EAST ASIA SUMMIT DECLARATION ON NAVIGATING OUR FUTURE, TOGETHER: STABILITY AND RENEWAL

WE, the participating countries of the East Asia Summit (EAS), gathered in Manila, the Philippines, on the occasion of the 21st East Asia Summit;

RECOGNISING the opportunities, risks, and challenges presented by the rapidly changing global and regional geopolitical landscapes, which provide context for reinvigorating the role of the EAS;

RECOGNISING that our region and the world are facing geopolitical tensions and conflicts, economic challenges, and current and emerging security and other transboundary challenges that require collective collaboration for peace as well as social and economic progress; and **ACKNOWLEDGING** ongoing regional and international efforts to address them;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the purposes and principles reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit, and the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (the Bali Principles), and **RECALLING** our commitment to the foundational objectives and principles of the East Asia Summit;

REAFFIRMING the EAS' strong commitment to multilateralism based on international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, which is the indispensable foundation of a more peaceful and prosperous world, and ASEAN's rising global relevance and unique convening power;

REAFFIRMING our shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with international law;

DESIRING a unifying vision of collaborative action for promoting peace, security, stability and economic prosperity through, among others, development initiatives, and further strengthening a culture of peace and a culture of dialogue and cooperation in the region;

Reaffirming ASEAN as the driving force within the EAS, while working in close partnership with the other participating countries, in crafting a beneficial agenda and strengthening cooperation in promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity for the region and beyond, **WE HEREBY DECLARE** our shared commitment to:

1. **MAINTAIN** and **SUPPORT** ASEAN's unity and Centrality in ASEAN-led mechanisms, reaffirming ASEAN's role as the anchor of the EAS framework and in shaping an evolving regional architecture that is open, resilient, transparent, and upholds international law, and support ASEAN in playing a bigger role in international affairs;

2. **UNDERSCORE** the value of dialogue, consultation, and multilateral cooperation among EAS participating countries in advancing regional peace, stability, and prosperity;

3. **PROMOTE AND UPHOLD** international law, including in the peaceful settlement of disputes;

4. **HIGHLIGHT** ASEAN as an enduring convenor and enabler of dialogue and cooperation in support of constructive engagement and the advancement of mutual interests;

5. **FURTHER SUPPORT** ASEAN's continuous efforts on the mainstreaming and implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) in its priority areas, while reaffirming that the AOIP is intended to enhance ASEAN Community building processes as well as strengthen and complement cooperation with partners;

6. **SUPPORT** ASEAN in promoting regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law, and constructive dialogue and cooperation to prevent and address emerging security and other common challenges to promote peace, mutual understanding, mutual trust, confidence and friendship, and to ensure transparent, predictable, and responsible behaviour contributing to a peaceful and enabling environment for development;

7. **RECOGNISE** the EAS as an integral component of mutually reinforcing ASEAN-led regional processes that collectively advance peace, stability, and economic prosperity through sustained cooperation, including on development;

Emphasising the role of the EAS, sitting at the apex of the ASEAN-centred regional architecture, as a 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 East Asia, **WE HEREBY DECIDE** to:

8. With ASEAN as a platform to promote dialogue and diplomacy, **PRIORITISE** the need to renew and maintain friendships, candid and open dialogue, and closer coordination as the foundation of an enabling environment for stability and continued prosperity, allowing us to navigate our future together;

9. **REAFFIRM** EAS commitments that reinforce the fundamentals of stability and development in the region;

10. **LEVERAGE** the EAS' collective resolve for collaborative action to secure the cherished goals of peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region, highlighting that as a Leaders-led forum, sitting at the apex of the ASEAN-centred regional architecture, the EAS is well-placed to make this happen;

11. **REINFORCE** constructive dialogue towards a shared understanding of opportunities and challenges, identify and seize opportunities for effective cooperation, and address challenges together;

12. **ADOPT** action-oriented measures and engagements in support of the implementation of EAS cooperation, including the EAS Plan of Action (2024-2028), to further strengthen peace, stability, and shared prosperity;

Recognising the need for the EAS to enhance cooperation under evolving circumstances, **WE HEREBY DECIDE TO:**

13. **REAFFIRM** the importance of trade and investment, economic cooperation, and advancing regional economic and supply chain resilience, including minerals; **UNDERSCORE** the importance of keeping trade corridors open to facilitate trade flows, including of essential goods and energy supplies to ensure energy security; and **ENCOURAGE** dialogue and constructive engagement to address trade concerns and strengthen regional economic cooperation by improving transparency and predictability in trade;

