

Co-Chair's Statement of the 7th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue
Bangkok, Thailand
10-11 June 2010

1. The Seventh ASEAN-Canada Dialogue was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 10-11 June 2010. The Meeting was attended by representatives of ASEAN Member States, Canada and the ASEAN Secretariat.

2. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Chitriya Pinthong, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Thailand's Acting SOM Leader, and H.E. Kenneth Macartney, Director General, South, Southeast Asia & Oceania, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. They were assisted by their respective Ambassadors to ASEAN, H.E. Manasvi Srisodapol and H.E. Mackenzie Clugston.

3. In her opening remarks, H.E. Chitriya Pinthong extended her warm welcome to the Canadian and all ASEAN delegations to Bangkok for the Seventh ASEAN-Canada Dialogue. She pointed out that, as guided by the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership adopted last year, ASEAN-Canada relationship has continued to improve in almost every sector of cooperation; politically, economically, culturally and socially. She was pleased with the renewed interest of Canada to ASEAN including the appointment of the Ambassador to ASEAN, the establishment of Canada's ASEAN Network and Canada's intention to accede the TAC. She also called for the early conclusion on the ASEAN-Canada TIFA. She expressed the hope that Canada would continue to support the participation of the ASEAN chair at the G-20 Summit. She also stressed the importance for both sides to enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest for the benefits of the peoples of ASEAN and Canada to meet the challenges facing ASEAN and Canada in the coming years. Finally, she briefed the Meeting on the main tasks of the Seventh ASEAN-Canada Dialogue and stressed the importance of the issues to be discussed on this occasion, particularly the finalisation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership to be adopted at the PMC in July.

4. In his opening remarks, H.E. Kenneth Macartney expressed his deep appreciation to Thailand as the country coordinator for the warm hospitality and excellent preparations made for the Meeting. He recognized the importance of ASEAN and observed that ASEAN has increasingly gained its recognition as an important regional organisation. He highlighted the importance of the

ASEAN-Canada relationship and noted key developments in the relationship since the last Dialogue, including the adoption of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership during last July's Post Ministerial Conference + 1 with Canada and the good work that led to a solid draft of the Plan of Action. Mr. Macartney spoke to the efforts underway to complete Canada's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) and Canada's recently created 'ASEAN Network'. On trade and investment, he conveyed the importance of ASEAN to Canada as a commercial partner noting that as a collective block, ASEAN represents Canada's 7th largest bilateral trading partner. In order to further enhance trade facilitation and economic cooperation, Canada, therefore, looked forward to the early conclusion of the ASEAN-Canada TIFA. Mr. Macartney remarked that the growing breadth and depth of cooperation in recent years has expanded to include the areas of regional security, human rights, education, food and energy security, counterterrorism and international health security. He expressed Canada's keen interest to assist ASEAN towards its goal of community building by 2015. Mr. Macartney also reiterated that Canada is pleased that Viet Nam as ASEAN Chair will participate in the G-20 Summit later this month. Mr. Macartney congratulated ASEAN for the establishment of the ASEAN Inter-Government Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and encouraged all ASEAN Member States to fully respect human rights. He stressed that Canada was interested in assisting ASEAN in the promotion and protection of human rights. He urged ASEAN to pursue its community-building process by continuing to engage with all stakeholders, including civil society organizations.

5. ASEAN briefed Canada on the recent developments in ASEAN, including the outcome of the 16th ASEAN Summit, the overview of ASEAN Community building process, ASEAN Connectivity and the regional architecture, the update on the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), the outcome of the first ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) meeting and next steps, and the launch of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

6. Canada noted the progress of recent developments in ASEAN and congratulated ASEAN on its achievements in the building of the ASEAN Community. Canada reaffirmed its support for ASEAN's efforts in implementing the ASEAN Charter, strengthening regional integration, building an ASEAN Community by 2015, and the implementation of its Blueprints. Canada reviewed the implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation

Work Plan 2007-2010 and noted the progress achieved in counter terrorism, disaster management, people-to-people linkages, economic and health cooperation among others. Canada also committed to further developing its dialogue relations with ASEAN in every aspect, especially in supporting the promotion and the protection of human rights in the region through supporting AICHR and ACWC. To this end, Canada raised its human rights concerns in the region, such as the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and the need for the upcoming election in Myanmar to be free, fair, fully inclusive and transparent.

