



**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 57<sup>th</sup> ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS’  
MEETING  
VIENTIANE, 25 JULY 2024**

1. The 57<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (AMM) was held on 25 July 2024, in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was chaired by Lao PDR under the theme “ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience.” We reaffirmed ASEAN’s commitment to strengthen the ASEAN Community through intensifying ASEAN cooperation across the three community pillars, promoting infrastructure connectivity, narrowing development gap, enhancing economic integration, promoting people-to-people exchanges, and strengthening capacity and institutional effectiveness. We reaffirmed ASEAN Centrality, relevance and resilience, while strengthening our relations with external partners and the evolving regional architecture with ASEAN as the driving force.

**ASEAN COMMUNITY BUILDING**

2. We reaffirmed our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. We further reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the ASEAN Community, its unity and Centrality. We reiterated the importance of maintaining an ASEAN-centred, open, inclusive, transparent, resilient, and rules-based regional architecture that upholds international law and of strengthening our engagement and cooperation with Dialogue Partners and external partners, including through existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, in promoting peace, stability, security, development, and growth to enhance our regional resilience to respond to common and emerging challenges.
3. We reaffirmed our shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
4. We reiterated our strong commitment to upholding regionalism and multilateralism and emphasised the importance of adhering to key principles, shared values and norms enshrined in the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter, the Declaration on Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the 1982 UNCLOS, the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty), the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

5. We reiterated our commitment to intensifying our work towards a people-oriented, people-centred, and rules-based ASEAN, and continued to encourage the meaningful participation of the people, societies and other stakeholders in the ASEAN Community-building process.
6. We welcomed the adoption of the (i) Paper on Recommendations to Enhance the Role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN and (ii) Paper on Enhancing Resources Mobilisation for the Work of ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat. We looked forward to further implementation of the recommendations of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) on strengthening ASEAN's capacity and institutional effectiveness.
7. We commended the HLTF-ACV for sustaining the momentum in developing the Strategic Plans of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045: Resilient, Innovative, Dynamic, and People-Centred ASEAN to be adopted in 2025. We welcomed the HLTF-ACV's effort in coordinating and consulting with relevant stakeholders including the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI), the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC), and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Development of ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), in the overall development of the ACV 2045. In this regard, we looked forward to substantive progress in the development of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Strategic Plan, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan, the ASCC Strategic Plan, and the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan during the Lao PDR's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2024.
8. We welcomed the undertaking of the End-Term Reviews of the APSC Blueprint 2025, AEC Blueprint 2025, ASCC Blueprint 2025, and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and looked forward to the early completion of the End-Term Reviews in order to draw lessons and best practices for the future implementation of the Strategic Plans.
9. We looked forward to the ASEAN Leader's Declaration on Development of Strategic Plans to Implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 to further guide the development of the Strategic Plans and ensure their completion in a timely manner. We took note that the Strategic Plans are being developed in a participatory manner with the three ASEAN Community Pillars and that of ASEAN Connectivity working closely together to ensure synergy across the Strategic Plans and that cross-pillar issues are addressed in a holistic manner.
10. We welcomed the successful convening of the ASEAN Future Forum 2024 hosted by Viet Nam under the theme "Towards Fast and Sustainable Growth of a People-Centered ASEAN Community", which complements the exercise of developing the Strategic Plans of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. We noted that this Forum contributed to ASEAN efforts in strengthening the regional cooperation and integration. We further welcomed Viet Nam's plan to convene the ASEAN Future Forum in the years to come.

11. We agreed to coordinate and provide mutual support for ASEAN Member States' candidacy in regional and international organisations, where possible. In this regard, we reaffirmed ASEAN's support for the Philippines to become Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the year 2027-2028 as well as Thailand to become the Member of the UN Human Rights Council for the year 2025-2027. We took note of ASEAN SOM Leaders' ongoing discussions with regard to the draft guidelines for designating ASEAN candidatures to the UN bodies and international organisations, which will further manifest ASEAN Centrality, unity and solidarity, and contribute to the enhancement of ASEAN's profile at international fora.

## **KEY DELIVERABLES**

12. We welcomed the progress of the implementation of ASEAN Priority Areas 2024 and Key Deliverables under the Lao PDR's Chairmanship 2024 to enhance ASEAN Connectivity and Resilience, namely (i) Integrating and Connecting Economies; (ii) Forging an Inclusive and Sustainable Future; (iii) Transforming for a Digital Future; (iv) Promoting the Role ASEAN Culture and the Arts for Inclusion and Sustainability; (v) Development of Strategic Plans to Implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2045; (vi) Enhancing ASEAN Centrality; (vii) Promoting Environmental Cooperation: Climate Change Resilience; (viii) Promoting the Role of Women and Children towards the Transformation of Behaviourism in ASEAN; and (ix) Transforming ASEAN Health Development Resilience in a New Context. We looked forward to the successful completion of these priorities and its key deliverables, which are pivotal to deepening the region's economic integration and strengthening its long-term resiliency.

## **ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASEAN**

13. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhancing sustainable development cooperation in the region including through promoting the Complementarities Initiative between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. We welcomed the work of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) in promoting sustainable development across the ASEAN Community, including the convening of the inaugural ASEAN Circular Economy Forum 2023 held on 8-9 November 2023, in Jakarta, and the inaugural ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Youth Camp: Empowering Agents of Change for SDGs on 29 October-4 November 2023 in Thailand. We commended the leadership of Thailand as ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation in spearheading the convening of the 2024 ASEAN Forum on SDGs with National Development Planning Agencies with the theme "Looking Ahead: Reframing Priorities and Actions to Achieve the SDGs" back-to-back with the 8<sup>th</sup> High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue to discuss ways forward on the Complementarities Initiative taking into account the upcoming ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

## **INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION**

14. We reaffirmed our commitment to narrow the development gap within and among ASEAN Member States and continue to address the development disparities to

achieve a more balanced and inclusive regional development through accelerating the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025), with the continued support and assistance of external partners. We commended the work of the IAI Task Force, IAI National Coordinators, IAI Focal Points and all other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025). We noted the successful conduct of the Regional Workshop on ASEAN Integration: Enhancing the Implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in April 2024. We also supported the development of the Reframed Strategies for Narrowing the Development Gap and Sustainable Development in ASEAN as one of the Priority Economic Developments (PEDs) under Lao PDR 2024 ASEAN's chairmanship. We looked forward to the finalisation of this PED to narrow the development gap more effectively, and to guide the development of the IAI Work Plan V to align with the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision. Through collective action, shared responsibility, and mutual respect, we remain steadfast in our commitment to realise an inclusive, participatory and collaborative ASEAN Community that is no longer divided by the development gaps among its members.

## **SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION**

15. We underscored the importance of ASEAN unity and Centrality in promoting ASEAN's sub-regional development. We recognised the relevance and complementarity of subregional development to ASEAN's regional integration and Community-building process, especially in narrowing the development gap, and encouraged closer coordination and collaboration between ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN-approved sub-regional cooperation frameworks to facilitate the realisation of this endeavour.
16. We reiterated the commitment to further promote equitable, inclusive and sustainable development across the ASEAN Community by aligning sub-regional growth, including in the Mekong area such as the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), as well as the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), and the Singapore-Johor-Riau (SIJORI) Growth Triangle, with the comprehensive development of ASEAN. We noted the successful convening of the 29<sup>th</sup> IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting in September 2023, as well as the 26<sup>th</sup> BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting in October 2023. We welcomed the continued support and assistance of external partners in the relevant processes.

## **ASEAN CONNECTIVITY**

17. We welcomed the emphasis on ASEAN Connectivity this year under Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship theme of "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience". We therefore reaffirmed our commitment to advance the ASEAN Connectivity agenda towards seizing opportunities and effectively addressing present and emerging challenges in the region leveraging economic resilience, in accordance with ASEAN's vision as an epicentrum of growth. In this regard, we expressed our appreciation to ongoing efforts undertaken by the ACCC, in consultation with the HLTF-ACV, relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and stakeholders, in developing the

ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP) as one of the attendant documents of the upcoming ASEAN Community Vision 2045, building on the achievements and lessons learnt from implementing the MPAC 2025, and leveraging on synergies with other connectivity-related initiatives and frameworks across the region.

18. We commended the significant progress achieved in the implementation of MPAC 2025 over the past year and expressed our appreciation to the ACCC, Lead Implementing Bodies and relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, as well as the MPAC 2025 National Coordinators, National Focal Points and relevant national agencies. In this regard, we noted with appreciation the ACCC's efforts in strengthening coordination with the Lead Implementing Bodies and relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, as well as Dialogue Partners and other external partners, to accelerate the implementation of the remaining measures under the MPAC 2025. We further expressed our appreciation to ASEAN's external partners for their continued participation in ASEAN Connectivity-related activities and events. In this connection, we encouraged continued efforts between ASEAN and its external partners to explore and undertake practical cooperation to support the continued implementation of MPAC 2025 and the development of ACSP.
19. We underscored the importance of enhancing supply chain connectivity to support ASEAN's ongoing efforts for reducing costs, increasing reliability and improving the competitiveness of the supply chain; promoting cooperation between stakeholders, including buyers, logistics operators and government agencies; prioritising logistics and digital infrastructure; facilitating Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)' access and integration into regional and global supply chains; and supporting the implementation of the MPAC 2025.
20. We looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Enhancing Supply Chain Connectivity, which will support and guide the efforts of relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and stakeholders towards strengthening supply chain resiliency and competitiveness in the region, while taking into consideration the unique circumstances of each ASEAN Member State.