14. **REINFORCE** connectivity within and beyond the region, including through enhancing transport connectivity across air, land, and maritime sectors, promoting high-quality, reliable, and resilient infrastructure, enhancing energy inter-connectivity, including through the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP), and facilitating coordination and synergies between the ACSP and other connectivity initiatives;

15. **ADVANCE** regional maritime cooperation by, among others, promoting the sustainable use and management of marine resources and protection, restoration and conservation of the marine environment, biodiversity, and ecosystems; addressing and combating the adverse impacts of pollution, ocean acidification and marine debris; and protecting submarine cables, pipelines, and other critical underwater infrastructure;

16. **EMPHASISE** the role of maritime cooperation, stability, safety and security, the peaceful resolution of disputes and the upholding of freedom of navigation and overflight, the right of transit passage, and other internationally lawful uses of the seas, and unimpeded lawful maritime commerce, in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the relevant standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), for continued regional peace, prosperity and stability;

17. **PROMOTE** dialogue to advance cooperation on capacity-building, technical and vocational education and training, and workforce skilling, reskilling, and upskilling, to support the development and application of digital and other advanced technologies in a sound, secure, and reliable manner, considering the 2025 ASEAN Declaration on the Establishment of an ASEAN AI Safety Network (ASEAN AI Safe) and the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics (2024) and its Expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics - Generative AI (2025), and in accordance with applicable national laws and regulations;

18. **BROADEN** the reach and quality of the digital and creative economies with empowered MSMEs, while increasing digital resilience and innovation, including through the use of digital and other advanced technologies and by promoting cross-border data flows, while respecting applicable national laws and regulations;

19. **RECOGNISE** that science, technology and innovation (STI) is a key driver of development and competitiveness, and **STRENGTHEN** regional cooperation on STI to boost innovation-driven development, expand science and technology people-to-people exchanges, jointly address global challenges, and work together to foster an open and cooperative environment conducive to science and technology development, in accordance with applicable national laws and regulations;

20. **LEVERAGE AND STRENGTHEN** cooperation in energy security for long-term, resilient economic prosperity, including through technology cooperation, policy dialogue, capacity building, energy finance, and market-based investments;

21. **STRENGTHEN** cooperation to build resilience across sectors such as health, agriculture**,** food, energy, finance, industry, digital economy, environment, commodities and minerals;

22. **EMPHASISE** the importance of increasing accessibility through broad adoption of technology, supporting both urban and rural populations, to enable the participation of all in the digital economy, including through strengthening regional cooperation in expanding affordable connectivity, digital literacy, and broad access to digital services in advancing the region's digital transformation;

23. **PROMOTE** an open, safe, secure, stable, and accessible digital environment, which helps to address online exploitation, scams in online-based job recruitments and other online scams, including those originating from scam centres and related trafficking in persons, online sexual abuse, online violence, online exploitation of children, and those committed against people in vulnerable situations;

24. **FURTHER REAFFIRMING** the importance of addressing labour market gaps, enhancing regional competitiveness, and supporting ASEAN's efforts on protecting and enhancing skills mobility, recognition, development and the welfare of migrant workers in the region;

25. **SUPPORT** ASEAN's efforts to narrow the development gap within ASEAN, enhance ASEAN's competitiveness*,* and foster deeper integration and dynamic growth across ASEAN Member States and actively promote development cooperation in the region, including through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan V (2026-2030), as well as ASEAN's efforts to eradicate poverty in the region;

26. **FOSTER** socially stable and flourishing communities, built around economic prosperity, protection of the environment, resilient and empowered families and communities, and the promotion and protection of the rights of people in vulnerable situations;

27. **PROMOTE** cooperation on disaster risk reduction, prevention, preparedness and resilience, advancing localisation in anticipatory action for disaster preparedness and response, as well as addressing challenges to our natural environment, supported by the exchange of best practices, capacity-building, technical cooperation, multi-hazard early warning systems, and the application of data-driven innovation and technology, including to support anticipatory action to counter challenges to our natural environment, address the impact of natural disasters, and promote long-term economic growth to ensure long-term resilience of communities;

ADOPTED in Manila, the Philippines, on the Seventeenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

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