



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF  
THE 24<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN PLUS THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING  
JAKARTA, INDONESIA  
13 JULY 2023**

1. The 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on 13 July 2023 in Jakarta, and chaired by Her Excellency Retno L. P. Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

**Review and Future Direction of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation**

2. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress in APT cooperation over the past year and discussed its future direction. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthening and deepening the APT process which plays a key role in regional community building efforts, with ASEAN as the driving force. The Meeting also recognized the importance of the APT to ASEAN's efforts towards realizing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021 -2025), and deeper regional integration in East Asia. The Meeting noted the importance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.
3. The Meeting appreciated the notable progress made under the new APT Cooperation Work Plan (2023-2027) adopted on 4 August 2022 in Phnom Penh, particularly in the areas of transnational crime, non-traditional security, maritime cooperation, trade and investment, tourism, connectivity, science, technology, and innovation, social welfare, poverty alleviation, environment, civil service, labor, culture, media, education, public health, and sustainable development. The Meeting highlighted that the Cooperation Work Plan would continue to serve as a principal guide to enhance the APT cooperation over the next five years.
4. The Meeting acknowledged the significance of the APT in maintaining and enhancing peace, security, stability, and development in East Asia. The Meeting shared views on the need to further strengthen dialogue and cooperation to combat terrorism, transnational crimes, and non-traditional security issues, such as trafficking in persons (TIP), people smuggling, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber (ITWT), cybercrime, illicit drug trafficking, and border management. The

Meeting welcomed the development of a new ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)+3 Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2024-2027) and the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM)+3 Work Programme, both under the AMMTC+3 Consultation framework, in complementary to the APT Cooperation Work Plan (2023-2027). The Meeting reaffirmed a strong commitment to combating illicit drugs under the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD+3) Consultation.

5. The Meeting reaffirmed the role of APT cooperation in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Meeting acknowledged the support and contribution of the Plus Three countries to the ASEAN Member States, and ASEAN's initiatives in addressing COVID-19 which include, among others, the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan. The meeting appreciated Japan's contribution to the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), and China's contribution to the proposed APT Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (APTRMS). The Meeting encouraged further consultation on setting up APTRMS to complement the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies (ARRMS).
6. The Meeting emphasised the need to strengthen APT collaboration in advancing the region's recovery from the adverse socio-economic effects of the pandemic. The Meeting welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN Plus Three Economic Cooperation Work Programme (ECWP) 2023-2024 by the ASEAN Plus Three Economic Ministers during the 25<sup>th</sup> AEM Plus Three Consultations on 17 September 2022, Siem Reap, Cambodia, which continued to provide positive outcomes in strengthening capacity for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), improving trade facilitation, promoting the development of digital economy, contributing to supply chain resilience, enhancing collaboration in joint research activities between APT research institutions, and pursuing cooperation in areas of mutual interest.
7. The Meeting underlined the importance of trade and investment relations between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. In 2021, trade between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries recorded an increase of 25.1 percent reaching a total value of USD 1.098 trillion. Meanwhile, total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from the Plus Three Countries into ASEAN were valued at USD 32.65 billion in 2021, accounting for 25.4 percent of total FDI inflows into ASEAN.
8. The Meeting reaffirmed a strong commitment to the open, free, fair, inclusive, equitable, transparent, and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core, notably through working toward positive outcomes at the Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference.

The Meeting welcomed the progress made since the entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement on January 2022, including the entry into force for several remaining RCEP Participating Countries, as this reflects our strong commitment for a regional market that is open, free, inclusive, and adherent to a rules-based multilateral trading system. The full implementation of the RCEP Agreement in a transparent manner will provide businesses in the region, especially micro, small, and medium businesses greater access to markets and more flexible rules of origin, incentivize new trade and investment opportunities, as well as contribute to stronger and more resilient supply chains.