#### **ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK**

21. We commended the efforts under the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in enhancing the capacity of local governments, private sectors, and other stakeholders and nurturing young entrepreneurs to respond and prepare for current and future challenges in smart and sustainable urban development. In this regard, we reiterated our appreciation to our external partners for their continued support and collaboration in implementing ASCN initiatives, such as through the flagship ASEAN Smart City Professional Programme. We also looked forward to the completion of the development of the ASEAN Smart City Investment Toolkit.

#### **ASEAN JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME WITH THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT**

22. We looked forward to the implementation of the Third ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme with the ASEAN Secretariat (AJFP) which will tentatively take place in August 2024. The third batch will comprise 21 Junior Fellows from 10 ASEAN Member States and two from Timor-Leste. We were pleased to note that from the

first two iterations of the AJFP, the programme had contributed to enhancing the participants' knowledge and understanding of the work of ASEAN, and more importantly expanded their ASEAN network through engagements with various stakeholders.

## **TIMOR-LESTE'S FULL MEMBERSHIP IN ASEAN**

23. We continued to support and stressed the need for Timor-Leste to implement the objective and criteria-based Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN as adopted by the Leaders and looked forward to the full and effective fulfilment of all the Roadmap criteria towards its full membership of ASEAN. We noted that Timor-Leste has intensified its engagements with ASEAN through its attendance in close to 500 meetings across three pillars of ASEAN Community and ASEAN Connectivity with an attendance rate of 88.6% as of May 2024, and recognised the progress made by Timor-Leste in implementing the Roadmap. We encouraged Timor-Leste to maintain and promote good relations with all ASEAN Member States, as part of demonstrating its ability and readiness to implement and abide by the ASEAN Charter. We also called on the ASEAN Secretariat to robustly monitor Timor-Leste's implementation of the Roadmap and establish the assigned dedicated unit mandated in the Roadmap. We welcomed the inclusion of Timor-Leste as a beneficiary of the IAI in May 2024, which will provide another key platform for ASEAN and our external partners to channel assistance to Timor-Leste in supporting the fulfilment of all the Roadmap criteria and requirements. We reiterated our commitment, and call on our external partners, to continue providing capacity building assistance to Timor-Leste. We were pleased to note the successful completion of the first phase of the ASEAN Traveling Resource Persons Programme (ATRPP) and looked forward to the implementation of the second phase.
24. We welcomed the adoption of the relevant guidelines for the implementation of the observer status granted to Timor-Leste by ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, which reflects their commitment to supporting Timor-Leste's full membership in ASEAN and building its capacity to address current and future security challenges.
25. We underscored the importance of Timor-Leste's accession to the ASEAN agreements as part of its accession to ASEAN, as stipulated in the Roadmap. With regard to Timor-Leste's request to accede to the SEANWFZ Treaty, we recalled the formal approval of the SEANWFZ Commission on Timor-Leste's accession to the SEANWFZ Treaty and welcomed the progress of discussions on this matter. The accession will also further strengthen the implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty and reinforce the region's commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the region and beyond. As a follow-up, we encouraged our officials to complete all necessary preparations that must precede Timor-Leste's accession to the SEANWFZ Treaty. We also acknowledged Timor-Leste's intention to accede to the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and encouraged the economic officials to continue their consultations.

## **ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY**

26. We noted the sustained implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025 and commended the APSC Sectoral Bodies and other stakeholders within the APSC pillar in taking further action to implement the remaining action lines of the APSC Blueprint 2025, bringing the implementation rate to 99% as we move closer to the end of term of the Blueprint. The successful implementation of the Blueprint would contribute to the fulfilment of our ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and would serve as the foundation for the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its APSC Strategic Plan.
27. We reaffirmed the importance of the TAC as the key code of conduct in governing inter-state relations in the region and as a foundation for maintaining regional peace and stability. We remained committed to further promoting the principles embodied in the TAC. We emphasised the importance of all High Contracting Parties (HCPs) in fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty. We welcomed the growing interest of non-regional countries to accede to the TAC, on the basis of respect for and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the TAC. We looked forward to the accession of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of Spain, the United Mexican States, and the Republic of Finland to the TAC.
28. We welcomed the successful convening of the Conference of the HCPs to the TAC: Reflections and Future Direction on 26 June 2024 at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat, bringing together 47 out of 54 HCPs to the TAC for the first time at the ambassadorial level. The Conference was timely to reaffirm the commitment of the HCPs to the principles and values of the TAC. It also served as an avenue for dialogue among the HCPs to discuss the implementation of the TAC and future strategies to enhance relevance and visibility of the Treaty in the region and beyond, and explore cooperation between ASEAN and other HCPs under the TAC, towards the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the TAC in 2026.
29. We reiterated our commitment to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a nuclear weapon-free zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the SEANWFZ Treaty and the ASEAN Charter. We stressed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty, including through the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty (2023-2027).
30. We noted that the Executive Committee of the SEANWFZ Commission is continuing to explore the possibility of allowing individual Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) which are willing to sign and ratify the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty without reservations and provide prior formal assurance of this commitment in writing to go ahead with the signing. We welcome any NWS that are ready to do so. We reaffirmed our commitment to continuously engage all the NWS, including those with reservations, and intensify efforts of all parties to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty. We encouraged our ASEAN experts to explore ways to bridge the differences, including the possibility of engaging with the NWS experts.

31. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhancing the profile of the SEANWFZ Treaty globally, including through engaging other nuclear weapon-free zones (NWFZs). In this connection, we welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-sponsored biennial resolution on the SEANWFZ Treaty by the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly on 4 December 2023, which reiterates the importance of the Treaty in contributing to international peace and security. We welcomed the convening of the Virtual Workshop on Sharing Experiences between Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) and ASEAN on the Signing and Ratification of NWS to the Protocols of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the Treaty of Bangkok on 3 May 2024.
32. We expressed concern over the declining commitment and cooperation in global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament mechanisms, and called on countries, especially NWS, to maintain and fully implement their commitments under these mechanisms, including in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We called on the NWS to fulfil their obligations in advancing nuclear disarmament in accordance with the Article VI of the NPT and to recognise the need to completely eliminate nuclear weapons, which remains the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances.
33. We reiterated the importance of strengthening efforts to address common regional challenges in a strategic and holistic manner in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament. We reaffirmed our full support to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to carry out its mandated work as the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in a comprehensive, objective, and impartial manner, in complementarity with the work of the UN. We also reaffirmed our commitment to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and, recognising the necessity of multilateral negotiations and noting the lack of a verification measure, the latter of which poses a challenge to the effectiveness of the BWC, welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on Strengthening the BWC. We also placed great importance on enhancing international cooperation, assistance, and exchanges in toxins, biological agents, equipment, and technology for peaceful purposes.
34. We commended the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) for their continued efforts in enhancing cooperation among the nuclear regulatory bodies in the region and in strengthening practices and standards of nuclear safety, security, and safeguards guided by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards and international best practices, and welcomed the progress of the implementation of the Practical Arrangements between ASEAN and the IAEA on Cooperation in the Areas of Nuclear Science and Technology and Applications, Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards, which was signed in September 2019. We noted that ASEANTOM is undertaking work to renew the Practical Arrangements between ASEAN and the IAEA, and we looked forward to the renewal of the Practical Arrangements for another five-year period in September 2024. We also looked forward to the convening of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASEANTOM on 15-16 August 2024 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.



35. We commended the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) for consciously managing its fast-growing practical cooperation and external engagements and noted the ongoing work to streamline initiatives under the ADMM and the ADMM-Plus for more efficient and economical outcomes. We noted that the ADMM and ADMM-Plus strive to make meaningful contributions to peace and security, including by promoting the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda, and expanding cooperation on emerging issues, notably the impact of climate change. We appreciated the ADMM's endeavour to chart its overall future direction, among others, through the development of "A Future-Ready ADMM and ADMM-Plus: A Strategy Paper", in a manner that is consistent with the upcoming ASEAN Community Vision 2045. We looked forward to the successful convening of the 18<sup>th</sup> ADMM and the 11<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus in November 2024.
36. We congratulated the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on the progress of implementation of the AICHR Five-Year Work Plan 2021-2025 and its annual Priority Programmes/Activities. We welcomed the successful convening of the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> Meetings of AICHR in Vientiane and Jakarta, respectively. We took note of the AICHR's ongoing preparation for the new AICHR Five-Year Work Plan 2026-2030. We commended the continuous efforts of AICHR to work with ASEAN organs, sectoral bodies, entities, and relevant stakeholders to mainstream human rights across all pillars of the ASEAN Community, as well as to enhance engagements with Dialogue Partners, notably the successful convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> AICHR-UN Dialogue on Human Rights and the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights held respectively in September and October 2023. We noted that the AICHR and China are considering a joint activity on the promotion and protection of human rights. We underscored the importance of fostering a culture of dialogue in advancing the promotion and protection of human rights in the region. In this regard, we welcomed the successful convening of the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue held in November 2023 at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia, and looked forward to the convening of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue to be co-chaired by Lao PDR and Indonesia in 2024. We noted the on-going discussion by the AICHR to develop a draft ASEAN declaration related to the environment and tasked the AICHR to consult relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies.
37. We commended the efforts of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) in leading the cooperation to combat illicit drugs, particularly through the ongoing implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025. We welcomed the delivery of the ASEAN Joint Statement during the 67<sup>th</sup> Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in March 2024 to reaffirm ASEAN's zero-tolerance approach against illicit drugs and shared commitment to a Drug-Free ASEAN vision. We maintained our resolute stand against the legalisation and manufacturing of illicit drugs for non-medical and non-scientific use or measures to undermine international control over any type of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances without relevant, verifiable, and reliable scientific evidence.
38. We recognised the continued efforts by ASEAN law enforcement in tackling transnational crime in various forms and the challenges facing the law enforcement

agencies in this endeavour. We welcomed the Labuan Bajo Declaration on Advancing Law Enforcement Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime adopted by the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) in 2023 that reaffirmed our commitment to enhance practical cooperation among law enforcement agencies, including collaboration with ASEAN partners. We also welcomed the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation in Protecting and Assisting Witnesses and Victims of Transnational Crime which, among other provisions, reaffirmed the commitment of the ASEAN Member States to the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, in particular, the respect for, promotion, and protection of human rights as well as fundamental freedom.

