



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 21ST ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT
VIENTIANE, LAO PDR
10 October 2024**

1. The 21st ASEAN-India Summit was held on 10 October 2024, in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Summit was attended by ASEAN Member States, Hon. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, as well as the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as Observer. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.

2. We reiterated our support for the Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience," which reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to strengthening the ASEAN Community through intensifying ASEAN cooperation across the three Community pillars, promoting infrastructure connectivity, narrowing development gaps, enhancing economic integration, promoting people-to-people exchanges, and strengthening capacity and institutional effectiveness. We congratulated the Lao PDR for the successful convening of the 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings, from 21 to 27 July 2024, in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

3. We noted with satisfaction the progress of ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership as showcased by the good rate of implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2021-2025) and its Annex. We encouraged ASEAN and India to further maximise efforts in fully implementing the activities under the Plan of Action, its Annex and other existing initiatives with ASEAN, to further advance the CSP that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial. We looked forward to the development of a new ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2026-2030) that will guide both sides in realising the full potential of the ASEAN-India CSP over the next five years.

4. We emphasised our mutual interest and shared aspiration in promoting regional peace, stability and prosperity in the region. In this regard, we appreciated India's long-standing partnership to this end and its strong commitment to upholding ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora. We would continue exploring opportunities to promote practical cooperation with India, especially in the four priority areas identified in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) within

ASEAN-led mechanisms. In this regard, we encouraged ASEAN and India to exert maximum efforts to materialise the implementation of the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for Peace, Stability and Prosperity in the Region adopted in 2021, as well as the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Maritime Cooperation adopted last year. We also adopted Joint Statement on Strengthening ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Peace, Stability and Prosperity in the Region in the context of the ASEAN Outlook of the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) with the Support of India's Act East Policy (AEP) reaffirming India's support for ASEAN centrality and unity in the evolving regional architecture and its commitment to working closely through ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora under its Act East Policy.

5. We noted India's active participation in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) and welcomed the successful co-chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the 2021-2024 cycle with Indonesia, with the conduct of a Table-Top Exercise (TTX) and Field-Training Exercise (FTX) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in October 2023. We looked forward to India's co-chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus EWG on Counter-Terrorism in the 2024-2027 cycle with Malaysia. Furthermore, we welcomed India's participation and contribution to the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), including its rotational co-chairmanship of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) for the Inter-Sessional period 2022-2026, alongside Indonesia, Cambodia, China and the United States.

6. We noted the enhanced ASEAN-India collaboration in countering transnational crime, manifested under the ASEAN Plus India Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + India) Consultation framework and guided by the SOMTC+India Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2023-2027). We welcomed the successful convening of the 11th SOMTC + India Consultation in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 28 June 2024, which explored potential areas of cooperation and looked forward to the full and effective implementation of the Work Plan in addressing its five priority areas, namely terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons (TIP), cybercrime and international economic crime. We reiterated our commitment to supporting ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs (2016-2025) through the annual convening of the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) + India Consultation.

7. We reiterated our shared commitment to further strengthening ASEAN-India economic partnership, including through upholding the multilateral trading system, enhancing regional economic integration, and underscoring the importance of multilateralism and free trade.

8. We welcomed the progress made in the Review of the ASEAN-India Trade in

Goods Agreement (AITIGA) and reiterated the commitment to ensure the outcomes of the review should be mutually beneficial and commercially meaningful. Our objective is to make the AITIGA more effective, user-friendly, simple, and trade facilitative for businesses, and relevant, while aligning it with current global trading practices as well as supporting sustainable inclusive growth. We encouraged the AITIGA Joint Committee to expedite the review process toward the conclusion of the Review of the AITIGA in 2025. The early conclusion of the Review would significantly contribute to the bilateral trade relations.

9. We are pleased to note that as part of efforts to further promote trade and investment, increase engagement with the private sector, encourage business-to-business relations, and enhance the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), ASEAN and India have organised various conferences, expos and meetings, continuously engaging with each other. This includes the participation of the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) at the 10th ASEAN Economic Community Dialogue on 30 November 2023, at the invitation of ASEAN.

10. We encouraged ASEAN and India to strengthen and deepen collaboration in the priority areas under the Medium-Term Plan of Action for ASEAN-India Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry (2021-2025), including on food security and resilience of natural systems. Welcoming the adoption of ASEAN-India Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises last year, we emphasised the need to promote sustainable agriculture through further collaboration with India in the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture, focusing on promoting the use of digital technology and reducing the use of harmful chemicals in agricultural production. We welcomed the successful convening of the 8th Meeting of the ASEAN-India Working Group on Agriculture and Forestry (AIWGAF) on 21 November 2023, and the ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023 on 22-26 November 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia, and 14-15 December 2023, in New Delhi, India, respectively, to promote millets for increased food security, better nutrition, and increased resilience to climate change in ASEAN-India regions. We also commended India's initiative to launch the ASEAN India Fellowship for Higher Education in Agriculture and Allied Sciences this year, which is expected to further boost the creation of a pool of expert human resource in ASEAN for agriculture and allied sciences sector development, ultimately enhancing the socio-economic status and livelihood of the general population of ASEAN Member States.