9. The Meeting commended the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) on Food, Agriculture, and Forestry 2016-2025. The Meeting looked forward to the enhancement of APT cooperation in food security, particularly in the post-pandemic period, including through the effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS), to overcome possible food shortages as well as to strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of regional food supply chains and logistics system. The Meeting reiterated the importance of enhancing cooperation to achieve resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems. The Meeting also commended the development of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture which was adopted at the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) on 25 October 2022 and looked forward to the adoption of the Action Plan.
10. The Meeting was pleased to note that the APT Tourism Cooperation has incorporated the key strategic actions from the Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism into the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2021-2025 to further strengthen the cooperation among the APT Countries in recovery efforts. The Meeting highlighted the importance for the APT countries to further engage all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to speed up the revival of the tourism sector as soon as possible. The Meeting looked forward to the development of the Action Plan to implement the ASEAN Framework on Sustainable Tourism Development in the Post-COVID-19 Era.
11. The Meeting stressed the need to assist people and businesses affected by the impact of COVID-19, especially the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), start-ups, and vulnerable groups, including through facilitating their access to and capacity to use digital technologies to allow the MSMEs to recover and grow their businesses. The Meeting further reaffirmed their continuing support for the development of the digital economy and future initiatives aimed at preparing MSMEs to embrace and benefit from the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

12. The Meeting recognised the potential of digital transformation to boost the region's long-term competitiveness and to improve the livelihood of its people. The Meeting commended the continued efforts of APT to push forward the digital transformation agenda to strengthen the region's supply chain resilience and drive the recovery of the post-COVID-19 era. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of focusing on enhancing APT's capacity to facilitating free flow of data across border, development of digital connectivity, and strengthening of consumer and business trust in the digital economy. The Meeting acknowledged the continued support of APT on the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (DIFAP), through capacity-building activities on the use of digital technologies and the mid-term report on the ASEAN Plus Three research project for closing the digital divide in MSMEs.
13. The Meeting underlined the importance of the ASEAN+3 Finance Process in enhancing regional economic and financial stability. Noting the outcomes of the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM+3), the Meeting welcomed the continued commitment to strengthening regional financial safety nets by exploring new facilities and more robust and reliable financing structures, as well as the continuous effort and discussions with the aim of improving the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) accessibility and effectiveness. The Meeting also welcomed the progress in financial cooperation under ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), and ASEAN+3 Future Initiatives. The Meeting welcomed the joint ADB-ASEAN+3 Report on "Reinvigorating Financing Approaches for Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure in ASEAN+3" developed under the ASEAN+3 Finance Process Working Group 1 on Infrastructure Finance, which offered an "ASEAN+3 voice" on the important topic of infrastructure financing; and noted the successful Ministerial Launch Event of the Report on 2 May 2023. The Meeting also welcomed the upgrading of Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) as a regular agenda under the ASEAN+3 finance track as well as the endorsement of the Action Plan to explore insurance and financing solutions, to facilitate knowledge exchange, and to develop technical solutions on the existing regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (ADRFI) and the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF). The Meeting also welcomed AMRO's report on Financial Digitalization which highlights opportunities and risks and presents forward-looking recommendations for regional financial cooperation.
14. The Meeting noted the convening of the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting (19<sup>th</sup> AMEM+3) held on 16 September 2022 and was pleased to note the commitment of the AMEM+3 to pursue post-pandemic economic recovery toward sustainable development and growth by accelerating innovation and scale-up of investments to improve and sustain clean and modern energy infrastructure and supply chains towards advancing sustainable, just, affordable, realistic, and resilient-and inclusive energy transition and the importance of Liquefied Natural

Gas (LNG) in supplementing renewable energy and economic growth while ensuring energy security in the region. The Meeting further noted the need to explore a variety of options and utilize all fuels and technologies to ensure a secure and stable supply of energy for achieving both goals of economic growth and resilience from the COVID-19 pandemic and lowering greenhouse gas emissions and consented that there is no single pathway to achieve low-carbon economy, but rather there are various and practical pathways towards carbon neutrality/net-zero emissions depending on the circumstances of each country towards net-zero emissions/carbon neutrality. The Meeting also noted the continued effort to enhance APT energy cooperation through regional interconnectivity in line with the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II: 2021-2025.