39. We commended the steadfast commitment of the AMMTC and its subsidiary bodies in spearheading cross-sectoral and cross-pillar coordination to comprehensively address the multi-dimensional aspects of transnational crimes, especially trafficking in persons (TIP), terrorism and border management. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan (Bohol TIP Work Plan 2.0) 2023-2028 at the 17<sup>th</sup> AMMTC in 2023 and encouraged the active engagements of all 10 relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to support its effective implementation. We commended the contribution made by ASEAN Member States, including the recent contribution of Indonesia to the Trust Fund to Support Emergency Humanitarian and Relief Efforts in the Event of the Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia. We recognised the need for continued coordinated responses in addressing irregular movement of persons, including TIP and people smuggling. We encouraged ASEAN Member States to appoint their National Representatives for the Implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP).
40. We took note of the adoption of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Cooperation on Immigration and Consular Assistance Matters (2022-2031) by the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM) in 2022 and looked forward for its implementation.
41. We took note of the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Developing Regional Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Capability to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (PCRVE) by the 17<sup>th</sup> AMMTC and re-emphasised the importance of addressing the root causes of radicalisation and violent extremism. In this regard, we commended the continued efforts of 19 relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Organs/Entities, in collaboration with ASEAN partners, in implementing the Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (Bali Work Plan) 2019-2025 as well as of SOMTC in coordinating this implementation. We stressed the importance of garnering further efforts to ensure the fulfilment of this Work Plan in its final period of implementation.
42. We noted the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Combatting Arms Smuggling by the 17<sup>th</sup> AMMTC and reaffirmed our resolve in preventing and curbing cross-border illicit trade and smuggling of firearms and its ammunition in the region.

43. We noted the development of ASEAN cooperation on law and legal matters and welcomed the successful outcome of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALAWMM) held on 25 January 2024 that aims at strengthening ASEAN and its Member States on law and legal matters to support the ASEAN Community-building processes and enhance ASEAN as a rules-based organisation. We also commended the work of ALAWMM in developing the ASEAN Extradition Treaty and looked forward to its finalisation and conclusion by the end of this year to further enhance ASEAN capacity in the field of crime prevention, criminal justice system, and combating transnational crimes.
44. We were pleased to note the ALAWMM's continued dialogue and engagement with external parties, including Japan and G7 countries, to promote the rule of law and justice as well as rules-based ASEAN, in line with the Joint Communique of the 12<sup>th</sup> ALAWMM. We noted with satisfaction the progress of the concrete implementation programme between ASEAN and Japan, especially in carrying out the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Law and Justice.
45. We welcomed the inaugural ASEAN Ministers/Attorneys General of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (AMAG-MLAT) held on 22 November 2023, in Brunei Darussalam, and the convening of the Third Senior Officials' Meeting of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (SOM-MLAT) on 29-30 April 2024, in Bali, Indonesia, to ensure the effective implementation of the ASEAN Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (ASEAN MLAT) which is an important legal instrument to strengthen ASEAN capacity and its Member States' cooperation in combatting transnational crimes. We looked forward to AMAG-MLAT's endorsement of the Guidelines for Accession to the ASEAN MLAT by non-ASEAN Member States.
46. We commended the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) for its efforts and activities with relevant ASEAN bodies and external partners to promote the culture of peace and moderation in ASEAN. We noted ASEAN-IPR's continued support for the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) to implement the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) in ASEAN, and the Regional Plan of Action on WPS. We encouraged the implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas in ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms and noted the progress of towards implementing the practical initiatives on enhancing support mechanisms for ASEAN women peacekeepers under the purview of the ADMM. We welcomed the convening of the ASEAN-UN Regional Dialogue VI on Climate, Peace and Security in November 2023 which facilitated discussions on the climate, peace and security among policymakers and stakeholders in the region.
47. We noted ongoing multilateral discussions on emerging issues involving international peace and security, such as outer space. We reiterated that access to outer space is an inalienable right of all States and that the use of outer space should exclusively be for peaceful purposes only, and for the collective benefit of humanity.
48. We expressed concerns about the possible negative consequences and impact of autonomous weapon systems on global security and regional and international

stability, including the risk of an emerging arms race, lowering the threshold for conflict and proliferation, including to non-State actors.

49. We noted the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/69 emphasising in the Preamble, the universal and unified character of the 1982 UNCLOS, and reaffirming that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained.
50. We reaffirmed the role of the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and Expanded AMF (EAMF) as Track 1.5 platforms in promoting maritime cooperation in the region through dialogue and consultations. Taking into account the cross-cutting nature of maritime cooperation, we encouraged stronger coordination among ASEAN cross-sectoral bodies and other relevant ASEAN mechanisms to avoid duplication of efforts. We emphasised the importance of ASEAN Centrality and further encouraged the exploration of an integrated and comprehensive approach to maritime cooperation, including through considering enhancing ASEAN's capacity and capability in this regard. We looked forward to the convening of the 14<sup>th</sup> AMF and 12<sup>th</sup> EAMF which will be held in Lao PDR in 2024.
51. We welcomed the issuance of the First Edition of the ASEAN Maritime Outlook (AMO) in August 2023, which serves as a practical tool to understand regional maritime trends and strengthen synergies of work among maritime-relevant bodies, mechanisms, and processes in ASEAN. We looked forward to the interim report of the AMO in 2024 to highlight the progress of maritime cooperation under relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies as well as the issuance of 2<sup>nd</sup> AMO in 2026.
52. We noted the convening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Coast Guard Forum (ACF) Commander's Meeting on 4-7 June 2024 in Samal, Davao Del Norte, Philippines. We noted the discussion on the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Concept Paper on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum (ACF) and encouraged further discussion to finalise the documents.
53. We commended the role of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) as a centre of excellence in promoting ASEAN's efforts to address the issue of explosive remnants of war (ERW) for interested ASEAN Member States and raise awareness of the danger of ERW among affected communities. We reiterated the importance of mine action in national rehabilitation and sustainable development and welcomed efforts to promote mine action at the regional and global level, including at the UN. We expressed appreciation to ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners, external partners and international organisations that have contributed to the undertaking of projects and operations of the ARMAC, including the recent contribution from Cambodia and Thailand.

## **ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**

54. We recognised that ASEAN's economy is poised to experience Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expansion in 2024, with a projected growth rate of 4.7%, up from

the 4.1% recorded in 2023, driven by policy initiatives designed at stimulating the domestic economy, improved manufacturing output, and enhancements in exports. As service demand normalises across ASEAN, pivotal drivers such as domestic consumption, government fiscal spending, and the revival of the manufacturing sector are expected to fuel the region's GDP growth in 2024.

55. We welcomed the ongoing progress of the Implementation of the Framework on Circular Economy for AEC and its corresponding work programme, as well as the work of the ASEAN Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform, which will complement the ASEAN Member States' climate action and low carbon economy efforts. We also welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality by the AEC Council in September 2023, to complement national initiatives by ASEAN Member States in fulfilling their respective Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. We noted the progress in implementing the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality including the early establishment of a dedicated governance body to ensure streamlined coordination and as well as the early and effective implementation of the Strategy.
56. We reaffirmed that the blue economy is an integrated, holistic, cross-sectoral and cross-stakeholder approach that creates value-added and value-chain of resources from oceans, seas, and fresh water in inclusive and sustainable way, as stipulated in the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Taskforce on Blue Economy (ACTF-BE). We looked forward to the inaugural meeting of the ACTF-BE in August alongside the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Blue Economy Forum and the development of the ASEAN Blue Economy Implementation Plan.
57. We welcomed Version 1 of the ASEAN Transition Finance Guidance which was published on 17 October 2023. The Guidance addresses how entities may assess or demonstrate a credible transition in ASEAN to obtain financing from capital markets. We further welcomed the updated iteration of the Version 2 of the ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance that took effect on 19 February 2024 which incorporated the inputs from the targeted consultations with stakeholders and users. We also welcomed the publication of the Version 3 of the ASEAN Taxonomy which was released on 27 March 2024 for consultation with stakeholders. This comprises several refinements to the assessment methods for Do No Significant Harm and the technical screening criteria (TSC) for two more focus sectors, namely Transportation & Storage and Construction and Real Estate under the Plus Standard.
58. We commended the strong commitment to enhancing the sustainability of transport in ASEAN, a crucial step towards a more sustainable future for the region. We expressed support for ASEAN Port Digitalisation and Automation Best Practice Guidelines which contributes to the enhancement of efficiency, productivity and resilience of maritime transport infrastructure in the region. We also looked forward to the ASEAN Guidelines on Light Electric Vehicles and Urban Freight Transport and the finalisation of the ASEAN EV Implementation Roadmap that would support decarbonisation in the land transport sector and provide guidance in improving the urban freight transport system in ASEAN.