11. We welcomed collaboration in the area of FinTech, in order to build financial connectivity between India and ASEAN through digital payment, with a view of inclusion of local communities and expansion of opportunities for businesses, in bridging the divide across these sectors. In this context, we noted India's proposals on the establishment of an ASEAN-India Annual Financial Dialogue and the progress made in the discussions between ASEAN and India on its establishment. Further, we

welcomed India's announcement of the Fund for Digital Future at the 20th ASEAN-India Summit in 2023 which is aimed at taking digital cooperation forward, especially on Digital Public Infrastructure. We appreciated India for operationalisation of the same in 2024 with the adoption of Rules of Procedure and encouraged stakeholders to work on joint projects. On digital payment linkages, we welcomed the Reserve Bank of India's participation in Phase Four ASEAN Project Nexus network.

12. We also welcomed collaboration in the area of cybersecurity, and looked forward to the upcoming Track 1 ASEAN-India Cyber Policy Dialogue in October 2024.

13. We expressed appreciation to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and India's Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) for the ongoing joint study in regards to the AITIGA Review that shall focus on areas of recommendations in making the AITIGA more meaningful and beneficial for trade between ASEAN and India.

14. We commended ASEAN and India's close cooperation in the areas of science, technology and innovation (STI), including through the effective utilisation of the ASEAN-India Fund (AIF), ASEAN-India Green Fund (AIGF) and the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF). We also noted the implementation of several impactful initiatives, including ASEAN-India Collaborative R&D (AICRD) Scheme, ASEAN-India Research Training Fellowship (AIRTF) Scheme, ASEAN-India Grassroot Innovation Forum, ASEAN-India Women Scientist Conclave and ASEAN-India ScaleHub. We welcomed the convening of the 1st ASEAN-India Women Scientists Conclave in April 2024 in Singapore. We encouraged exploring new cooperation exploring different themes within the STI areas. We supported to further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in the space sector including through the establishment of a Tracking, Data Reception and Processing Stations in Viet Nam and Indonesia, and encouraged cooperation between ASEAN and Indian space industry players, including in new areas of collaboration.

15. We encouraged India's support for the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC) in Brunei Darussalam, towards facilitating regional cooperation and coordination on addressing climate change among Member States. We looked forward to cooperation on joint research, analysis and policy developments to achieve the regions' climate-resilient and low-carbon vision between relevant Indian agencies and the ACCC as well as other relevant ASEAN centres. We also underscored the need to promote cooperation to address transboundary haze pollution, including through the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) and support for the establishment and the operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution (ACCTHPC), in the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

(AATHP).

16. We encouraged ASEAN and India to enhance cooperation in digital domain, including through the implementation of the ASEAN-India Digital Workplan in the forms of capacity building initiatives in Information Communication and Technology (ICT), networking technology, broadband access, and digital initiatives. We also looked forward to exploring cooperation on utilizing and harnessing science, technology and innovation with a view to building a sustainable resilient community. We welcomed the successful convening of the 4th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN) on 1-2 February 2024. We also welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN-India 2024 Digital Work Plan at the 1st ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting and ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators Council (ADGSOM-ATRC) Leaders' Retreat on 19-21 March 2024, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Further, we adopted the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation as a means to promote inclusivity, efficiency, and innovation in public service delivery; connecting individuals, communities, industries, organisations and countries across geographies through digital means.

17. We appreciated India's support to the ongoing substantive policy discussion on the feasibility study of the envisaged ASEAN Cultural Heritage List (ACHL) led by the Senior Officials' Meeting on Culture and Arts (SOMCA). We also appreciated India's support in promoting ASEAN awareness both within the region and beyond through several initiatives, including The ASEAN magazine. Under people-to-people exchange, we took note of the successful implementation of a number of initiatives, namely the Leadership Programme for Young Leaders from the ASEAN countries and India, ASEAN-India Youth Summit and ASEAN-India Youth Awards, ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme, ASEAN-India Artist's Camp and Exhibition, and ASEAN-India Network of Universities (AINU) Faculty Exchange Programme (FEP), the Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks. We further looked forward to the convening of the 13th edition of Delhi Dialogue, 8th Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks, 5th ASEAN-India Youth Summit, 2nd ASEAN-India Startup Festival, third editions of the ASEAN-India Artists' Camp and ASEAN-India Music Festival as some of the initiative for marking a decade of India's Act East Policy.

