



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE ASEAN POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
(PMC) 10+1 SESSIONS WITH THE DIALOGUE PARTNERS  
3 - 6 AUGUST 2021**

1. The ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Sessions with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America were held from 3 to 6 August 2021 via videoconference.
2. The Meetings reviewed their relations over the past year and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing their partnership and cooperation through effective implementation of their respective Plans of Action and existing frameworks. ASEAN also highlighted several milestones in its relations with some of its Dialogue Partners, including the elevation of its Dialogue Partnership with the European Union to a Strategic Partnership on 1 December 2020, annual ASEAN-Australia Summit from 2021 onwards, as well as the commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership.
3. The Meetings highlighted the importance of working closely together to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and advance the region's recovery and growth. ASEAN expressed appreciation to its Dialogue Partners for their support to ASEAN's Community building efforts and initiatives to address the pandemic, including through the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (RRMS) as well as the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED).
4. The Meetings reiterated their support for Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper", which focuses on harnessing the caring nature of ASEAN to build a harmonious and resilient Community with the people at its centre; preparing and adapting for the future to ensure ASEAN remains relevant and its people can take advantage of the new opportunities, as well as overcome existing and future challenges; and creating opportunities for people to benefit through initiatives that enhance the sustainable prosperity of the region. The Meetings highlighted the importance of maintaining

momentum in cooperating within and beyond ASEAN for the pursuit of these long-term goals. ASEAN welcomed the continued interest and support by external partners to further promote equitable and sustainable development across the ASEAN Community by aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN.

5. The Meetings underscored the importance of upholding ASEAN Centrality, unity and identity in the evolving regional architecture and renewed commitment to supporting an ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based, and built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). ASEAN encouraged its Dialogue Partners to support and undertake cooperation with ASEAN in the four key areas of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, economic and other possible areas of cooperation, in order to contribute to peace, freedom and prosperity in the region. The Meetings also underlined the importance of multilateralism, regionalism and international law in contributing to global and regional peace, stability and prosperity.
6. The Meetings underlined the importance to foster cooperation in social welfare and development aimed at raising the standard of living, especially for the poor and vulnerable groups in ASEAN, where the strength of the ASEAN Community lies in putting people at its centre and fulfilling their desire to live in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress.
7. The Meetings reiterated their commitment to upholding an open, inclusive, transparent, and rules-based multilateral trading system, as embodied in the World Trade Organization (WTO), amidst the global trade uncertainties, including the trends of protectionism. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Participating Countries (RPCs) reaffirmed their commitment to expedite respective domestic procedures to have the RCEP Agreement enter into force on 1 January 2022, as targeted.
8. The Meetings exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern, including trade issues, countering terrorism and transnational crime, cybersecurity, non-proliferation, narrowing the development gap, connectivity, people-to-people linkages, sustainable development cooperation, climate change and renewable energy, the situation in the Korean Peninsula, recent developments in the South China Sea, and recent developments in Myanmar.

9. The Meetings reaffirmed their support for diplomacy and dialogue in achieving complete denuclearisation and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. The Meetings recognized the efforts made by all parties concerned for the resumption of dialogue. The Meetings also welcomed the restoration of inter-Korean communication lines, and noted that it will contribute to further improving and developing the inter-Korean relations. The Meetings urged all parties concerned to continue working together constructively towards realising lasting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the 2018 Panmunjom Declaration and Pyongyang Joint Declaration between the ROK and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and the Singapore Joint Statement by the U.S and the DPRK's Leaders. The Meetings underscored the significance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and welcomed the ROK's efforts to advance inter-Korean dialogue, engagement, and cooperation to restore the virtuous cycle where inter-Korean relations and U.S.-DPRK relations advance in a mutually reinforcing manner. The Meetings reiterated the commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. The importance of international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula was stressed in the Meetings. The Meetings stressed the need to promote a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue among the concerned parties, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The Meetings noted views expressed by some Ministers on the importance of addressing the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.
  
10. The Meetings reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, prosperity, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea and pursue peaceful resolution of disputes, without coercion, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Meetings underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. The Meetings noted the positive progress in the ongoing negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) despite the challenging COVID-19 situation, including the recent resumption of the textual negotiations of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text (SDNT), which has resulted in provisional agreement on the Preamble section after delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and looked forward to the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is consistent with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Ministers emphasised the need to promote an environment conducive to the COC negotiations and thus, welcomed practical measures that could reduce tensions and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings and miscalculation. The Meetings stressed the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence

amongst parties, and reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

11. The Meetings discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which some concerns were expressed on the land reclamations, activities and serious incidents in the area, including damage to the marine environment, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region. The Meetings reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation, and pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Meetings emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the DOC that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.
12. The Meetings discussed the recent developments in Myanmar and expressed their concern over the situation in the country, including reports of fatalities and violence. The Meetings also heard calls for the release of political detainees including foreigners. The Meetings welcomed Myanmar's commitment to the Five-Point Consensus of the ASEAN Leaders Meeting on 24 April 2021 and looked forward to the timely and complete implementation of the Five-Point Consensus namely, the immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar and all parties to exercise utmost restraint; constructive dialogue among all parties concerned to commence to seek a peaceful solution in the interests of the people; a special envoy of the ASEAN Chair to facilitate mediation of the dialogue process, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of ASEAN; ASEAN to provide humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre; and the special envoy and delegation to visit Myanmar to meet with all parties concerned. The Meetings welcomed the appointment by the ASEAN Chair for the Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam to be the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, who will start his work in Myanmar, including building trust and confidence with full access to all parties concerned and providing a clear timeline on the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus before the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The Meetings welcomed continued support to ASEAN from external partners for ASEAN's efforts in the swift and complete implementation of the "Five-Point Consensus", particularly on humanitarian assistance.