59. We acknowledged the robust efforts to advance energy security, energy transition and enhancing regional energy connectivity and resilience. We supported the efforts toward substantive conclusion of the texts for two major successor energy agreements this year, which are integral to the ASEAN 2024 PEDs and constitute key annual priorities within the energy sector. These agreements include the successor to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on ASEAN Power Grid and the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement. Additionally, we looked forward to the full signing of the amended MOU for the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline within 2024. The renewal of all three energy agreements will bolster ASEAN's frameworks and mechanisms to effectively address the emerging and dynamic requirements of energy security and sustainability, which will also implement the Joint Declaration of the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) on Sustainable Energy Security through Interconnectivity. We encouraged further discussions to accelerate the establishment of an ASEAN Power Grid including through the implementation of cross-border renewable energy initiatives. In this regard, we welcomed the implementation of the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP) and the ongoing discussion on the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-the Philippines Power Integration Project (BIMP-PIP), which would promote regional energy connectivity, security, and resilience, to realise the ASEAN Power Grid. In this regard, we also welcomed continuous support from our external partners to facilitate ASEAN's energy transition initiatives.
60. We reaffirmed commitment to advancing science, technology, and innovation (STI) across diverse domains through the vigorous implementation of over 100 STI activities annually. We reaffirmed our support to STI sector's priorities for 2024, notably the: i) ASEAN Online Education Platform for Industry 4.0; ii) ASEAN Technology Management Hub; iii) ASEAN Regional Research Infrastructure Strategy; iv) ASEAN Startup Initiative; v) ASEAN Talent Mobility Community; and vi) ASEAN Energy Resilience Assessment Guideline: Capacity Building on Energy Resilience Assessment.
61. We expressed strong support for the comprehensive review of ASEAN Plan of Action on STI (APASTI) 2016-2025 and the formulation of APASTI 2026-2035, which would include robust scenario-guided planning and horizon scanning to proactively anticipate forthcoming technologies and their impact, drawing insights from the ASEAN STI Ecosystem (SITE) Foresight 2035. ASEAN remained dedicated to harnessing STI for epidemic preparedness, evidenced by initiatives such as the Real-time Epidemic Genomic Surveillance and the ASEAN Sero-surveillance Study. We acknowledged the endorsement of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI) Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and welcomed the inauguration of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI) Tracks on AI (ACT on AI) 2024-2025, which consolidated the implementation of regional AI-related initiatives in collaboration with various Dialogue Partners.
62. We welcomed the successful completion of Lao PDR's PEDs on "Enhancing Policy Dialogue to Address Financing Gaps and Strengthen Financial Inclusion among MSMEs", which gathered the Working Committee on Financial Inclusion (WC-FINC) together with external partners and key stakeholders, including the Centre

for Impact Investing and Practices (CIIP) and the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME) that discussed ways and initiatives to narrow financing gaps for MSMEs such as through harnessing digital infrastructure, improving financial literacy, providing incentives to financial service providers, and strengthening credit bureaus.

63. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen trust in our digital ecosystems by fostering data-driven innovation and encourage the responsible use and transmission of data in ASEAN. We pledged to intensify collaboration on the governance of emerging technologies such as generative AI, including through the establishment of an ASEAN Working Group on AI Governance to provide guidance on implementing AI governance frameworks. We supported the efforts to build a secure, diverse and resilient submarine cable network for regional and global connectivity. We recognised the importance of enhancing cooperation and collaboration to preventing and combating online scams, and scams across digital and telecommunication channels.
64. We recalled the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Advancing Regional Payment Connectivity and Promoting Local Currency Transaction and noted the establishment of the ASEAN Local Currency Transaction (LCT) Framework which identified key objectives of enhancing accessibility and efficiency in local currency transactions and promoting its wider adoption by market participants in the region. We noted the continuous progress in the adoption and promotion of cross-border QR payment in ASEAN with the launching of Cambodia-Lao PDR, Cambodia-Viet Nam, Singapore-Indonesia, Singapore-Malaysia, and Lao PDR-Thailand linkages, showcasing ASEAN at the forefront of QR payment integration globally. We looked forward to the continued efforts of the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to identify concrete solutions to promote adoption and usage of cross-border QR payments. Likewise, we welcomed the accession of Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, and Lao PDR to the MOU on Regional Payment Connectivity (RPC) and looked forward to the accession of the remaining AMS to the MOU on RPC and the expansion to other countries or jurisdictions.
65. We welcomed the progress of ASEAN's on-going efforts on digital transformation. We recognised the important role of digitalisation in enhancing connectivity and deepening the region's economic integration. We recalled the Leaders' vision to develop a modern, comprehensive, and coherent digital transformation strategy towards an ASEAN digital economy, where the seamless and secure flow of goods, services, and data are underpinned by enabling rules, regulation, infrastructure, and talent. We are encouraged by the continuing efforts and good momentum in the implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap to accelerate the digital transformation of the region and establishment of an ASEAN digital community.
66. We welcomed the commencement of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) negotiations and looked forward to its conclusion by 2025 as mandated by the 23<sup>rd</sup> AEC Council on 3 September 2023. We welcomed ASEAN's commitment to develop an ASEAN DEFA that shall be comprehensive, high-quality, forward-looking, and future-proof to harness the benefits of digital transformation so that ASEAN may become a leading digital community in the world. Furthermore, we looked forward to the completion of the (i) Implementation

Roadmap to Establish Regionally Comparable and Recognised Unique Business Identification Numbers (UBIN) in ASEAN; (ii) Study on the New Generation of ASEAN Single Window (ASW); and (iii) Roadmap on Digital Trade Standards. We expressed our strong support to the timely delivery of these initiatives, which complements the regional objective to create a seamless digital trade ecosystem across the region.

67. We are pleased to note that ASEAN tourism is back on track with international tourism arrivals reaching 101 million in 2023 reflecting a 136% year-on-year increase from 2022. We noted the good progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2016-2025, and welcomed the several key achievements of the tourism sector in 2023, including the (i) launch of the three regional marketing campaigns in 2023, namely, the Southeast Asia Travel Collective; imaginASEAN; and intra-ASEAN Tourism Recovery Campaign; (ii) endorsement of the Action Roadmap for Sustainable Tourism Development in ASEAN; (iii) Interface Meeting between ASEAN Tourism Ministers and ASEAN Transport Ministers as the first high-level cross-sectoral collaboration; and (iv) endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), which covers four focus areas, namely: tourism competitiveness, capability development/ capacity building, as well as sustainability and inclusivity.
68. We looked forward to the full recovery of the tourism industry in 2024, and we reaffirmed our support to the tourism sector's priorities for 2024, notably the (i) development of the ASEAN Ecotourism Standard; (ii) implementation of the Action Roadmap for Sustainable Tourism Development in ASEAN; (iii) development of the ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Toolkit; (iv) development of the Cruise Tourism Work Plan 2024; (v) development of Common ASEAN Tourism Curriculum for Spa Professionals; and (vi) implementation of the Capacity Building of ASEAN Master Assessors on the Guidelines on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Mechanism for ASEAN Tourism Professionals Through Piloting Assessment.
69. We emphasised the critical importance of sustainability and resilience in the ASEAN region, particularly within the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors due to their profound impacts on livelihoods and the environment. We eagerly anticipated the launch of the ASEAN Action Plan on Sustainable Agriculture in ASEAN and the ASEAN Guidelines for Crop Burning Reduction, which are some of the key PEDs for the region in 2024. We urged all stakeholders, including private sectors and research institutes to collaborate with ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat in a collective effort to advance these initiatives for the mutual benefit and progress of the ASEAN Member States.
70. We acknowledged that sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices, including sustainable production of vegetable oils, are essential to the attainment of the SDGs by 2030 and will contribute to regional and global efforts towards economic recovery, green growth, and food security. We looked forward to the convening of the Fourth Joint Working Group on Palm Oil between the European Union (EU) and Relevant ASEAN Member States to continue promoting mutual understanding on the sustainable production of vegetable oils and addressing the challenges in this sector in a holistic, transparent, and non-



discriminatory manner. We noted that relevant producing countries and the EU have established a Joint Task Force to strengthen the cooperation for the implementation of the EU's Deforestation Regulation.

71. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the region's supply chain resilience, as well as elevate ASEAN's standing in the regional and global economic architecture. We underscored the importance of effective implementation and utilisation of ASEAN's Free Trade Agreements in furthering the ASEAN economic integration agenda. We emphasised ASEAN Centrality and upholding the region's interests in ASEAN's external economic cooperation.
72. We welcomed the progress of the ATIGA Upgrade Negotiations, which aims to be modern, comprehensive, forward-looking, relevant to business communities and more responsive to regional and global developments, as well as to further increase intra-ASEAN trade.
73. We looked forward to continuing to support the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), including to boost investment and investors' confidence in the region, as well as contributing to stronger and more resilient regional supply chains. We commit to supporting businesses, including MSMEs, to access the full benefits of the RCEP. We also reiterated our commitment to the operationalisation of the RCEP Support Unit at the earliest opportunity to provide institutional support to the Parties' implementation of the RCEP Agreement. We further encouraged the early finalisation of the RCEP Accession Procedures to ensure that the RCEP Agreement remains open and inclusive to facilitate trade and investment, including participation in regional and global supply chains.
74. We welcomed the progress made in modernising and upgrading enforced ASEAN's Free Trade Agreements with external partners, as well as in negotiating FTAs with new partners. In particular, we looked forward to the completion of the Review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) and the continued negotiation on the ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement.
75. We reiterated our commitments to deepening economic integration in ASEAN, as well as with our external partners in order to strengthen the region's resiliency. We welcomed the signing of the Second Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), which will keep the AANZFTA relevant and open more opportunities for businesses in the region through new and enhanced provisions on trade in goods, rules of origin, trade in services, government procurement, investment, e-commerce, and MSMEs and trade and sustainable development. We looked forward to its timely entry into force and implementation. We also reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to achieve meaningful progress of the negotiation in line with ASEAN's interest in order to reach substantial conclusion of the ASEAN-China FTA 3.0 Upgrade within this year. We emphasised that these efforts are also undertaken to ensure that ASEAN's FTAs remain modern, comprehensive, of high-quality and more responsive to the needs of businesses operating the production networks in ASEAN.

