

**JOINT STATEMENT
THE TENTH ASEAN-CHINA HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING
(10th ASEAN-China HMM)**

11 September 2026, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Tenth ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting was held on 11 September 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia **and UNITED** under the theme, “*Healthy ASEAN: Together Towards Equitable, Future-Ready Health Systems*”, and the topic, “*Advancing Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Health Systems for a Shared ASEAN-China Future*”;

COMMENDING a decade of dialogue and cooperation under the ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting, which has strengthened technical exchanges, mutual learning, and collaboration to address health priorities of common interest, including through the Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation between ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China on Health Cooperation, signed on 6 July 2012 in Phuket, Thailand;

FOLLOWING the outcomes from the 28th ASEAN-China Summit held on 28 October 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where we appreciated China’s partnership with ASEAN through the Programme on Public Health Emergency Preparedness Capacity (PROMPT) and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-China Women and Children’s Health Cooperation Centre (ACWCC) as a shared priority to improve maternal, newborn and child health, reproductive care and nutrition.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the health of populations is fundamental to human development, regional resilience, and sustainable growth, and that health systems face increasingly complex and interconnected challenges, including emerging and re-emerging public health threats, demographic and epidemiological transitions, climate-related health impacts, and rapid technological change;

RECOGNISING the milestones of cooperation achieved through relevant regional and bilateral initiatives such as the implementation of health strategies to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), strengthening diagnostic and treatment systems in primary healthcare, including enhancing human resources for health and adopting new technologies in national and regional medical centres to improve diagnostic capabilities and treatment outcomes; reforming public health hospitals to maintain their focus on public healthcare welfare; enhancing prevention, and control efforts to better prepare for future public health emergencies and emerging infectious diseases; including through strengthening ASEAN health architecture and regional preparedness mechanisms; promoting collaborative approaches to the preservation, research, and innovation of Traditional Chinese Medicine, which complements ASEAN’s approach to Traditional,

Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM), and implementing the priorities of the ASEAN-China Women and Children's Health Cooperation (ACWCC).

WELCOMING the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan where the need to advance equitable, resilient, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, people-oriented and people-centred health systems that ensure access to safe, affordable, and quality health services throughout the life course, and leaving no one behind and the newly adopted ASEAN Strategic Health Agenda (ASHA) 2026-2030 and its Work Programmes as a framework for advancing health cooperation in achieving a Healthy ASEAN Community for all, contributing to the realisation of ASEAN Community Vision 2045: Our Shared Future and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

RECOGNISING the importance of the ASEAN-China Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation in providing a framework for collaboration in mutually agreed priority areas, in accordance with the established ASEAN Health Sector mechanisms;

AFFIRMING our commitment to strengthening ASEAN-China health cooperation, the Meeting agreed to:

1. Advance the implementation of the ASEAN-China Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation, upon its finalisation and signing, through concrete, mutually beneficial, and sustainable initiatives aligned with the ASHA 2026-2030 and its Work Programmes.
2. Promote healthy lifestyles and reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, including cancer, through cooperation on prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care. This includes support for relevant ASEAN Health Cluster 1 Work Programme through regional conferences, training programmes, capacity-building initiatives on cervical and breast cancer prevention and control; and promotion of healthy and active ageing through knowledge exchange, innovation, and collaboration, including through relevant initiatives of the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation.
3. Enhance public health emergency preparedness, prevention, detection, response, and recovery capacities, including through ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) and ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre (ABVC), strengthened implementation of the International Health Regulations, cross-border collaboration, and measures to mitigate the health impacts of public health threats and natural disasters and cooperation on the prevention and control of communicable diseases, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and pandemics, through information-sharing, surveillance, laboratory networks, risk communication, workforce development, including potential regional cooperation with WHO Collaborating Centre for Points of Entry of China and other relevant initiatives under the ASEAN Health Cluster 2 Work Programme, utilising One Health approach.

4. Strengthen health systems and advance UHC by supporting equitable access to quality, safe, affordable, people-oriented and people-centred health services; resilient health service delivery; biotechnology and healthcare technology; sustainable and efficient health financing to ensure the long-term sustainability of UHC; primary health care; health workforce development; leadership and governance; and health information systems, in line with the ASEAN Health Cluster 3 Work Programme.
5. Advance digital health, health information systems, and the responsible use of health technologies, including artificial intelligence where appropriate, to improve access, quality, efficiency, continuity, and equity of health services, while promoting interoperability, data protection, and the ethical use of health data.
6. Further strengthen the ASEAN-China Women and Children's Health Cooperation Centre as a platform for regional collaboration, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and innovation in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, in response to evolving demographic and health challenges, through supporting relevant regional and international exchanges, conferences, and training programmes on maternal and child health, gynaecological health, female reproductive health, paediatric health, cervical and breast cancer prevention and control, and related areas, including programmes for health professionals from ASEAN Member States and China.
7. Enhance evidence-informed cooperation in TCIM, as appropriate and in accordance with national laws and regulations, including through research, capacity-building, quality assurance, personnel exchanges, coordinated research on medicinal plants and herbal preparations of therapeutic and preventive use, and collaboration between traditional medicine institutions in ASEAN Member States and China.
8. Strengthen national food control systems and regional cooperation on food safety, including food safety standards, risk assessment, foodborne disease prevention and control, laboratory capacity, and information-sharing, in line with the ASEAN Health Cluster 4 Work Programme.
9. Ensure that ASEAN-China health cooperation is implemented through the established ASEAN Health Sector mechanisms, in consultation with ASEAN Member States and China, and in accordance with applicable ASEAN rules, procedures, and priorities.

LOOKING FORWARD to continued exchanges of views and practical cooperation in operationalising our shared commitments and priorities in Myanmar in 2028.