### **Australia**

13. The ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by Malaysia and Australia.
14. The Meeting welcomed the progress on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership (2020-2024) and looked

forward to continuing cooperation under the Plan of Action despite challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Meeting welcomed the Leaders' decision at the Second ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit in 2020 to convene annual ASEAN-Australia Summits and looked forward to the first annual ASEAN-Australia Summit in October 2021.

15. The Meeting encouraged continued consultations on the proposed establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and Australia that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial.
16. The Meeting welcomed Australia's AUD 1 million contribution to the ACRF and the establishment of the ACRF Support Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the ACRF. The Meeting also welcomed the implementation of Australia's approximately AUD 500 million investment in new development, economic and security measures announced by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison at the Second ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit on 14 November 2020 via videoconference, to support regional COVID-19 recovery and enhanced partnership in line with AOIP priorities.
17. The Meeting underscored the importance of global cooperation against the COVID-19 pandemic. The Meeting highlighted the need to have concerted and inclusive efforts in the provision of vaccines to meet the global target of vaccinated persons. In this regard, the Meeting appreciated Australia's commitment and assistance to supporting equitable vaccine access and health security in the region, including through its Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative (VAHSI), its AUD 1 million contribution to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, its AUD 21 million contribution to support the establishment of the ACPHEED and the establishment of the AUD 5 million ASEAN-Australia Health Security Initiative. The Meeting looked forward to strengthening ASEAN-Australia health cooperation, including to address mental health and through further dialogue among ASEAN and Australian health experts and youths in 2021.
18. The Meeting agreed to deepen political-security cooperation, including on traditional and non-traditional security issues, such as in the areas of law enforcement, customs and immigration to counter trafficking in persons, people smuggling, illicit drugs, terrorism, violent extremism, and other transnational crimes, including through the AUD 80 million ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Initiative (ASEAN ACT), TRIANGLE in ASEAN program, and the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership initiative. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the 2018 ASEAN-Australia Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Counter International Terrorism. The Meeting emphasised the importance to further advance

the strong cooperation on cyber and critical technologies and promote norms of responsible state behaviour in cyberspace. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the convening of the second iteration of the ASEAN-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue. The Meeting also highlighted the importance of advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the region and looked forward to the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Australia Women, Peace and Security Dialogue in 2021. ASEAN expressed hope that cooperation in these areas would continue to be promoted through engagements and dialogues in existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the ASEAN Plus One, EAS, ARF, ADMM-Plus and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).

19. The Meeting welcomed the ongoing negotiations to upgrade the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) to ensure that it remains one of the most comprehensive and high-quality ASEAN+1 FTAs that benefit businesses and consumers across the region. The Meeting also welcomed the signing of the RCEP Agreement in November 2020. Noting the significant contribution of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP) and the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme Phase II (AADCP II) to the ASEAN's community building process, the Meeting appreciated Australia's commitment in supporting ASEAN's efforts to deepen regional economic integration and support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and looked forward to their successor programmes, which will commence in 2022. The Meeting also looked forward to the commencement of the AUD 46 million Regional Trade for Development initiative that will support eligible ASEAN Member States to implement AANZFTA and RCEP.
20. The Meeting also looked forward to furthering cooperation between ASEAN and Australia on connectivity and narrowing the development gap, including through support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Workplan IV (2021-2025), as well as on the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) through the ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities Trust Fund. The Meeting welcomed further ASEAN-Australia cooperation on digital economy and digital standards through the extended AUD 5 million ASEAN-Australia Digital Standards Initiative. The Meeting welcomed the AUD 232 million Mekong-Australia Partnership to promote sustainable water resources management, further scholarship opportunities and strengthen technology capabilities to support economic integration and development in the Mekong sub-region. The Meeting appreciated Australia's AUD 5.2 million investment under the Emerging Markets Impact Investment Fund to support COVID-19 economic recovery by providing digital lending and financial services to small and medium enterprises in Southeast Asia.

21. The Meeting acknowledged the strong people-to-people links between ASEAN and Australia in various areas of cooperation, such as education, sports, arts and cultural exchange programmes, including through the New Colombo Plan, Australia Awards, “Australia Now ASEAN 2019” initiative, and programmes run by the Australia-ASEAN Council. The Meeting looked forward to the continuation and enhancements of this cooperation as soon as the COVID-19 situation and associated travel restrictions allow to continue deepening social and cultural linkages and further strengthening people-to-people links between ASEAN and Australia, including through exploring the establishment of reciprocal green lanes. The Meeting encouraged further cooperation in addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation and management, disaster management, marine debris and Bio-Circular-Green Economy. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the launch of the AUD 5.5 million Australian Science and Technology for Climate Partnerships initiative to promote research-based solutions and technological innovations in the region and Australia’s support under the AUD 65 million Marine Resources Initiative for ASEAN maritime states to develop marine resources sustainably.
22. The Meeting thanked Malaysia as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Lao PDR as the incoming Country Coordinator.

### **Canada**

23. The ASEAN-Canada Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by the Republic of Union of Myanmar and Canada.
24. The Meeting noted the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2021-2025).
25. The Meeting further noted that the year 2022 would mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations and looked forward to embarking on new initiatives and activities to commemorate this milestone.
26. The Meeting appreciated Canada’s support for ASEAN’s initiatives in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, including through its Mitigation of Biological Threats (MBT) programme and its components, the development of ASEAN Portal for Public Health Emergencies, as well as the provision of personal protective equipment to ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat in June 2020. The Meeting welcomed the announcement of Canada’s contribution of CAD 3.5 million over five years to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund in May 2021.

27. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment from Canada and ASEAN in strengthening cybersecurity and combatting transnational crimes, terrorism, trafficking in persons and people smuggling, through activities under the ARF as well as the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) mechanism. The Meeting looked forward to Canada's support for the implementation of the SOMTC ASEAN-Canada Work Plan on Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2019-2022) as well as the 9<sup>th</sup> SOMTC+ Canada Consultations that was held on 29 July 2021. The Meeting welcomed ASEAN-Canada cooperation to strengthen the region's cybersecurity capacity, including through Canada's support for the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, and looked forward to Canada's further support in this regard.
28. The Meeting noted that Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Chairmanship deliverables this year included the launching of negotiations for an ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which would emphasise the support from ASEAN and Canada for a free, open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system and signal that both sides are strong and forward-looking economic partners. The Meeting also underlined the importance of stepping up efforts to enhance ASEAN-Canada trade and investment through the implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment (JDTI) Work Plan (2021-2025). The Meeting encouraged Canada to collaborate with the ASCN.
29. The Meeting also highlighted Canada's support to ASEAN's MSMEs through the Canada-OECD Project on ASEAN SMEs (COPAS) 2016-2020 and encouraged Canada to continue its support to the MSMEs in the region, especially in the area of women entrepreneurship.
30. The Meeting appreciated the Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) initiative, which has provided 214 scholarships for students from ASEAN Member States to study in Canada since September 2018, and emphasised the importance of utilising online platforms to ensure continuity for such initiatives. The Meeting also noted Canada's commitment in promoting the rights of women and children in the region, including through expanding gender equality, promoting women entrepreneurship and promoting women peace and security agenda, which was reflected, among others, by the launch of the Regional Project under the theme Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace: Preventing Violence and Promoting Social Cohesion in ASEAN on 24 February 2021.
31. The Meeting noted Canada's continued desire to elevate ASEAN-Canada relations to a strategic level and its interest to join ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the EAS, ADMM-Plus, and the EAMF.

32. The Meeting thanked Myanmar as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Malaysia as the incoming Country Coordinator.

## **China**

33. The ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China.
34. The Meeting noted the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2021-2025).
35. The Meeting appreciated China's continued participation and active involvement in various ASEAN Plus One mechanisms, and ASEAN-led frameworks including the EAS, APT, ARF and ADMM-Plus. Such engagements reflect China's support for ASEAN's role as a key driver in the evolving regional architecture.
36. The Meeting encouraged continued consultations on the proposed establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and China, that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial.
37. The Meeting looked forward to the successful convening of the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit to Commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and urged all parties to work expeditiously towards finalising the Joint Statement to Commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Cooperation in support of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.
38. The Meeting welcomed the mutual support between ASEAN and China in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It appreciated China's provision of medical supplies and vaccines to ASEAN Member States and its contribution to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund. The Meeting also encouraged support from China for ASEAN's efforts to recover from the impact of COVID-19 by actively implementing the ACRF and the ASEAN-China Public Health Cooperation Initiative: Programme on Public Health Emergency Preparedness Capacity (PROMPT).
39. The Meeting welcomed the activities to celebrate the 2021 ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation, which was launched on 28 May 2021 in Beijing. The Meeting looked forward to strengthening exchanges and cooperation in areas such as climate change, environmental protection, biodiversity conservation

and sustainable natural resource management, marine debris, poverty alleviation and elimination, disaster prevention and mitigation, and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources, including through the use of relevant ASEAN centres such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD). The Meeting encouraged to explore possible cooperation on other sustainable economic models and the Belt and Road Ecological and Environment Cooperation Plan. The Meeting also looked forward to the submission of the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Strengthening Cooperation in Green and Sustainable Development to the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit. The Meeting agreed to advance discussion over an ASEAN-China Partnership on Blue Economy as envisaged in the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030 to promote maritime sustainable development and create new highlights in ASEAN-China cooperation.

40. The Meeting commended the fact that ASEAN and China have become each other's largest trading partner for the first time in 2020, and reiterated its commitment to further strengthen ASEAN-China economic cooperation, including through upholding the multilateral trading system, enhancing regional economic integration, and underscoring the importance of multilateralism and free trade. The Meeting agreed to further promote trade, investment, and tourism flows through, among others, the full implementation and further enhancement of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) and the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Certain Agreements thereunder between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China. The Meeting looked forward to continued cooperation, including in the areas of digital economy, e-commerce, competition, consumer protection, and to further develop micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), local entrepreneurs and start-ups in the region.
41. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of an ASEAN-China Cyber Dialogue to further deepen communications and exchanges on cybersecurity and digital governance. The Meeting also welcomed China's continued support for the ASCN to enhance smart and sustainable development in the region, as outlined in the ASEAN-China Leaders' Statement on Smart City Cooperation Initiative.
42. The Meeting emphasised the importance of stepping up the implementation of the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Synergising the MPAC 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and working to enhance linkages in the region to facilitate a more conducive business environment and to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The Meeting looked forward to working towards the full liberalisation of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (AC-ATA), which will

further enhance regional connectivity. The Meeting also looked forward to fostering greater connectivity between the regions of Western China and ASEAN through the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Connectivity Initiative-New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor.

43. The Meeting reiterated its commitment to strengthening exchanges in the fields of culture, education, tourism, media, women and youth affairs, including through programs such as the ASEAN-China Young Leaders' Scholarship Program.
44. The Meeting welcomed the resumption of the textual negotiations of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text, which resulted in the provisional agreement on the Preamble section, after encountering delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Meeting noted the importance of the negotiations through virtual platforms while physical meetings remain as the primary modality, and tasked the officials to make further progress towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.
45. The Meeting thanked the Philippines as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Myanmar as the incoming Country Coordinator.