76. As ASEAN remains committed to advancing an effective, enterprising, and inclusive intellectual property (IP) ecosystem, we expressed strong support for the comprehensive review of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AFAIPC) with a view to upgrade the Agreement.

### **ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY**

77. We noted the ASCC priorities for 2024, which focus on promoting the role of culture and arts for inclusion and sustainability, environmental cooperation, and climate change resilience, enhancing the role of women and children towards the transformation of behaviourism in ASEAN, and transforming ASEAN health development resilience. We commended the broad range of ASCC outcome documents expected to be adopted and noted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits which will see achievements in human and sustainable development.
78. We looked forward to the adoption and notation of key human development outcome documents of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community by the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits which include the ASEAN Declaration on Skills Mobility, Recognition, and Development of Migrant Workers; the ASEAN Declaration on the Prevention and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour; the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening the Care Economy and Fostering Resilience Towards the Post-2025 ASEAN Community; and the Vientiane Statement on Equity, Access and Environment: Advancing Climate Resilience in Early Childhood Settings in ASEAN.
79. We acknowledged the contributions of the ASCC Research and Development (R&D) Platforms Programme in advancing evidence-based policy-making and strengthening decision-making capabilities across the ASCC sectors including the future of education and work, health, disaster management, climate change, public health emergencies, media, culture and arts and poverty action. We further noted the ongoing ASCC Research and Development Platform on the Future of Work which examines emerging trends in the world of work such as digitalisation and the rise of alternative work arrangements in gig economy.
80. We looked forward to health-related deliverables on health security and health system resilience under the Lao PDR's Chairmanship which includes the endorsement of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity, prompt finalisation and signing of the establishment agreement and operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), the implementation of the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System (APHECS) Framework, and the commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of the Mitigation of Biological Threats Programme.
81. We acknowledged the sustained efforts of the ASEAN Health Sector in addressing HIV and AIDS. We looked forward to ASEAN's renewed commitment in implementing the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending Inequalities and Getting

on Track to End AIDS by 2030 through the updated ASEAN Health Sector Work Plan on HIV and AIDS 2021-2025.

82. We commended the sustained and scaled-up initiatives of the ASEAN Health Sector for an integrated and inter-disciplinary cooperation in implementing ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiatives through the ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action 2023-2030 and the ASEAN Strategic Framework to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance through One Health Approach 2019-2030 (ASF-AMR). We acknowledged the role of the ASEAN One Health Network (AOHN) in ensuring a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to inclusive and responsive One Health governance towards these initiatives.
83. As part of ASEAN's endeavours to provide universal access to safe, affordable, efficacious, quality, and holistic health care as well as essential medical supplies, we expressed strong support towards the operationalization of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance to ensure the availability of essential vaccines within and among ASEAN Member States through collective efforts. To this end, we encourage ASEAN to explore regional vaccine manufacturing as part of our collective efforts towards strengthening ASEAN vaccine security and self-reliance.
84. We applauded the ASEAN Health Sector's efforts in strengthening the regional health architecture post-COVID-19 which continue to enhance regional capacities and capabilities in effectively addressing both current and future health threats through the existing mechanisms of the ASEAN Health Sector such as the ASEAN Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Network, the ASEAN+3 Field Epidemiology Training Network, and the ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Centre (ABVC), among others.
85. We acknowledged continued efforts by the ASEAN Health Sector in making preparations for the establishment of the ACPHEED, including ACPHEED for Prevention and Preparedness, ACPHEED for Detection and Risk Assessment and ACPHEED for Response and Risk Communication as well as the ACPHEED Secretariat Office. We also appreciated the contributions of Dialogue Partners in the preparatory stage for the setting-up of ACPHEED.
86. We welcomed the entry into force of the Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) in June 2024. We also acknowledged continued work progress undertaken by ACAI, including the Workshop on the ACAI Strategic Implementation for the Older Person in ASEAN in 2023 and looked forward to future activities by ACAI to help promote healthy, active, and productive ageing in ASEAN.
87. We noted the significant role of the ASEAN Health Sector in enhancing disaster preparedness and response capacity in ASEAN through the full integration of the Standard Operating Procedure in the Coordination of Emergency Medical Teams in ASEAN (EMT SOP) in the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP).

88. We acknowledged the continuous efforts by the Regional Coordination Committee on Disaster Health Management (RRC-DHM) to enhance disaster health management, as guided by the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management, through the platforms of the ASEAN Academic Network on Disaster Health Management (AANDHM) and the ASEAN Institute for Disaster Health Management (AIDHM).
89. We commended the significant progress of the ASEAN Health Sector in accelerating evidence-based multi-sectoral actions and upscaling interventions to reduce and ultimately end all forms of malnutrition, particularly among the most vulnerable, poor, and disadvantaged groups in ASEAN communities, as espoused in the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition, through the sustained implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Nutrition 2018-2030.
90. We recognized the need to strengthen key strategies to promote healthy lifestyle, ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages. We noted the ongoing initiative of the ASEAN Health Sector to implement the reformulation and production of healthier food and beverages options to curb the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases within and among ASEAN communities, among others, as declared in the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Reformulation and Production of Healthier Food and Beverage Options.
91. We reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to protecting and promoting the human and labour rights of migrant workers throughout the entire migration cycle. We commended the second self-assessment of the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in identifying regional initiatives for the post-2025 Action Plan and supported the finalisation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Portability of Social Security for Migrant Workers in ASEAN and ASEAN Guidelines on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers for adoption by the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting (ALMM) and encouraged close partnerships with stakeholders in the implementation of the Guidelines at the national and regional levels. We also noted the completion of the ASEAN Migration Outlook 2<sup>nd</sup> edition which examined the nexus of climate change, human mobility, and labour migration in our region.
92. We looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Skills Mobility, Recognition, and Development of Migrant Workers which aims at enhancing migrant workers' access to skill development and certification, mainstreaming skills recognition, policy and labour migration governance, and promoting whole-of-society approach, stronger collaboration and active networks.
93. We noted the successful conduct of the ASEAN Green Jobs Forum on 24-25 April 2024 in Malaysia as a platform in sharing best practices and existing policies and programmes that sought to address the critical need for green skills and green jobs in the region, which contributed to the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth. We also noted the completion of the ASEAN Employment Outlook 1<sup>st</sup> edition which focused on informal employment and the emerging gig economy, and how to better protect the

well-being of these workers and looked forward to the development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

94. We appreciated the strong commitment of the ASCC Sectoral Bodies in promoting and protecting the rights of children, including through the prevention and elimination of child labour in the region. We took note of ASEAN Member States' continued efforts in combating child labour in ASEAN and looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour, Including Worst Forms of Child Labour through the leadership of the ASEAN Senior Labor Officials Meeting (SLOM) in close collaboration with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).
95. We commended the continued efforts of the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) in raising the standards of civil service in the region, as well as the initiative of the ACCSM under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam in developing a standard definition and guiding principles of work-life balance in the public sector that will support the well-being of civil servants. We applauded the ACCSM for updating the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Human Resource Toolkit, which provides a practical tool for assessing gender mainstreaming in civil service.
96. We commended the progress of the Roadmap to Implement the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community. We noted the development of key regional guidance on social work, including the ASEAN Regional Guidance for ASEAN Member States on Strengthening the Role of Social Workers and the wider Social Service Workforce in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience and the ASEAN Regional Guidance for ASEAN Member States on Strengthening the Role of Social Workers and the Social Service Workforce in Education Sector. We also commended the successful convening of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Social Work Consortium Conference on 6-7 December 2023 with the theme "Strengthening the Role of Social Work: Responding to the Changing Socio-Economic, Environmental, and Political Landscapes in ASEAN."
97. We noted the ongoing mid-term review of the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and expressed our appreciation to all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies for their support and active participation. We also noted the meaningful and substantive engagements with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities through the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF).
98. We reaffirmed the importance of promoting rural development and poverty eradication in the region. We also underscored the importance of rural-urban linkages, and the roles of rural women and youth in rural development and poverty eradication. We commended the efforts under the ASEAN Villages Network in developing sustainable solutions to respond to rural development challenges, address poverty, as well as strengthening the ASEAN identity, including through exploring rural-urban networking and collaborating with the ASCN and external partners. We looked forward to the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Villages Network in Indonesia in 2024.

