FINAL

ASEAN-CHINA JOINT STATEMENT

ON DEEPENING FORESTRY COOPERATION

We, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, gathered at the 29th ASEAN-China Summit in Manila, Republic of the Philippines, on 16 November 2026.

RECALLING the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026–2030 (FAF-SP 2026–2030), and the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2026–2030);

RECOGNISING the vital role of forests and forestry in promoting sustainable economic and social development, safeguarding ecosystem health and resilience, and enhancing human well-being in ASEAN and China, as well as across the region;

ACKNOWLEDGING the continued efforts and progress made in areas such as forest conservation, sustainable forest management, forest industries, forestry science and technology, and the joint prevention and control of forest disasters;

HEREBY COMMIT to:

1. Promote regular policy dialogues and technical exchanges and explore mutually agreed activities based on the priorities and needs of participating countries.

2. Deepen cooperation on sustainable forest management and nature-based solutions, including forest conservation and restoration, agroforestry, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, climate change adaptation, and sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent communities, taking into account national circumstances and priorities. Strengthen cooperation on forest certification, sustainable use of forest resources, and forest-based food production, including the exchange of good practices and exploration of greater compatibility and recognition of relevant certification systems, where

appropriate and mutually agreed, while promoting compliance with applicable food safety and quality requirements.

3. Strengthen scientific and technological cooperation and innovation in forestry, including the application of artificial intelligence (AI), remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), digital technologies and smart equipment for forest resource monitoring, biodiversity assessment, sustainable forest management and disaster early warning. Promote technical assistance, technology transfer, capacity building, and cooperation in mobilising financial and technological resources, where appropriate and mutually agreed. Any sharing of data, information and technology shall be subject to mutual agreement and applicable national laws and policies, including those concerning data security, confidentiality and intellectual property rights.

4. Enhance cooperation in forest-based industries, trade and investment, especially sustainable forest management, wood processing, non-timber forest products, medicinal plants and forest ecosystem services. Leverage relevant trade arrangements, including the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) 3.0 Upgrade and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), as applicable, to facilitate sustainable trade and investment, strengthen regional supply chain resilience, and promote green and low-carbon development. Strengthen information exchange and cooperation to facilitate legal forest product trade, in accordance with respective national laws and regulations.

5. Strengthen cooperation on forest biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration, including sustainable management of protected areas, restoration of degraded forests, conservation of wildlife and habitats, and enhancement of ecological connectivity. Promote exchanges on sustainable financing and resource mobilisation, and explore voluntary transboundary forestry cooperation, including ecological corridors, where appropriate, mutually agreed and consistent with national laws and priorities.

6. Enhance cooperation on forest fire prevention and management, including capacity building, information sharing, early warning and notification of major forest-related disasters, through mutually agreed arrangements and in accordance with respective national laws and regulations.

7. Encourage the participation of the private sector, research institutions and community-based organisations in forestry cooperation, including investment, innovation, technical assistance, knowledge exchange and development of high-value forest products.

8. Promote practical cooperation and mutually agreed follow-up activities. Encourage relevant authorities and stakeholders to explore joint projects, pilot initiatives and demonstration activities, including in border areas, where appropriate and subject to respective national priorities, mandates and approval procedures.

9. Promote and support the implementation of the ASEAN One Billion Trees Growing Initiative through strengthened collaboration, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and technical assistance, with a view to advancing forest landscape restoration, ecosystem restoration, forest rehabilitation, and tree-growing efforts, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities and circumstances.

All cooperation under this Joint Statement shall be voluntary, mutually agreed and consistent with the respective national laws, regulations, policies, priorities and institutional arrangements of ASEAN Member States and China. Implementation shall be subject to available resources and applicable domestic approval and budgetary procedures. This Joint Statement does not create, modify or affect any rights or obligations under international law.

On the occasion of the 35th anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and the 5th anniversary of the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, we reaffirm our commitment to deepening practical forestry cooperation, promoting sustainable development, enhancing the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities.

This Joint Statement was adopted in Manila, the Philippines, on 16 November 2026.