18. We expressed appreciation for India's support in education exchanges through the two-year Master Programme at Nalanda University which benefitted ASEAN students since 2015. We also appreciated the doubling of slots available for Masters Courses from this year.

19. We encouraged India to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2021-2025). We noted the discussion on the Memorandum of Intent between the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management

(AHA Centre) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of India to cooperate and build disaster resilience in the region. We appreciated India's announcement of earmarking USD 5 million from ASEAN-India Fund for joint activities to promote disaster resilience.

20. We commended India's support for capacity-building of Timor-Leste officials so that Timor-Leste can fulfil all the criteria and milestones in the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN.

21. We appreciated India's support for ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap in ASEAN through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III, and looked forward to India's continued support in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025), addressing the promotion of collaboration on the digital development, cybersecurity, fintech cooperation, smart agriculture, safe and sustainable tourism, climate change, sustainable development, education, promotion of public-private partnerships on Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET), civil service matters and people linkages, among others. We welcomed India's continued support for ASEAN's efforts in strengthening sub-regional cooperation, including through the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation frameworks, to promote inclusive growth, and sustainable and equitable development across the region.

22. We commended India's steadfast commitment to working with ASEAN in the area of Connectivity, including through supporting physical and digital connectivity cooperation, and encouraged India to explore potential collaboration to support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, including through exploring synergies between MPAC 2025 and India's Act East Policy in line with the "Connecting the Connectivities" approach. We also encouraged the timely completion of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway as well as its extension to the Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam. We looked forward to continued engagement and support from India in the development of the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan for the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its future implementation.

23. With a view to accelerating tourism recovery in ASEAN and India, we agreed to celebrate the year 2025 as ASEAN-India Year of Tourism and appreciated India for announcing the support of USD 5 million towards taking up joint activities under the ASEAN-India Tourism Work Plan (2023-2027). At the 11th ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers' Meeting on 25 January 2024, in Vientiane, Lao PDR, we noted that cruise tourism was highlighted as a key upcoming priority within this work plan. This comprehensive and long-term strategic plan outlines the strategies and actions needed to achieve sustainability goals in the tourism sector.

24. Strengthening of preparedness and response capacities in areas of public health emergency, capacity building, sharing of best practices in fields of R&D,

promoting the exchange and integration of traditional medicine practices in modern healthcare have been identified as focus areas in health sector cooperation under ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We noted India's proposal to initiate the ASEAN-India Health Ministers' Meeting. We welcomed India's support for participation of stakeholders from ASEAN in the Annual National Cancer Grid Vishwam Conference for the next five years starting this year.

25. Cooperation in clean energy is crucial for achieving climate resilience. We welcomed the signing of an MoU between the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) aimed at advancing clean energy cooperation between ASEAN and India through civilian nuclear energy capacity-building activities. We also welcomed signing of MoU between ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and International Solar Alliance which enabled ACE to become a partner organisation at ISA. We welcomed India's intention to hold the ASEAN-India Workshop on Green Hydrogen.

26. We reaffirmed our commitment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD). In this regard, we looked forward to exploring concrete ideas and alternative approaches, including the Bio-Circular-Green Economy and other sustainability models.

27. We encouraged India to work with ASEAN in supporting other ASEAN Centres, such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD), ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE), ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR), and the ADMM Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence (ACICE).

28. We encouraged India to support the establishment of the ASEAN Power Grid.

29. We commended India's support to ASEAN Community building, including through the development and publication of The ASEAN magazine (Phase 1, 2 and 3) through the ASEAN-India Fund. We also took note of India's continued support to the ASEAN institutional strengthening, through the ASEAN magazine, which has contributed towards enhancing the writing skills, analytical and communication capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat and bringing ASEAN closer to the people in the region and beyond.

30. We welcomed the Working Visit of the Secretary-General of ASEAN to India, at the invitation of the Government of India, to further promote the ASEAN-India

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

31. 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 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 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. We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety and committed to maintaining and promoting an environment conducive to the negotiations of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) that is in accordance with International Law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

32. We discussed the developments in Myanmar and expressed our deep concern over the escalation of conflicts and humanitarian situation. We reaffirmed our support for the ASEAN Leaders' Five-Point Consensus (5PC), which remains the main reference to address the political crisis in Myanmar. We also reaffirmed the relevant decisions in the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus. We denounced 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. We appreciated the ASEAN Chair's efforts and commended the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, for his efforts to continue reaching out to parties concerned in a sustainable manner 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 acknowledged the convening of the informal consultation consisting of the current, previous, and incoming Chairs of ASEAN on the implementation of the 5PC during the 57th AMM/PMCs and Related Meetings. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus. We reaffirmed our commitment to the continued and sustainable strategies and approaches to help the people of Myanmar find an inclusive and durable peaceful resolution that is Myanmar-Owned and -Led for peace, security and stability in the region.