99. We reiterated our support to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through the acknowledgment of unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW), which is a significant issue in many ASEAN Member States. We reaffirmed our support to the initiative of Lao PDR to convene the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit under the theme "Strengthening Care Economy and Resilience towards ASEAN Community Post-2025" and looked forward to the adoption of a Declaration on Strengthening Care Economy and Resilience Toward ASEAN Community Post-2025.
100. We noted with appreciation the establishment of multi-sectoral ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Steering Committee (AGMSC) to steer and provide strategic guidance on the operationalisation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework and the roll-out of the Implementation Plan of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (AGMSF) 2015-2025 across the three ASEAN Community pillars. We reaffirmed the need to scale-up ASEAN's efforts on integrating gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes in the work of all relevant sectors towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.
101. We supported the ongoing implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children, and we looked forward to its end-term review and development of the successor regional plans of action that will provide more future-proof protection approaches to the women's rights and children's rights. On Women, Peace, and Security, we commended the launch of the ASEAN Localisation Toolkit and Guidelines on Localisation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace, and Security. We also commended the work of the Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security that coordinates with various ASEAN Sectoral Bodies on implementing the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security. We noted the International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security to be hosted by the Philippines on 28-30 October 2024 in Manila, Philippines.
102. We commended the education sector for its continued efforts in improving the quality of education across all levels from early childhood education to higher education. We welcomed the adoption of the Vientiane Statement on Equity, Access and Environment: Advancing Climate Resilience in Early Childhood Settings in ASEAN at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Ensuring Equal Access to Quality Early Childhood Development and Care held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 14-15 May 2024, which underscored the need to integrate climate resilience into Early Childhood Care and Education planning and actions. Emphasising the importance of prioritising educational quality within ASEAN, we looked forward to the outcomes of the regional Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) main survey and encouraged all ASEAN Member States to participate in the assessment.
103. We noted the substantial progress in implementing the Intra-ASEAN Scholarship Program for ASEAN Nationals and looked forward to the key findings and recommendations from its on-going research which aims to provide valuable insights for ASEAN and individual Member States in developing policies and programs geared towards nurturing inclusivity and enhancing intra-ASEAN mobility.

104. We looked forward to the implementation of the Roadmap of the ASEAN Declaration on the Digital Transformation of Education Systems in Southeast Asia and the improvements that it will bring to learning delivery in the region.
105. We reiterated our commitment to equipping ASEAN youth with necessary skills to address present and future challenges through youth exchanges, youth leadership, and youth volunteerism programmes as well as skills training and social entrepreneurship programmes.
106. We acknowledged the significant role of ASEAN Culture and the Arts in advancing inclusive and sustainable development in order to strengthen the capacity building and increase more innovation and creativity activities and projects of the culture and the arts. In this regard, we looked forward to the adoption of the Vang Vieng Declaration on Promoting the Small and Medium-sized Cultural Enterprises aligned with the Green Growth for Sustainable Development.
107. We acknowledged the ongoing implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts 2016-2025 and noted the continued commitment and robust efforts in the culture and arts cooperation to foster an increasingly vibrant and interconnected ASEAN towards an inclusive and sustainable community.
108. We emphasised the need to further promote the development of ASEAN Creative and Cultural Economy, and looked forward to more activities including policy dialogue, capacity-building and networking to support the creative and cultural industries toward building a dynamic and vibrant ASEAN Community and engendering a sense of pride in celebrating ASEAN Identity.
109. We reiterated our commitment to global climate action and biodiversity at national, sub-national and regional levels and welcomed the progress made towards the finalisation of the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP29) and the ASEAN Joint Statement on Biodiversity to the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16), respectively.
110. We welcomed the progress towards the establishment and encouraged the acceleration of the operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in Brunei Darussalam to further reaffirm ASEAN's commitment in enhancing regional cooperation and coordination on climate change.
111. We recognised that Southeast Asia is one of the regions highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. In our efforts to achieve net-zero emission targets, we reiterated our call for developed countries to fulfil their commitments under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement which include expediting and scaling-up their contributions to climate finance, capacity building and technology development and transfer for climate change adaptation and mitigation. We noted the convening of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Climate Change Partnership Conference on 28 May 2024 in Bali, Indonesia. We also noted the ongoing progress on the development of an ASEAN Community-based Climate Action that provides

comprehensive overview of the region's climate action at the community level. We welcomed the ASEAN Climate Finance Mobilisation and Access Strategy. We looked forward to the UNFCCC COP29 in November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

112. We reaffirmed our commitment to existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances, and the CBD, and Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions (BRS). We underscored the acceleration and advancement of MEAs implementation through enhancing cooperation in areas like capacity-building, sharing knowledge and skills, technology transfer, and financing.
113. We committed to scaling up efforts to tackle environmental challenges, among others, through halting and reversing biodiversity loss, preventing loss and damage from climate change impacts, enhancing climate mitigation and adaptation efforts including for coastal and marine ecosystem, ensuring the sustainable use and management of water resources and promoting sustainable development.
114. We continued to support the work of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in assisting ASEAN Member States in mainstreaming biodiversity into various development sectors, promoting nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approach to enhance the region's resilience against zoonotic diseases, addressing climate change, and facilitating ASEAN's contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). We looked forward to the convening of the CBD COP16 from 21 October to 1 November 2024, in Colombia.
115. We also welcomed the progress towards the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC THPC) in Indonesia and resumption of the discussion to finalise the Host Country Agreement of the ACC THPC. The operationalisation of the ACC THPC, as well as the work of the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), the ACB, and the ASEAN Research and Training Centre for Space Technology and Applications (ARTSA), in accordance with their respective mandates under the Establishment Agreement of the ACC THPC, will facilitate effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution and further reaffirm ASEAN's commitment in enhancing regional cooperation and coordination on transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region.
116. We noted with serious concern that transboundary haze pollution has adverse impacts on the public health, well-being, and economies of ASEAN. We emphasised that transboundary haze pollution arising from land and forest fires remains a major concern in the region. We stressed the importance of remaining vigilant and welcomed the ongoing preventive efforts to minimise transboundary haze pollution during periods of drier and hotter weather. We reaffirmed our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) and welcomed the adoption of the Second Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation (Haze-free Roadmap) 2023-2030 and the Second



ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2023-2030 to further strengthen, intensify, and comprehensively address the root causes of transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region. We also noted the endorsement of the ASEAN Investment Framework for Haze-free Sustainable Land Management.

117. We commended the 2035 Vision Toward a Transformative, Responsive and Resilient Information and Media Sector that underscored the cross-cutting role of the information and media sector. We noted the sustained efforts to mitigate the harmful effects of fake news through the Da Nang Declaration on Media: From Information to Knowledge for a Resilient and Responsive ASEAN, and the ASEAN Guideline on Management of Government Information in Combating Fake News and Disinformation in the Media.
118. We acknowledged the importance of enhancing the visibility of our ASEAN Community and increasing awareness of our milestones and achievements through the narratives and stories of people who have directly experienced the positive impact of the ASEAN Community-building process. We commended the ASCC in its public engagement and awareness raising activities including the ASEAN Magazine which plays an important role in effectively broadening engagement and nurturing a well-informed ASEAN Community.
119. We recognised the devastating impact of natural disasters and climate change on ASEAN endeavours towards sustainable development. We reaffirmed the importance of implementing the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disaster (ASEAN SHIELD), and the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Resilience, to prepare for and manage disaster and climate-related risks and their impacts in the region through a holistic, cross-pillar and cross-sectoral approach, and enhance collaboration in strengthening climate and disaster resilience. In line with these Declarations, we emphasised the importance of continuously promoting a whole-of-ASEAN approach in disaster management. We also noted the discussions of the ASEAN Disaster Resilience Platform (ADRP) and encouraged active participation of relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies across the three ASEAN Community Pillars to the ADRP.
120. We welcomed the progress of the review of the TOR of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC). We noted the initial development of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2026-2030 and encouraged the next phase of discussion on the operationalisation and socialisation of the revised Financial Rules of ADMER Fund.
121. We reaffirmed our commitment to continuously enhance ASEAN's capacity to implement the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region. We commended the AHA Centre's continuous efforts in strengthening the ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINet), Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS), and the scoping study for 'One ASEAN, One Response' Outside the Region. We expressed appreciation for the strong commitment and support of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN partners in further strengthening the Disaster

Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA), and the ASEAN Emergency Response Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT). We reiterated our commitment towards full and effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030. We noted the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) to be hosted by the Philippines on 14-18 October 2024 in Manila, Philippines.

122. In commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami, we reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen ASEAN's early warning system, preparedness, response, and recovery capacity on tsunami and other mega-disasters, and we looked forward to the commemorative events in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. We further looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Ministerial Statement on the Commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Ocean Tsunami and the ASEAN Ministerial Declaration on Building a Resilient ASEAN through Inclusive and Sustainable Disaster Recovery.
123. We reaffirmed ASEAN's continued support for Myanmar's efforts to bring peace, stability, the rule of law, promote harmony and reconciliation among the various communities, as well as ensure sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State. We emphasised the importance of and reiterated our continued support for Myanmar's commitment to ensuring safety and security for all communities in Rakhine State as effectively as possible and facilitating the voluntary return of displaced persons in a safe, secure, and dignified manner. We noted and encouraged the engagement and cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh for the pilot repatriation project. We looked forward to ASEAN's continued facilitation of the repatriation process through the implementation of projects as the follow up to the recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment (PNA). We also looked forward to the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) when conditions allow and encouraged the Secretary-General of ASEAN to continue identifying possible areas for ASEAN to effectively facilitate the repatriation process.