### **European Union**

46. The ASEAN-European Union (EU) Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by the Republic of Singapore and the European Union.
47. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022) and looked forward to the new POA.
48. The Meeting recalled the decision made at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) held on 1 December 2020 to elevate the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations to a Strategic Partnership. The Meeting further noted that the year 2022 would mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations and looked forward to proposals for commemorative activities between ASEAN and the EU. In this regard, the Meeting endorsed the EU's proposal for convening a physical ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit in 2022 in Brussels for submission to the ASEAN Leaders for approval. The Meeting discussed issues on the way forward to materialise the Strategic Partnership in the context of promoting trust, mutual cooperation and mutual benefit in response to pandemic, trade and other aspects of cooperation to support ASEAN integration and Community building.
49. ASEAN expressed its appreciation for the EU's "Team Europe" package of over EUR 800 million to combat the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate its impact on the region,

as well as the additional support programme “South East Asia Health Pandemic Response and Preparedness” of EUR 20 million, implemented by the World Health Organization. The Meeting also noted the EU’s announcement on 23 March 2021 to allocate up to EUR 11 million for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid in the South East Asian region, to support those affected by natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and conflicts. The Meeting encouraged the EU to support ASEAN’s initiatives to address the pandemic, including through the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, the ACRF and its Implementation Plan as well as the ACPHEED. Both sides welcomed the ASEAN-EU Experts’ Dialogues on COVID-19 Vaccines that were held on 8 December 2020 and 25 May 2021 and their contribution to exchanging views, best practices and seeking opportunities for further collaboration on combatting COVID-19.

50. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the EU’s active engagement with ASEAN in contributing to regional peace and stability, covering cooperation in areas such as maritime security, combatting transnational crime, countering terrorism, and violent extremism, cybersecurity, digital economy, smart cities, climate change, biodiversity conservation, environmental issues, sustainable development, disaster management, and education. The Meeting welcomed the EU’s desire to promote cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. The Meeting reiterated the importance of promoting and implementing the AOIP and encouraged greater cooperation in the key areas of the AOIP to enhance mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual benefit through ASEAN-led mechanisms. The Meeting noted the EU’s commitment to working with ASEAN on promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment. The Meeting encouraged the implementation of the ASEAN-EU Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation, which was adopted in 2019 and the Joint Ministerial Statement on Connectivity which was adopted in 2020. The Meeting also appreciated the EU’s active contributions within the ARF and took note of the EU’s interest in engaging the ADMM-Plus.
51. The Meeting encouraged the strengthening of regional integration and economic cooperation, including by developing a framework setting out the parameters for a future ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Meeting welcomed the EU’s effort in establishing bilateral FTAs with ASEAN Member States as building blocks towards a future region-to-region FTA. The Meeting further encouraged ASEAN and the EU to support the growth and recovery of MSMEs, to foster further exchanges on policy and regulatory frameworks on the digital economy, and to encourage closer public-private engagements. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the EU’s engagement of ASEAN through the ASCN and the EU’s Smart Green ASEAN Cities.

52. The Meeting discussed cooperation on climate change and noted the EU's proposal to enhance cooperation on green transition. The Meeting took note of the progress in the implementation of the European Green Deal and expressed appreciation for the EU's support for ASEAN in climate action through this programme and environmental cooperation. The Meeting also underscored the importance of promoting sustainable development in the context of a green and sustainable recovery, including those related to the UN Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals.
53. The Meeting welcomed concrete cooperation between the ACSDS and the EU on sustainable consumption and production, including the establishment of the ASEAN Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform. The Meeting looked forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development to be hosted by Thailand in November 2021 to explore cooperation for the post-COVID-19 recovery.
54. The Meeting encouraged ASEAN and the EU to re-establish trade and people-to-people connections to further boost post-pandemic recovery efforts on both sides. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the conclusion of the negotiations on the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (AE-CATA) as the world's first bloc-to-bloc air transport agreement on 2 June 2021 at the Extraordinary ASEAN-EU Senior Transport Officials Meeting. The Meeting looked forward to the signing of the Agreement at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting in November 2021.
55. ASEAN appreciated the EU's continued support and contribution towards ASEAN Community building and regional integration and encouraged the EU to continue to contribute towards narrowing the development gap within ASEAN through the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and the EU's flagship programmes, such as the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE) Plus, the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP), the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI), EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (EU SHARE), Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA) and Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms (EU SAHA). The Meeting also looked forward to the official launch of the Smart Green ASEAN Cities programme.
56. The Meeting welcomed the convening of the First Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Palm Oil between the European Union and relevant ASEAN Member States to continue promoting mutual understanding on the sustainable production of vegetable oils and address the challenges in this sector in a holistic, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner. The Meeting reaffirmed support for the EU and

relevant ASEAN Member States to promote collaboration and sustainability efforts and practices in the vegetable oil sector.

57. The Meeting thanked Singapore as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed the Philippines as the incoming Country Coordinator.

## **India**

58. The ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of India.
59. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2021-2025).
60. The Meeting noted that the year 2022 would mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-India Relations and welcomed India's proposal to designate the year as the "ASEAN-India Friendship Year". In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the proposed commemorative activities of the said occasions between ASEAN and India.
61. The Meeting welcomed India's proposal for an ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and looked forward to its adoption at the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in October 2021. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of increasing cooperation in the maritime domain, including areas such as maritime security, efforts to counter piracy and armed robbery against ships, maritime safety and search and rescue (SAR) cooperation, maritime connectivity, the Blue Economy, marine environmental protection, and information sharing, through appropriate mechanisms under the ASEAN-India framework and other appropriate ASEAN-led mechanisms. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed India's plan to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy and an EAS Workshop on Combating Marine Pollution, especially Marine Plastic Debris.
62. ASEAN appreciated India's continued support for ASEAN Centrality and India's active engagement in ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the EAS, ARF, ADMM-Plus and EAMF, contributing to maintaining regional peace and stability. The Meeting noted the enhanced ASEAN-India collaboration in countering terrorism, violent extremism, and transnational crimes, and the need to strengthen cooperation on cybersecurity. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed India's plans to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-India Track 1.5 Dialogue on Cyber Issues, an EAS Seminar on Conservation of Migratory Wildlife Species including Marine Wildlife and Combating

Illegal Trafficking and an EAS Seminar on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.

