



## **ASEAN Chair's Statement on the Commemorative Activity of the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC)**

24 July 2026

1. We, the representatives of High Contracting Parties to the TAC, gathered in Pasay City, Philippines, on 24 July 2026, for the Commemorative Activity of the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The Commemorative Activity was hosted by the Philippines as the ASEAN Chair.
2. On this day, we welcomed the accession of the Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Poland, Romania, and Kingdom of Sweden to the TAC. In this regard, we appreciated the growing relevance of the Treaty, as reflected in its expansion from the original five (5) signatories in 1976 to sixty-two (62) High Contracting Parties (HCPs) to date. We acknowledged that this remarkable growth underscores the Treaty's enduring appeal through the past five decades, as a foundation for peaceful relations, mutual respect, and cooperation in the region and beyond.
3. We also welcomed the convening of the High-Level Conference of High Contracting Parties (HCPs) to the TAC with the theme "Reinvigorating the TAC: Advancing ASEAN Centrality for Peace, Security, and Rules-Based Cooperation in an Evolving Indo-Pacific," to renew our collective commitment to peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and mutually beneficial cooperation.
4. During the Conference, we engaged in constructive discussions on promoting shared understanding on the TAC and its principles as a key instrument governing inter-state relations to maintain regional peace and stability and a tool in advancing mutually beneficial cooperation. We further exchanged views on three thematic areas, namely:
  - Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy
  - Enhancing Maritime Security and Promoting Maritime Cooperation
  - Advancing Cooperation in Addressing Emerging Threats and Challenges.
5. We discussed the role of the TAC in promoting peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law, inclusive dialogue and trust-building between ASEAN Member States and the other HCPs. We reaffirmed the continued relevance of the TAC as the foundation for a rules-based regional order and emphasized that conflict prevention requires adherence to international law, early warning and consultations, addressing root causes of conflict, and effective use of ASEAN, the United Nations, and other multilateral mechanisms. Participants also underscored

that sustainable peace depends on inclusive partnerships, accountability, confidence-building, mediation, peacekeeping, and practical cooperation to uphold sovereignty, peaceful dispute settlement, and regional stability.

6. We also explored practical areas of cooperation in the maritime domain that HCPs may pursue during the discussion under the thematic area of Enhancing Maritime Security and Promoting Maritime Cooperation. We engaged in constructive discussions on the relevance and importance of the TAC to maritime security, highlighting the primacy of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, including freedom of navigation and sustainable management of the world's oceans. The session also underscored the commitment of the participating countries to the principles of the TAC, particularly the peaceful settlement of disputes, which guides them in promoting stability and maintaining peace and security in our shared maritime spaces.
7. We also engaged in discussions on how HCPs can effectively respond, in accordance with the TAC, to emerging threats and challenges. We recognised that emerging threats and challenges include cyber-enabled crimes, transnational organized crime, disinformation, climate-induced disasters, attacks against critical infrastructure, pandemics, and disruptions to global food and energy security, and called for stronger practical cooperation among HCPs to address them, including through information-sharing and early warning mechanisms, expanding capacity-building and technical assistance, knowledge transfer, and coordinated responses among institutions, partners, and other stakeholders.
8. We reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen mutual trust and confidence, promote dialogue and cooperation in inter-state relations, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the TAC: mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all nations; the right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion; non-interference in the internal affairs of one another; settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful means; renunciation of the threat or use of force; and effective cooperation amongst themselves.
9. We also reaffirmed the importance and relevance of the TAC as a foundational code of conduct for inter-state relations in the region and a cornerstone of regional peace and stability, confidence-building and regional cooperation.
10. We underscored the continuing importance and relevance of the purposes and principles of the TAC, as well as its positive contributions in sustaining peace and stability in the Southeast Asian region and beyond, over the past 50 years which is consistent with the key principles, shared values, and norms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty/Bangkok Treaty) and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

11. We also underscored that the aspirations and commitments embodied in the TAC serve as a key foundation of ASEAN Centrality and contribute to strengthening the ASEAN-led regional architecture, anchored in dialogue, consultation, and cooperation. These principles will continue to guide ASEAN in building a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN, as envisioned in the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.
12. We called on all HCPs to the TAC to reaffirm their commitment to the purposes and principles of the TAC and to fulfill their obligations under the Treaty in its entirety. We also reiterated the importance of continuing to promote awareness, understanding and adherence to the underlying principles of the TAC among HCPs.
13. We further encouraged the HCPs to the TAC to build on the momentum of the commemoration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to deepen engagement with ASEAN, including by promoting further cooperation, ensuring that such engagements are ASEAN-driven, strategic, relevant, mutually beneficial, and responsive to current and emerging challenges, in line with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Decision on Enhancing ASEAN Relations with External Parties. In this regard, we welcomed the adoption of the *Guidelines on the Modalities for Engagement of ASEAN with High Contracting Parties (HCPs) under the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC)* by the 59th AMM, which established modalities of engagement aimed at deepening cooperation with HCPs that do not yet maintain formal partnerships with ASEAN.
14. We welcomed the growing interest of countries in acceding to the TAC, on the basis of respect for and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the TAC, and encouraged more countries and regional organisations to commit to its principles by becoming HCPs to the TAC. We further underscored that the accession to the TAC reflects a commitment to its purposes and principles and to continued engagement with ASEAN in promoting peace, stability and cooperation. In this regard, we welcomed the adoption of the *Revised Guidelines for Accession to 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC)*, which provide guidance on the procedures on the accession process of prospective HCPs.
15. We welcomed efforts by HCPs to ensure the TAC remains a relevant tool for advancing mutually beneficial cooperation in the region. In this regard, we noted the proposed *ASEAN-Australia Joint Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia*, which reaffirms the enduring relevance of the principles espoused in the TAC and emphasises the role of ASEAN and the ASEAN-led regional architecture in promoting conflict prevention, and looked forward to its adoption.
16. As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the TAC, we underscored the significance of commemorating this milestone through initiatives that celebrate the Treaty's legacy and reinforce its principles among both regional and non-regional HCPs. In this regard, we looked forward to the successful adoption of an ASEAN-sponsored resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the TAC during the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

17. We also underscored our commitment to enhance the Treaty's relevance and visibility in the region and beyond, including by strengthening ASEAN's research and activities on peace, reconciliation, conflict management and conflict resolution based on international law, as well as promoting dialogue, preventive diplomacy, confidence-building measures and practical cooperation that help address sources of tension before they escalate into conflict.
18. We further reaffirmed our commitment to uphold ASEAN Centrality in all ASEAN-led mechanisms in the region and promote mutually beneficial cooperation in accordance with the purposes and principles of the TAC to ensure that the evolving regional architecture can better meet current and future challenges.

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