



## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ASEAN-UNITED STATES SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 NOVEMBER 2015

### *“OUR PEOPLE, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR VISION”*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-United States Summit was held on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable DatoqSri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia. The Meeting was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States. The United States was represented by the Honourable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America. The Secretary General of ASEAN was also in attendance.

2. We, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and the United States, had a frank and constructive discussion on strengthening ASEAN-United States relations as well as a productive exchange of views on regional and global issues of common concern.

3. We welcomed the United States support for the establishment of the ASEAN Community, which is a culmination of an almost five-decade long effort of regional integration that is aimed at building towards a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community. The ASEAN Leaders encouraged the United States to contribute towards the realisation of the vision and goals outlined in the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.

4. The ASEAN Leaders also appreciated the United States continued support for ASEAN's central role in the evolving rules-based regional architecture through ASEAN-led processes, in particular the ASEAN Plus One mechanism, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), as well as the United States support for the strengthening of the East Asia Summit as it commemorated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015.

5. We endorsed the United States request to elevate the ASEAN-United States dialogue relations to a strategic level. We acknowledged the continued support of the United States for Southeast Asia's rapid economic growth and maintaining peace and stability. We adopted the Joint Statement on the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership which elevated the ASEAN-United States dialogue relations to a new height by launching the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership that is forward-

looking and comprehensive. We decided to commemorate our strategic partnership with a special summit to be held in the United States in the first half of 2016.

6. We noted the successful implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-United States Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity 2011-2015 which has been instrumental in furthering our dialogue relations and promoting the establishment of a peaceful, stable, integrated, prosperous, and caring ASEAN Community in 2015.

7. We welcomed the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-United States Strategic Partnership (2016-2020) which identified priorities and measures to be carried out by both sides to further enhance political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation and realise the full potential of the ASEAN-United States partnership. This Plan of Action would serve as the blueprint of ASEAN-United States dialogue relations and we shall endeavour to implement all identified measures over the next five years.

8. We reaffirmed our commitment to prevent and combat transnational crimes particularly trafficking in persons, sea piracy, counter terrorism and trafficking of wildlife. We will continue to work together in counter terrorism programmes, including through regional cooperation against foreign terrorist fighters and sharing of best practices to counter violent extremism, as well as the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. We welcomed the signing of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and its Plan of Action which the United States supports through technical assistance, capacity building and information sharing.

9. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, as well as upholding freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. We shared the concerns expressed by some Leaders over the recent and on-going developments in the South China Sea, including land reclamation, which have eroded trust and confidence amongst parties, and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea. We noted proposals put forward by various parties to address current and on-going developments as well as to lower tensions in the South China Sea.

10. We welcomed the commitment of ASEAN Member States and China in ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, as well as to work towards the early establishment of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). We emphasised the importance for the states concerned to resolve their differences and disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with international law including 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

11. We pledged to continue our economic cooperation to increase trade and investment as well as create job opportunities in both regions, and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of this year. We noted the progress of the ASEAN-United States Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement and the ASEAN-United States Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiatives, which would enhance ASEAN-United States economic relationship. We also welcomed the exploration of new topics to expand our cooperation in the area of trade and investment. We also noted that the ASEAN-US Roadshow will be held in the United States in 2016.

12. We underscored our joint support for the ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (ACTI) Programme. We welcomed the major progress of the ASEAN Single Window, which the United States has provided technical and financial support to since 2007, the launch of the ASEAN-United States Innovation Challenge Programme, as well as the expansion of ASEAN-United States cooperation with the United States . ASEAN Business Council to support Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, including the upcoming ASEAN SME Academy.

13. We also welcomed the new dialogues between ASEAN and the United States which commenced this year on ICT and aviation, and its ongoing support for greater broadband connectivity in ASEAN as well as on aviation safety.

14. We noted the conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership which is aimed to promote economic growth, support the creation of jobs; enhance innovation, productivity and competitiveness; raise living standards and reduce poverty; and promote transparency and good governance; and contains strong labour and environmental protections. The TPP could complement efforts being undertaken by ASEAN towards the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community and beyond.

15. We expressed our commitment to further enhance maritime cooperation through, among others, developing maritime connectivity as well as improving the governance of trans-boundary fishing and traceability of fishery products to address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing based on relevant regional and international standard and instruments. We look forward to further capacity building and other work in this area during 2016. We welcomed the United States announcement of its five-year Oceans and Fisheries Partnership to promote sustainable marine fisheries and combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

16. We reiterated our commitment under the ASEAN-United States Joint Statement on Climate Change 2014 to continue working together through a wide range of activities towards a low carbon economic growth trajectory, enhancing the adaptive capacity of ASEAN to current impacts of climate change and building more climate resilient societies. We recognised the need for urgent and concrete action to address climate change and reaffirmed our commitment to closely cooperate towards the adoption of an ambitious protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all parties under the United Nations Framework Convention

on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Twenty First Conference of the Parties (COP 21), to be held in Paris, France in December 2015.

17. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhance cooperation in disaster management and emergency response in line with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and its Work Programme. We expressed our appreciation to the United States for its continued support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) especially in responding to humanitarian assistance needs in the region and providing support for the victims of natural disaster.

18. We recognised the great importance of youth development in ASEAN and welcomed the United States initiative to promote people-to-people exchange through various programmes and initiatives in particular the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiatives (YSEALI), Fullbright Scholarship Programme and the BD-United States English Language Enrichment Programme. We welcomed the new class of the ASEAN-United States Science and Technology Fellows. We encouraged the United States to continue its collaboration with ASEAN on youth development programmes under the ASCC Blueprint 2025.

19. We noted the United States programs for women entrepreneurs in ASEAN as well as United States technical support for a victim-centric approach to domestic violence in ASEAN. We welcomed the announcement of a new five-year commitment for the ASEAN-United States Science Prize for Women.

20. We are determined to protect the human rights of women, children, youth and the older persons as well as those of migrant workers, persons with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities groups, people in vulnerable situations and marginalised groups, and promote their interest and welfare in ASEAN's future agenda including through the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.

21. We reaffirmed our commitment to ASEAN's efforts to narrow the development gap and enhance sub-regional integration through various initiatives including the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and the Lower Mekong Initiatives (LMI).

22. We are also determined to continue all our cooperation on economic, social and environmental matters consistent with and in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015 to promote the well-being of the peoples of ASEAN and the United States.

23. We emphasised the importance of sustaining our dialogue relations at the highest level and looked forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-United States Summit to be held in Lao PDR in 2016.

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