63. The Meeting agreed to further strengthen ASEAN-India economic relations, including through the full utilisation and effective implementation of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA), the early review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) to make it more user-friendly, simple, and trade facilitative for businesses, and promotion of sustainable and inclusive growth. The ASEAN Ministers looked forward to India's participation in the RCEP Agreement whenever India is ready to do so. The Meeting also looked forward to more cooperation to enhance regional physical and digital connectivity, including through the support for the implementation of the MPAC 2025, and the timely completion of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway as well as the commencement of the development of its extension to Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed India's proposal to utilise its Line of Credit of USD 1 billion for supporting physical and digital connectivity projects. The Meeting agreed to support efforts to strengthen aviation and maritime connectivity by working towards the conclusion of the ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement (AI-ATA) and the ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Agreement (AI-MTA).
64. The Meeting underscored the need for ASEAN and India to collaborate in areas such as the production of vaccines, medicines, and medical technologies for the treatment of COVID-19. The Meeting also highlighted the need to continue enhancing cooperation on trade and investment, energy, finance, science, and technology and innovation, ICT, and digital economy to support post-pandemic economic recovery.
65. The Meeting agreed to continue strengthening cooperation in the fields of education, disaster management, health, sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, smart cities, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), digital transformation, and women and youth empowerment. The Meeting expressed appreciation for India's active role as Co-Chair of the ADMM Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief for the cycle of 2021 – 2024. The Meeting congratulated India on the successful convening of the ASEAN-India Hackathon on 1-4 February 2021. The Meeting looked forward to India's support and collaboration with the ASCN. The Meeting also expressed appreciation for India's grant of 1000 PHD Fellowships for ASEAN students at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the establishment of IT Training Centres in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.
66. The Meeting welcomed India's interest in collaborating with the ACSDSD and looked forward to enhancing collaboration in addressing climate change and promoting

green transition, including through the ASEAN-India Conference on Renewable Energy.

67. The Meeting thanked Thailand as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Singapore as the incoming Country Coordinator.

## Japan

68. The ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Japan.
69. The Meeting reiterated commitment to further strengthening ASEAN-Japan partnership and cooperation through effective implementation of the Revised Implementation Plan of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: *Shared Vision, Shared Identity, Shared Future*. The Meeting also noted Japan's intention to hold an ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Japan in 2023 to commemorate 50 years of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation.
70. ASEAN appreciated Japan's support in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including Japan's contribution for the establishment of the ACPHEED through a comprehensive package that includes training project proposal for health personnel and a dispatch of technical experts as well as a detailed design of the ACPHEED, its support for the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and its provision of medical supplies and distribution of vaccines to ASEAN Member States. The Meeting also agreed on the need to strengthen ASEAN-Japan cooperation for the post-pandemic recovery, including through supporting the ACRF.
71. The Meeting welcomed the Joint Statement of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit on Cooperation on the AOIP adopted by Leaders in November 2020 and encouraged joint activities to implement concrete cooperation on the four key areas outlined in the AOIP, with a view to contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The Meeting welcomed the outcomes of the High-level Roundtable on "ASEAN-Japan: Reviewing the journey traveled, toward the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dialogue Partnership", held on 21 July 2021 via videoconference, which reflected the past achievements and charted the future direction of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations.
72. The Meeting agreed to continue enhancing cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues and transnational crime, including countering terrorism, maritime security, illicit drugs, cybersecurity, nuclear safety, food and energy security. Both sides stressed the need to ensure effective implementation of the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) – Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2018-2022). The

Meeting welcomed defense cooperation between ASEAN and Japan under the “Vientiane Vision: Japan’s Defense Cooperation Initiative with ASEAN”, as well as the ADMM-Plus including co-chairing with Viet Nam the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus Experts’ Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations (ADMM-Plus EWG on PKO) in the 2021-2024 cycle. The Meeting welcomed Japan’s contribution to host and co-chair with the Philippines the 3<sup>rd</sup> ARF Workshop on International Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness during the 2021-2022 inter-sessional year in Tokyo.

73. The Meeting agreed to further deepen and expand trade and investment relations, through the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap and the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement. The Meeting looked forward to the full entry into force of the First Protocol to Amend the AJCEP Agreement to give legal effect to the Chapters on Trade in Services, Movement of Natural Persons and Investment into the AJCEP Agreement by 2021. The Meeting also stressed the need to effectively implement the ASEAN-Japan Economic Resilience Action Plan and the early entry into force of the RCEP to support a sustainable post-pandemic economic recovery.
74. The Meeting welcomed increased cooperation to advance the implementation of the MPAC 2025 and the Joint Statement of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit on Connectivity, and expressed full support to the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Connectivity Initiative. The Meeting looked forward to the successful conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement with a view to enhancing air connectivity between Japan and ASEAN Member States.
75. ASEAN valued Japan’s support for the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III (2016-2020) and looked forward to Japan’s continued support for the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025), as well as programmes to foster human resource development, narrow the development gap and promote sub-regional development within ASEAN Member States. ASEAN welcomed Japan’s continued support for the Attachment Programme for Junior Diplomats of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) and Attachment of Officers from CLMV for AEC and ASCC Involvement, both at the ASEAN Secretariat.
76. The Meeting welcomed Japan’s active and continued support for the ASCN and the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High-Level Meeting (HLM) held via videoconference in December 2020.
77. The Meeting agreed to continue enhancing cooperation in the areas of public health and emergency response, biodiversity conservation, environment, climate change

and disaster management. ASEAN appreciated Japan's continued support for the work of the AHA Centre, and in envisioning an environmentally-sustainable ASEAN through the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation.

