to further details of the GSI.
23. On the cross-strait development, we reiterated the One-China Policy and respect for China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
24. We reiterated our commitment to 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 of Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) and the ASEAN Charter. We welcomed China's willingness to sign as early as possible the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty when it opens for signature.
25. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). We adopted the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on the 20th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea to commemorate this significant milestone by reflecting on the achievements made over the past 20 years and projecting the visions of ASEAN Member States and China on the implementation of the DOC. We congratulated China on the successful convening of the Workshop on the 20th Anniversary of DOC on 25 July 2022. 2022 also marks the 40th anniversary of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
26. On the South China Sea, we reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, prosperity, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea and recognised the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation. We reaffirmed our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. We were pleased with the positive momentum in the ongoing negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC),

particularly the recent resumption of in-person negotiations in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh, Cambodia, despite the challenging COVID-19 situation. We welcomed the continuation of the second reading of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text (SDNT) this year through in-person meetings of the JWG-DOC, and the progress of negotiations achieved so far.

27. We reaffirmed the aspiration to expedite the COC negotiations. We encouraged further progress towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, within a mutually agreed timeline. We emphasised the need to maintain and promote an environment conducive to the COC negotiations, and thus welcomed practical maritime cooperation initiatives which promote trust and confidence and reduce misunderstandings and miscalculation, as well as address emerging challenges in the region. We reaffirmed our commitment to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that could complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability, and to pursue the peaceful resolution of disputes, through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.
28. With regard to Ukraine, as for all nations, we reaffirmed respect for sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity, reiterated the call for compliance with international law and the United Nations Charter, and underlined the importance of an immediate cessation of hostilities and the creation of an enabling environment for the peaceful resolution of conflict.

* * * * *