### **ASEAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

124. We underscored the importance of strengthening ASEAN unity and Centrality in our engagement with external partners, including through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ADMM-Plus, in order to build mutual trust and confidence as well as reinforce an open, transparent, resilient, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture with ASEAN at the centre that upholds international law. We underscored the need to promote an enabling environment for peace, stability and prosperous development for all through ensuring a culture of dialogue and cooperation, instead of rivalry, enhancing mutual trust and confidence, and respect for international law. We reaffirmed that ASEAN shall act in accordance with ASEAN Centrality in external political, economic, social and cultural relations while remaining actively engaged, outward-looking, inclusive and non-discriminatory, in line with the ASEAN Charter.

125. We noted with satisfaction the encouraging progress in ASEAN's relations with our Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, and Development Partners through the existing frameworks and the implementation of Plans of Action, Practical Cooperation Areas and development cooperation programmes based on mutual interest and benefit in contribution to ASEAN Community-building and development cooperation efforts. We agreed to further strengthen partnerships and cooperation with our partners, including through sub-regional development cooperation and projects, thus contributing to the continued efforts towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, as well as our proactive response to regional and global challenges and opportunities.
126. We are committed to fostering an outward-looking community that supports regional sustainable growth and resilience through inclusive cooperation and collaboration with external partners. We took note of the growing interest from countries and regional organisations outside of the region in developing stronger collaboration and substantial cooperation with ASEAN, including through applications for formal partnerships with ASEAN. We affirmed the importance of pursuing an outward-looking policy and agreed on the need to reach out to new potential external partners based on shared interest, constructive engagement and mutual benefit, which could contribute to ASEAN Community-building, regional integration and development cooperation efforts. We noted ASEAN's rising global relevance and unique convening power amidst the emerging multipolar global architecture.
127. We recalled our decision to commence a comprehensive review of the moratorium on new dialogue partnerships, in conjunction with the work of the ASEAN Community Vision Post-2025, with the objective to enhance the ASEAN Community and advance ASEAN's relations with external parties. In this regard, we noted the ongoing discussion of the ASEAN Senior Officials and looked forward to their recommendations for our consideration.
128. We welcomed the increased engagement between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and ASEAN's external partners, including through the 95 Non-ASEAN Ambassadors Accredited to ASEAN (NAAAs). We also welcomed the role of the 55 ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and International Organisations (ACTCs) in promoting ASEAN's interest and forging partnerships in the respective host countries and international organisations.

### **Dialogue Partners**

129. We looked forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Australia Summit; the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit; the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit; the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Summit to commemorate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations; the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-U.S. Summit; and the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-India Summit, to be held during the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits in October 2024.
130. We underscored that the establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) with ASEAN should be meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan CSP at the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit through the adoption of the Joint Statement on the Establishment of the

ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership at the ASEAN-Canada Summit during the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Jakarta, in September 2023, through the adoption of the Joint Leaders' Statement on ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership. We further welcomed the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations and looked forward to the establishment of the ASEAN-ROK CSP and the adoption of its Joint Statement at the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Summit in October 2024, in conjunction with the milestone. ASEAN welcomed and looked forward to more details on New Zealand's intention to request for an ASEAN-New Zealand CSP.

131. We commended the successful convening of the Commemorative Summit for the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation on 16-18 December 2023, in Tokyo, Japan; the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit to Commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations on 4-6 March 2024, in Melbourne, Australia; and the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting on 2 February 2024, in Brussels, Belgium. We welcomed the proposal on the convening of the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit in 2025.
132. We looked forward to the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2025-2029), which will guide the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia CSP for the next five years. We also looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement on Strengthening Humanitarian Mine Action Cooperation, the Joint Statement of ASEAN and Russia Foreign Ministers Commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Russia's Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and the ASEAN-UK Joint Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Connectivity for a Prosperous and Sustainable Future.
133. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-U.S. Center at Arizona State University to enhance ASEAN-U.S. cooperation and also looked forward to further consultations on the establishment of the ASEAN-Australia Centre.

### **ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partners and ASEAN Development Partners**

134. We noted the progress made in the ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partnerships (SDPs) with Brazil, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Switzerland, Türkiye and United Arab Emirates, as well as Development Partnerships with Chile, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. We welcomed Peru as a Development Partner of ASEAN. We also looked forward to the convening of the individual trilateral meetings between ASEAN Chair, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, and Norway, Türkiye, and Switzerland during the 57<sup>th</sup> AMM/PMCs and Related Meetings.
135. We welcomed the adoption of the Practical Cooperation Areas between ASEAN and Brazil, Morocco, Pakistan, South Africa, Türkiye and United Arab Emirates, respectively, for the period of 2024-2028 earlier this year, which will serve as the overall framework for ASEAN's cooperation with the respective SDPs over the next five years. We also welcomed the establishment of the Mission of the Federative

Republic of Brazil to ASEAN in Jakarta, which demonstrated the country's strong desire to strengthen relations and cooperation with ASEAN.

## **Regional and International Organisations**

136. We reaffirmed the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation and underscored the importance of ASEAN's partnerships with other external partners such as regional and international organisations, including the UN, to address global concerns, pursue shared goals and complementary initiatives, and promote sustainable development for the benefit of our people. In this regard, we looked forward to the continued high-level interactions between ASEAN and the UN, including the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UN Summit at the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits and Related Summits later this year.
137. We were pleased to note the positive progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN (2021-2025). We reaffirmed our commitment to intensifying cooperation in the implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025), effectively realising the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and continuing our close collaboration and cooperation at regional and international fora.
138. We welcomed the successful convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit in October 2023, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the Joint Statement of the Summit of ASEAN and GCC and the ASEAN-GCC Framework of Cooperation (FOC) 2024-2028, which has guided our future relations and cooperation with the GCC. We looked forward to the effective implementation of the Joint Statement and the FOC. We noted the convening of the ASEAN-GCC Business and Investment Conference on 28 May 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. We also looked forward to the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-GCC Summit that will be held in Malaysia in 2025.
139. We welcomed the adoption of the Framework of Cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organisation (2024-2028) at the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ECO Ministerial Meeting in September 2023. We looked forward to the convening of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 79<sup>th</sup> UNGA in September 2024.
140. We expressed our serious disappointment over the continued failure of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to reflect substantive and factual updates on the paragraphs relating to the South China Sea in NAM key outcome documents, including the Final Document of the 19<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the NAM adopted at the Summit in Kampala, Uganda on 19 January 2024. We called on all NAM Members to respect ASEAN, and ASEAN's unity and Centrality, especially on issues which directly affect peace and prosperity in its own immediate region. We also called on all NAM Members to uphold their commitment to the main goals and objectives of NAM as enshrined in the Bandung Principles and to firmly uphold the principles of non-alignment while promoting peace, friendship, solidarity and cooperation among ourselves.

## **ASEAN Plus Three**

141. We reaffirmed the important role of the APT cooperation framework in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the East Asian region with ASEAN as the driving force. We reaffirmed our commitment to implementing the Manila Declaration on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation. We acknowledged the substantive progress of the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2023-2027. We were committed to further strengthening APT mechanisms, including the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), the Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), and ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), as well as exploring potential areas of cooperation which would contribute to greater regional resilience and preparedness against emerging challenges and future shocks as well as to promote recovery toward inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable growth. We also looked forward to the convening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> East Asia Forum.

## **East Asia Summit**

142. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthening the EAS as a premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political, and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region, with ASEAN as the driving force. In this regard, we were committed to ensuring the effective follow-up on the Ha Noi Declaration on the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EAS to further strengthen the EAS process, sustain its strategic value and relevance as well as enhance its responsiveness to fast-changing developments in the regional and global contexts.
143. We acknowledged the importance of increasing strategic coordination between the EAS and other ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ARF and the ADMM-Plus, including through the submission of reports and information-sharing by the ASEAN Chair, where deemed necessary, for the EAS' information.
144. We looked forward to further enhancing cooperation in EAS streams of work through effective implementation of the EAS Plan of Action 2024-2028 to ensure practical coordination, cooperation, and implementation of the EAS Leaders' statements, declarations, decisions, and initiatives.
145. We welcomed the continued efforts to strengthen the EAS, including through, among others, the regular engagement between the CPR and the non-ASEAN Ambassador of EAS Participating Countries in Jakarta and encouraged their continuation as the Group of the East Asia Summit Participating Countries' Ambassadors to ASEAN in Jakarta to discuss the implementation of the EAS Leaders' decisions, and exchange information on regional development cooperation initiatives and security policies and initiatives, and discuss the evolving regional architecture with the support of the EAS Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat.
146. We expressed our willingness to work together to promote the common goals and interests of the EAS participating countries while reaffirming the importance of maintaining and promoting ASEAN unity and Centrality. In this regard, we were

committed to a single EAS statement that emphasises the EAS Participating Countries' commitment to enhancing the region's connectivity and resilience as the outcome document of the 19<sup>th</sup> EAS.