78. The Meeting encouraged to explore possible cooperation for the post-pandemic recovery such as the collaboration between the Bio-Circular Green Economy Model and Japan's Green Growth Strategy. The Meeting appreciated Japan's continued support for people-to-people contacts and sports and cultural exchanges, through various programmes, including the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS), WA Project, Sport for Tomorrow, Japan-Asia Youth Exchange for Students and Youths (Sakura Science Plan), and the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) and the exchanges through the ASEAN Council of Japan Alumni (ASCOJA). The Meeting also agreed to further promote cultural cooperation through the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and the Arts 2019-2021 and the ASEAN Cultural Heritage Digital Archive project.
79. The Meeting appreciated Japan's continued support for ASEAN's development through its additional financial contribution to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The Meeting encouraged the continued effective implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Agreement on Technical Cooperation, which would further contribute to the ASEAN Community building efforts.
80. The Meeting thanked Viet Nam as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Thailand as the incoming Country Coordinator.

#### **New Zealand**

81. The ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by the Kingdom of Cambodia and New Zealand.
82. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership (2021-2025) that focuses on cooperation under four key themes of "Peace, Prosperity, People and Planet", as set out in the Joint ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders' Vision Statement on the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations, which enhances cooperation and contributes towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
83. The Meeting acknowledged the successful convening of the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit held in November 2020 via videoconference, to mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations.

84. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening cooperation on political-security issues, and advocating for peaceful solutions, in particular on counterterrorism and violent extremism, cybersecurity, maritime security and transnational crime through various ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the EAS, ARF and ADMM-Plus, as well as the ASEAN Plus New Zealand Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC+ New Zealand) Consultation.
85. The Meeting welcomed New Zealand's active contribution in co-chairing the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) with Malaysia and the EU, and the ARF Workshop on Preventing Terrorist Use of the Internet alongside Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as New Zealand's active participation in the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group on Cyber Security (EWG-CS).
86. The Meeting welcomed the ongoing negotiations to upgrade the AANZFTA to ensure that it remains one of the most comprehensive and high-quality ASEAN+1 FTAs, and that it continues to benefit businesses and consumers across the region. The Meeting acknowledged the significant contribution of the AECSP to the enhancement of trade and economic capacity of ASEAN Member States and looked forward to its successor programme, which will commence in 2022.
87. The Meeting looked forward to the early conclusion of a high-quality and ambitious regional Air Services Agreement between the Governments of the ASEAN Member States and New Zealand to provide a more open environment for air links and to facilitate greater ease of movement of people and goods. The Meeting also looked forward to New Zealand's continued support for the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV, and encouraged New Zealand to explore support for the ASCN and the implementation of the MPAC 2025.
88. The Meeting welcomed ongoing cooperation in the areas of agriculture, renewable energy, ease of doing business, MSMEs, young business leaders, and tourism. The Meeting also encouraged both sides to further cooperate and engage in the areas of supply chains, digital economy, and indigenous business.
89. Noting the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Meeting encouraged cooperation on public health in areas where New Zealand has expertise, and welcomed New Zealand's support for ASEAN in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic, including through its NZD 1 million contribution to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and targeted support to ASEAN Member States.

90. The Meeting encouraged to explore possible cooperation for the post-COVID-19 recovery, including on the Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model. The Meeting also reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthen people-to-people exchanges, including through scholarships, TVET as well as short-term specialist training programmes, such as English language training, particularly the bespoke English language training to support Cambodia in its role as ASEAN Chair in 2022. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the resumption of various people-to-people initiatives and programmes, such as the Young Business Leaders' Initiative, Prime Minister's Fellowship Scheme and Young Diplomats Study Tour, once health conditions and travel restrictions permit, including through exploring the establishment of reciprocal green lanes between ASEAN Member States and New Zealand.
91. The Meeting recognised the importance of working closely together, including with the Pacific, to ensure a sustainable and climate-resilient post-pandemic economic recovery, as well as exploring opportunities to strengthen the region's capabilities on addressing climate change, sustainable development, waste management, and natural disasters. In this regard, the Meeting expressed appreciation to New Zealand for its continued support for the AHA Centre's capacity building initiatives, including through the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme, its support to the Mekong River Commission, and its support for climate-smart agricultural development in ASEAN Member States over the next five years through the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.
92. The Meeting thanked Cambodia as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Brunei Darussalam as the incoming Country Coordinator.

### **Republic of Korea**

93. The ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea.
94. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Vision Statement on Peace, Prosperity and Partnership (2021-2025).
95. ASEAN appreciated the ROK's commitment to strengthening its strategic partnership with ASEAN through the New Southern Policy (NSP) Plus and its seven key areas of cooperation, which the ASEAN Leaders welcomed during the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-ROK Summit in November 2020. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the ROK's proposal for a Joint Statement on advancing ASEAN-ROK cooperation under

the NSP and its alignment with ASEAN's major strategies and initiatives including the AOIP and the ACRF at the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-ROK Summit in October 2021.

96. ASEAN commended the ROK's active role in supporting vaccine multilateralism as well as its commitment to be a global vaccine production hub. ASEAN appreciated the ROK's support in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic including its contribution to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, its contribution via the Enhancing the Detection Capacity for COVID-19 in ASEAN Member States, and its efforts to promote cooperation on the development, production and distribution of medicines and vaccines as well as provision access to medicines for COVID-19 and other diseases in future public health emergencies, in line with the focus of the first phase of the urgent implementation of the Regional Strategic and Action Plan on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance (AVSSR) 2021-2025, which aims to provide timely and equitable access to affordable and quality COVID-19 vaccines, by utilizing ODA and the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund. The Meeting also looked forward to strengthening collaboration in public health through the ASEAN-ROK Health Dialogue Channel and the convening of the "ASEAN-ROK Health Ministers' Meeting" and ROK-led forums and seminars on public health and vaccines.
97. The Meeting reiterated the commitment to strengthening cooperation to address non-traditional security issues, including transnational crime, countering terrorism and violent extremism, cybersecurity, maritime security, climate change, food, water and energy security. The Meeting agreed to continue effectively implementing the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)-ROK Work Plan (2019-2023) for Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Transnational Crime. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime with the ROK Consultation this year. The meeting also appreciated ROK's active participation in the ADMM-Plus, including its co-chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group on Cybersecurity.
98. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen economic cooperation by fully implementing the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA) and looked forward to further liberalisation of products in the Sensitive Track (ST) List under the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement, as well as the full ratification and implementation of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-ROK Trade in Goods Agreement. Both sides welcomed the work of the ASEAN-Korean Business Council (AKBC) and the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) in increasing trade and investment flows, and deepening business-to-business cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK as well as sharing best practices and providing capacity-building for MSMEs. The Meeting also commended the progress of the 'ASEAN-ROK Start-ups Partnership' initiative and looked forward to the development of the ASEAN-ROK