7. Canada briefed ASEAN on the recent developments in Canada, including the overview and update on Canada's G8/G20 Presidency in 2010, preparation for G20 Summit in Toronto in June this year, Canada's Economic Outlook. In addition, Canada briefed on the creation of an ASEAN Network to enhance its commercial and political presence in Southeast Asia by increasing the number of officials in various ASEAN capitals. The Network will help bring further momentum and energise the relationship.

8. Canada also briefed the Meeting on CIDA's Southeast Asia Regional Program, which has supported ASEAN since the 1970s. The Program focuses on strengthening regional institutions, networks and organizations working on transboundary issues in the region. The Program has successfully supported many institutions and initiatives that align with ASEAN priorities. Canada noted that disaster risk reduction and human rights have become the principal areas of focus for the CIDA South East Asia Regional Program. In the human rights context, CIDA supports initiatives focusing on women, children, migrant workers and ethnic minorities. Canada also updated the participants on the ongoing discussions with partners on concrete ways to move ahead on the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response. Canada was pleased to inform the meeting on the inclusion of civil society in CIDA's areas of cooperation.

9. In response to Canada's observations, Myanmar's delegation informed the meeting about the progress in the preparations for the upcoming elections. The delegation expressed its disagreement with the usage "...the continued detention of Aung Sang Suu Kyi", and stressed that hers was not a human rights issue, given the fact that a court verdict convicting her of an offence still remains in effect.

10. The Meeting had an extensive exchange of views and discussion on various regional/global and economic issues of common interest, namely Afghanistan/Pakistan border, Asia-Pacific regional architecture and global economic and financial crises. The Meeting also noted the need to continue the enhanced cooperation to deal with transnational issues, including transnational crime and counter terrorism including piracy, disaster risk reduction and response, climate change, food and energy security, trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, and transnational health security.

11. The Meeting reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Second ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2010). The Work Plan will be succeeded by the Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership that was approved by this Meeting before its adoption at the Post Ministerial Conference (PMC)+1 Session with Canada.

12. The Meeting took note of the report of the 4th ASEAN-Canada Informal Coordinating Mechanism (ICM) Meeting, which was held on 24-25 February 2010 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

13. The Meeting also had in-depth exchange of views and discussions, and finally approved the Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership, as agreed by the Informal Discussion between the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and Ambassador of Canada to ASEAN. ASEAN and Canada agreed to submit the draft Plan of Action to the Foreign Ministers for adoption at the PMC+1 Session with Canada on 22 July 2010 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The new ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action will act as the roadmap for the ASEAN-Canada cooperation over the next five year (2010-2015). Both ASEAN and Canada reiterated their commitment to work closely together to translate the Plan of Action to concrete results. In this connection, ASEAN requested Canada's consideration of a dedicated funding mechanism to support the implementation of the Plan of Action.

14. On Canada's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in South East Asia, Canada informed the Meeting that Canada has decided to accede to the Treaty and both sides have agreed on the draft letters to be exchanged between Foreign Ministers of Canada and Viet Nam as the ASEAN Chair. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that Canada's accession to

TAC would contribute to the promotion of peace, security, stability and cooperation in the region.

15. The Meeting took note of Viet Nam's briefing on the preparations for the ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Canada scheduled to be held on 22 July and the TAC Accession Ceremony on 23 July 2010 in Hanoi.

16. The Meeting agreed with Canada's proposal to convene the 8th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue in Canada in 2011.

17. In his closing remarks, H.E. Kenneth Macartney thanked all participants for their active participation and contributions to the Meeting and hoped that the Plan of Action will further enhance the ASEAN-Canada cooperation in the future.

18. In her closing remarks, H.E. Chitriya Pinthong thanked all the delegates and expressed satisfaction for the frank and comprehensive discussion of the 7th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue. She looked forward to the adoption of the Plan of Action at the PMC Session with Canada and Canada's accession to the TAC in July in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

19. The Meeting expressed its deep appreciation to Thailand for its efforts to successfully coordinate ASEAN-Canada relations so far and once again expressed its high appreciation to the Government of Thailand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended throughout the Meeting. The Meeting was conducted in a spirit of cooperation and cordiality under the co-chairmanship of Thailand and Canada.