### **ASEAN Regional Forum**

147. We reaffirmed the importance of the ARF as the leading regional security forum in the Asia-Pacific region for fostering constructive dialogue and cooperation among its Participants on political and security issues of common interest and concern, with ASEAN as the primary driving force. In the face of increasingly complex challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, we looked forward to further discussion on the continued efforts and follow-up actions to ensure the ARF's efficiency and effectiveness, in accordance with the 2020 Guide to ARF Processes, Procedures, Practices, and Protocol. We further encouraged ARF Participants to strengthen efforts in confidence building measures and preventive diplomacy in adherence to the principles stipulated in the ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan in order for the ARF to progress to Stage II, Development of Preventive Diplomacy, of the three-stage process in accordance with the 1995 ARF Concept Paper.
148. We noted the progress in the implementation of the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025). We encouraged the ARF Participants to expedite the implementation of the pending action lines and to consider updating the ARF Vision Statement to reaffirm the role and enhance the effectiveness and relevance of the ARF in the evolving regional security architecture. We also encouraged ARF Participants to initiate discussion for the development of the next Plan of Action for the ARF.
149. We underscore the need to undertake a holistic and comprehensive approach to revitalise the ARF and maintain its relevance in the evolving regional security architecture as well as its ability to address emerging political and security challenges while fostering a more substantive, constructive and interactive dialogue among the participants. In this regard, we noted the on-going discussions of the ASEAN Senior Officials on revitalising the ARF, including a review on the roles, achievements, and challenges of the ARF over the past 30 years, and assessment on the low implementation rate of the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II, to ensure it continues to function as the leading regional security forum in the Asia-Pacific region, with a view to building capacity, developing expertise and enhancing coordination in areas that can contribute to the region's peace, security and stability. We encouraged the ASEAN Senior Officials to complete their discussions, including on the revitalisation of the ARF.

### **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific**

150. We expressed concern on the intensifying geopolitical tensions in the region, and further underlined the value and relevance of the AOIP to ASEAN's peace, security, stability and prosperity. We underscored ASEAN's determination in shaping and leading the evolving regional architecture that is built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms and to ensure that the geopolitical and geostrategic shifts will continue to bring about, and not disrupt regional peace, security, and prosperity.

151. We reiterated our determination to further promote the AOIP in our interactions with partners and to mainstream and promote the implementation of concrete AOIP projects and activities, including through workstreams under the four priority areas in order to enhance win-win cooperation and to promote mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual benefit through ASEAN-led mechanisms. We acknowledged and continued to encourage the support of all our partners to the AOIP including through the issuance of joint statements, as well as undertaking AOIP-related initiatives in accordance with the objectives and principles contained in the AOIP. We welcomed the convening of the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Workshop on The Use of Technology for Sustainable Aquaculture on 21-22 May 2024 in Bali, Indonesia and looked forward to the convening of an AOIP Forum: Towards UN SDGs 2030 and the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum 2024 on the margins of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) in October 2024. We welcomed the adoption of the Concept Paper on the Implementation of the AOIP from a Defence Perspective by the 17<sup>th</sup> ADMM last November.
152. We are committed to enhancing our engagement with other potential partners in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. We looked forward to forging cooperation between ASEAN and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and between ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

## **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

153. We recognised the strategic importance of our region for our peace, security, stability, and prosperity, as well as for those of our external partners. ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms remain inclusive, and open avenues that facilitate constructive dialogue and concrete cooperation to address regional and international issues that may impact our region.

### **South China Sea**

154. We discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which concerns were expressed by some Ministers on the land reclamations, activities, serious incidents in the area, including actions that put the safety of all persons at risk, damage to the marine environment, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions, and may undermine peace, security, and stability in the region. We reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation. We further reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.



155. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, 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, stability, and prosperity. We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety. We welcomed the progress achieved so far in the ongoing negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), notably the third reading of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text (SDNT) and encouraged continued positive momentum in this regard. We encouraged efforts to make full use of the Guidelines for Accelerating the Early Conclusion of an Effective and Substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea adopted at the PMC Plus One Session with China on 13 July 2023 and looked forward to the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the need to maintain and promote an environment conducive to the COC negotiations, and thus welcomed practical measures that could reduce tensions and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings, and miscalculation. We stressed the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence amongst parties, and we reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

### **Maritime Situation in the Region**

156. We recalled the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maintaining and Promoting Stability in the Maritime Sphere in Southeast Asia issued on 30 December 2023, which, among other provisions, reaffirmed our unity, solidarity and shared commitment to maintaining and further strengthening stability in our maritime sphere to bring about overall peace, security, stability, and prosperity in our region.

### **Developments in the Korean Peninsula**

157. We expressed concern over the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula and stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We expressed grave concern over the recent surge in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) intercontinental ballistic missile testing and ballistic missile launches and the increased tension in the Korean Peninsula, which are a worrisome development that threatens peace and stability in the region. We called on the DPRK to comply fully with all relevant UNSC Resolutions and called for peaceful dialogue among the concerned parties, and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace, and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We called for the full implementation of all relevant UNSC Resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Diplomatic efforts, including the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties should remain a priority. We reiterated our readiness to play a constructive role, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere for peaceful dialogue amongst the concerned parties.

## Developments in Myanmar

158. We discussed the developments in Myanmar and expressed our deep concern over the escalation of conflicts and humanitarian situation. We reaffirmed our united position that the ASEAN Leaders' Five-Point Consensus (5PC) remains our main reference to address the political crisis in Myanmar. We also reaffirmed the relevant Leaders' decisions. We strongly condemned the continued acts of violence against civilians and public facilities and called for immediate cessation, and urged all parties involved to take concrete action to immediately halt indiscriminate violence, denounce any escalation, exercise utmost restraint, ensure the protection and safety of all civilians and create a conducive environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogue.
159. We welcomed the progress of the provision of ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance under Phase 1 (Life-Saving/COVID-19 response) and Phase 2 (Life-Sustaining) by the AHA Centre in coordination with Myanmar to implement Point 4 of the ASEAN Leaders' 5PC. We noted that as of 10 July 2024, the total distributed value under the Phase 2 response is around USD 1.88 million through the provision of food (rice and food packages composed of rice, pulses, oil, salt) and non-food items (family kits and personal hygiene kits) reaching the affected populations in Sagaing Region, Magway Region, southern Shan State and Mon State. In this regard, we commended the AHA Centre for its continuous efforts in delivering ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar, and welcomed Thailand's humanitarian initiative, which are in line with the 5PC and coordinated with the ASEAN Chair through the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar. We appreciated the contributions by ASEAN Member States, external partners, and the private sector, and called for all relevant parties in Myanmar to ensure the safe and transparent delivery of humanitarian assistance, to the people in Myanmar without discrimination, towards the more effective implementation of Point 4 of the 5PC. Recognising the urgency of addressing the humanitarian emergency and the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) Report, we called for scaled-up additional financial support from the international community for humanitarian assistance, including to ensure the safety and livelihood of internally displaced persons (IDPs).
160. We commended H.E. Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhoun, the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, for his efforts since his appointment in early 2024 as we continue to promote progress in the implementation of the 5PC in its entirety. We appreciated his efforts to continue reaching out to parties concerned in a sustainable manner and are confident in his resolve to help the people of Myanmar to achieve an inclusive and durable peaceful resolution that is Myanmar-owned and -led for peace, security and stability in the region. In this regard, we welcomed the convening of the informal consultation consisting of the current, previous, and incoming Chairs of ASEAN on the implementation of the 5PC during the 57<sup>th</sup> AMM/PMCs and Related Meetings and looked forward to the possible participation of other interested ASEAN Member States at future sessions.
161. We welcomed the appointment of H.E. Julie Bishop as the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar and emphasised the need for close

coordination between the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar and the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar.

162. We will conduct our comprehensive review of the 5PC implementation and submit our recommendation to the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits.

### **Situation in Ukraine**

163. With regard to Ukraine, as for all nations, we continued to reaffirm our respect for sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity. We reiterated our call for compliance with the UN Charter and international law. We underlined the importance of an immediate cessation of hostilities and the serious engagement in a genuine dialogue for the peaceful resolution of the conflict. We supported the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in the search for peaceful solution. We also called for the facilitation of rapid, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for those in need in Ukraine, and for the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel, and persons in vulnerable situations.

### **Situation in the Middle East**

164. We expressed grave concern over the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, which has been exacerbated following the 7 October attacks. We condemned all attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, which have resulted in the alarming number of casualties, particularly women and children, the restricted access to food, water, and other basic needs, leading to the further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. We urged all relevant parties to accept the ceasefire proposal as outlined in paragraph 2 of UN Security Council Resolution 2735. We called for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, especially 23 ASEAN nationals, women, children, the sick and the elderly. We underscored the importance of release from any arbitrary detention. We commended the efforts of various ASEAN Member States in providing humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and urged all ASEAN Member States and our external partners to continue providing and facilitating such assistance for Gaza. We supported the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in the execution of its mandate and the UN Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza to discharge her task effectively and efficiently, and to begin the work on post-conflict reconstruction. We called for rapid, safe, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to all those in need, including through increased capacity at border crossings, including by sea. We called on all parties to the conflict to protect civilians and to abide by international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We urged all parties concerned to work towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict with a view to realising the two-State solution in accordance with international law and the relevant UNSC and UNGA resolutions, including UNGA resolution A/RES/ES-10/23 on the Admission of New Members to the UN dated 10 May 2024 which we all voted in favour. We took note, and some of us underlined the importance of, the order on provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 26 January 2024. We acknowledge the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ on 19 July 2024, which is of the opinion, among others, that the United Nations, and especially the General Assembly, which requested this opinion, and the Security Council, should consider the precise modalities and further action

required to bring to an end as rapidly as possible the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In this context, we reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law. We expressed great concern over the escalation of tension in the Middle East and called on all parties concerned to exercise self-restraint, avoid acts that may aggravate the situation, and resolve differences through diplomacy and dialogue in the interest of maintaining peace and stability in the region.

#### **THE 58<sup>th</sup> ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING**

165. We looked forward to the convening of the 58<sup>th</sup> AMM, Post Ministerial Conferences, 26<sup>th</sup> APT Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 15<sup>th</sup> EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and 32<sup>nd</sup> ARF to be held in Malaysia, in 2025.