Policy Roadmap and the convening of the ASEAN-ROK Start-up Festival in December 2021.

99. The Meeting also agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation in areas such as digital economy, innovation, creative economy, narrowing digital gaps, strengthening digital connectivity and preparing for the 4IR, particularly for MSMEs through digital technology and e-commerce, science and technology, capacity building, and human resource development. The Meeting looked forward to the establishment of the 'ASEAN-ROK Financial Cooperation Centre', and welcomed the discussion to establish the 'ASEAN-Korea Industrial Innovation Centre', the 'ASEAN-Korea Standardization Joint Research Centre' and the 'ASEAN-ROK Science and Technology Cooperation Centre'. The Meeting welcomed the ROK's sharing of experience and expertise in artificial intelligence, big data and 5G technologies to promote a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive ASEAN-ROK digital ecosystem and to build a leading digital community in line with ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025.
100. The Meeting appreciated the ROK's continued support and cooperation in enhancing regional connectivity and narrowing the development gaps within ASEAN, including through the implementation of the MPAC 2025 and the IAI Work Plans III (2016-2020) and the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and the hosting of connectivity forums with AMS. ASEAN also valued the ROK's role and support for the ASCN, especially through the K-City Network Global Cooperation Program and the development of sustainable green infrastructure as well as future industries. The meeting looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meeting on Smart City and Infrastructure as proposed by the ROK. ASEAN welcomed the ROK's continued support for sub-regional cooperation, including the BIMP-EAGA and Mekong sub-regions.
101. The Meeting welcomed the ROK's continued support in promoting cultural cooperation and closer people-to-people ties, youth and cultural exchanges, including through the expansion of scholarship programmes, and the activities of the AKC in Seoul, the ASEAN Culture House in Busan and the ASEAN Cultural Center in Bangkok. The Meeting also looked forward to enhancing cooperation on digital education, human resource development and appreciated ongoing programs such as the ASEAN-ROK Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for ASEAN Mobility (TEAM) and the Higher Education for ASEAN Talents (HEAT) which utilizes the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund.
102. The Meeting agreed to strengthen cooperation in disaster management and welcomed the ROK's proposal to establish the ASEAN Committee on Disaster

Management (ACDM) Plus ROK and ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) Plus ROK mechanisms.

103. The Meeting also commended the ROK's initiatives on environmental cooperation including the successful convening of the 'Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 (P4G) Seoul Summit' in May 2021 and looked forward to enhancing cooperation on environmental issues, including biodiversity conservation and climate change. The Meeting welcomed the development of a workplan for the ASEAN-ROK Carbon Dialogue and looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change this year. The Meeting noted the ROK's bid for the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28). The Meeting also discussed possible cooperation for the post-pandemic recovery such as the collaboration between the Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model and the ROK's Green New Deal.
104. The Meeting thanked Brunei Darussalam as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Viet Nam as the incoming Country Coordinator.

### **Russian Federation**

105. The ASEAN-Russia Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by the Republic of Indonesia and the Russian Federation.
106. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action to Promote Cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation (2016-2020). The Meeting welcomed the conclusion of the new ASEAN-Russia Comprehensive Plan of Action for the period of 2021-2025 to be adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Russia Summit in October 2021 that will guide both sides in further strengthening the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations.
107. The Meeting welcomed the plan to convene the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Russia Summit in October 2021 back to back with the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits and Related Summits to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-Russia relations.
108. The Meeting appreciated the efforts of Russia to enhance regional vaccine access and launch "Sputnik V" production in interested ASEAN countries and looked forward to continuation of training courses for ASEAN epidemiologists in order to enhance regional preparedness and capacity in prevention and responding to communicable infectious diseases.

109. The Meeting welcomed the successful convening of the meeting of the ASEAN-Russia Consultations of the High Representatives for Security Issues and looked forward to the timely convening of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue on ICTs Security-related Issues, which is proposed to be held virtually, as part of the collaborative efforts in strengthening security cooperation.
110. The Meeting reaffirmed its shared commitment to finalise the ASEAN-Russia Work Plan on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) 2021-2024 with a view to deepening cooperation in addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges.
111. The Meeting welcomed Russia's proposal to designate 2022 as the ASEAN-Russia Year of Science, and Technology Cooperation. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the proposed activities between ASEAN and Russia. The Meeting noted Russia's invitation to ASEAN to participate as a major partner in the International Industrial Trade Fair INNOPROM to be held in Ekaterinburg in 2022.
112. The Meeting looked forward to strengthening ASEAN-Russia economic cooperation on the basis of ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap and welcomed the extension of the Cooperation Program between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission until 2025. The Meeting encouraged further development of cooperation between ASEAN and Eurasian Economic Union.
113. The Meeting expressed appreciation for Russia's proactive engagement of the ASCN, and looked forward to further ASEAN-Russia cooperation on smart cities.
114. The Meeting underlined the need to enhance dialogue, expand capacity building, and improve information exchange between ASEAN and Russia through ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the EAS, ARF and ADMM-Plus, on various aspects of security, such as addressing traditional and nontraditional threats and challenges, to contribute to regional peace, security and stability.
115. The Meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment to finalise the ASEAN-Russia Work Plan on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime which would provide a basis for continued cooperation between ASEAN and Russian law enforcement agencies
116. The Meeting welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ASEAN and the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Field of Disaster Management on 19 February 2021 to promote and develop engagement in the area of disaster management and looked forward to its practical implementation.

117. The Meeting noted the importance of promoting people-to-people contacts, including through organizing the meetings of the Network of ASEAN-Russia Think-Tanks (NARTT) and ASEAN-Russia Youth Summits.
118. The Meeting thanked Indonesia as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Cambodia as the incoming Country Coordinator.

### **United States of America**

119. The ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and the United States.
120. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership (2021-2025).
121. The Meeting welcomed the U.S. continued commitment to and support for ASEAN unity and Centrality in its engagement in the region, as highlighted during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' (AMM) Retreat on 21 January 2021, and reinforced during the Special ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 14 July 2021, and looked forward to the possible resumption of the Special ASEAN-U.S. Summit in the near future to further deepen the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership. The Meeting welcomed the U.S. support for the AOIP and encouraged the U.S. to support the implementation of its four key areas to promote cooperation and stability in the region.
122. The Meeting welcomed the U.S. proposals for expanded engagement with ASEAN in the areas of public health, transportation, gender equality and women's empowerment, energy, and environment and climate change and looked forward for further detail of cooperation on these areas. The Meeting discussed cooperation in health sector, human capital development, digital and creative economy, women, peace, and security as well as implementation of the AOIP.
123. The Meeting noted ongoing efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciated the U.S. support for ASEAN in this regard, including through the provision of COVID-19 vaccines, contribution of USD 160 million in COVID-19 related assistance to ASEAN Member States and USAID's efforts to assist ASEAN in developing an ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System. The Meeting also welcomed the U.S. contribution of USD 500,000 to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, and looked forward to the U.S.' continued contribution to the ACRF and its Implementation Plan, and the ASEAN RRMS. The Meeting underscored the need for U.S. global leadership in addressing the vaccination gap

and encouraged greater collaboration to ensure equitable and affordable access and procurement of vaccines for ASEAN including expanding production in the region.

124. The Meeting welcomed the U.S. continued support for enhanced regional connectivity as well as in strengthening cybersecurity capacity and ASEAN's digital transformation and digital economy through the implementation of the MPAC 2025 and looked forward to exploring synergies between the MPAC 2025 and U.S. initiatives supporting connectivity, in line with the "Connecting the Connectivities" approach. We also welcomed initiatives on the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership and the U.S.-ASEAN Connect Digital Economy Series, as well as through its support for the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence. The Meeting also looked forward to the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue in 2021 to discuss ways to strengthen cyber cooperation in the region and reaffirm our joint interests in cyberspace capacity. The Meeting expressed support for the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Digital Development to be adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-U.S. Summit in October 2021, which would strengthen ASEAN's preparedness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). The Meeting expressed appreciation for the U.S. continued engagement in the ASCN through activities under the US-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership (USASCP) initiative. The Meeting expressed its willingness to explore the possibility of cooperation through an ASEAN-U.S. Digital Economy Agreement.
125. The Meeting welcomed ASEAN-U.S. development cooperation, especially through the Mekong-US Partnership (MUSP), USAID's Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade and E-Commerce (IGNITE), the Partnership for Regional Optimization within the Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Communities (PROSPECT), the ASEAN Policy Implementation Project (API), and the Regional Development Cooperation Agreement (RDCA) for further collaboration in new areas of cooperation.
126. The Meeting welcomed the U.S. renewed commitment to the climate change agenda and its return to the Paris Agreement, and looked forward to deepening cooperation to address the climate crisis and strengthen collaboration on environment and energy, as well as promote sustainable development in the region, including through the ACSDSD. The Meeting also welcomed the US proposal to establish an annual ASEAN-US Ministerial-level Dialogue on energy at the sidelines of the annual East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM).
127. The Meeting welcomed the U.S. continued constructive role in promoting dialogue for regional peace and security through its participation in various ASEAN-led mechanisms, namely the EAS, ARF, EAMF, and ADMM-Plus, as well as the ASEAN

Plus U.S. Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC+U.S.) Consultation.

128. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to deepening ASEAN-U.S. economic ties, including through the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA), the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Work Plans, the U.S.-ASEAN Connect, as well as through dialogue and engagement among the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), and with the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council (U.S.-ABC). The Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of IGNITE in supporting the development of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) and efforts to link the ASW with the United States Customs and Border Protection's Automated Customs Environment to further facilitate two-way trade between our countries.
129. The Meeting recalled the adoption of the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Statement on Human Capital Development at the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-U.S. Summit and appreciated the U.S.' support in building a more people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community through various capacity building and development programmes. The Meeting highlighted the importance of initiatives such as the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme, the U.S.-ASEAN Internship Programme, the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women, the Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Visiting Scholar Program and the Billion Futures Program for human capital development in the region and for enhancing people-to-people ties. The Meeting also supported the enhancement of people-to-people exchanges in creative economy and digital economy sectors.
130. The Meeting noted the U.S. proposed deliverables and cooperation in ASEAN. This includes an expansion of the ASEAN SME Academy, which will focus on digital economy support to MSMEs in ASEAN; the U.S.-ASEAN Connect Green Economy Series focusing on sustainable development topics such as renewable energy, green finance, and circular economy; the Southeast Asia Smart Power Program and continue work through the U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership (USASCP) including the soon-to-be-launched Integrated Urban Services Project; and additional resources to continue the YSEALI Seeds for the Future program and the continued growth of this program, including the YSEALI Academy at Fulbright University Vietnam.
131. The Meeting thanked the Lao PDR as the outgoing Country Coordinator and welcomed Indonesia as the incoming Country Coordinator.

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