15. The Meeting encouraged APT members to be actively involved in strengthening cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) with mutual benefits. The Meeting also accentuated the role and synergy between the four key stakeholders in the innovation system: science, policy, industry, and society, in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The Meeting was pleased with the completion of STI initiatives under APT, which includes the ASEAN+3 Teacher Workshop and training in the field of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), ASEAN+3 Junior Science Odyssey, Da Vinci Science Award and Science Research Contest and APT Young Scientists Forum.
16. The Meeting commended the progress of the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and called for enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries in the strategic areas of sustainable and quality infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and people mobility. The Meeting acknowledged the Plus Three countries' support for ASEAN's implementation of the MPAC 2025 and looked forward to the successful outcomes of ongoing cooperation, including on the ASEAN Tourism Digital Platform, the Diagnostic Tool to Assess MSMEs' Digital Readiness and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Mobility Programme. The Meeting encouraged continued efforts in promoting synergies between MPAC 2025 and other key connectivity initiatives through the Connecting the Connectivities Initiative and called on the Plus Three countries to cooperate with ASEAN for greater engagement with private sector and other relevant stakeholders in enhancing connectivity in the East Asia region.
17. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to undertake further cooperation in smart and sustainable city development through the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy under MPAC 2025 and ASEAN Smart Cities Network. The Meeting commended Japan's efforts to foster smart city cooperation through Smart City supported by Japan ASEAN Mutual Partnership (SmartJAMP) and convening of the annual ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High-level Meetings. The Meeting appreciated ROK's support in establishing the ASEAN Smart City Professional

Program (ASPP) that helps create a regional community of young leaders advancing smart cities.

18. The Meeting commended the efforts of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre to promote trade, investment, culture, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges between and among ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. The Meeting was pleased to note that the three Centres had established regular consultation meetings and called for the Centres to enhance linkages among them by exploring possible joint projects in areas of common interest.
19. The Meeting emphasised the importance of cultural and tourism exchanges and people-to-people links to heighten awareness and foster intercultural understanding and ASEAN identity in the region. In this regard, the Meeting encouraged the effective implementation of the projects under the new ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and the Arts 2022-2025. The Meeting also looked forward to greater cooperation in the fields of culture and the arts to promote active exchange among APT countries through various channels. In addition, the Meeting encouraged greater collaborations to leverage digital transformation for the media and information sector under the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation through Information and Media 2018-2023.
20. The Meeting acknowledged the efforts made to implement the priority areas of APT health cooperation, which include universal health coverage, utilizing digital health for healthcare, prevention, and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, traditional and complementary medicine, health and active aging, human resources for health, responding to communicable and emerging diseases and food safety, as well as issues related to antimicrobial resistance, ending all forms of malnutrition, and health emergencies.
21. The Meeting noted the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaborative activities to be undertaken in promoting healthy and active ageing as complemented by the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) through an agreement that entered into force in 2020. The Meeting also noted the efforts to strengthen the healthcare and welfare system under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN). The Meeting likewise noted the commitment of the APT health sectors in continuing efforts on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) and the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III) to enhance the ASEAN Member States and Plus Three countries' capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats.
22. The Meeting reiterated the APT commitment to advancing cooperation in promoting sustainable inclusive and innovative development, as well as in strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to

achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Meeting called for the development of collaborative projects to protect and conserve the environment and biodiversity, to promote sustainable use of natural resources including sustainable forest management and water resource management, to address the impact of climate change and the issue of marine plastic debris, and to address air pollution through the support of the establishment and the operationalization of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution (ACCTHPC) and the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP).

23. The Meeting welcomed the continuous contribution of the Plus Three countries to reduce marine debris through the ASEAN Plus Three Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative and support to the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States 2021-2025. The Meeting welcomed in particular activities of the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD) of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to address the marine plastic issue, as well as collective efforts towards the achievement of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).
24. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to promote and support sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development across the ASEAN community, including the protection of and mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities through developing accessible services to health, education, employment, social protection, and digital inclusion, to accelerate ASEAN disability-inclusive development.
25. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to forging closer cooperation in poverty alleviation for sustainable development. Following the adoption of the Joint Statement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Village Network during the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit in May 2023, the Meeting looked forward to exploring ways to support the sustainability of the ASEAN Village Network, through, among others, the development of infrastructure and human resources, capacity building programs, and technical exchange activities, guided by the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development, Poverty Eradication 2016 – 2025 and the ASEAN Masterplan on Rural Development 2022-2026, and the regional mechanism of the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) Plus Three.
26. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to promoting and protecting the human rights of vulnerable groups, achieving gender equality, and the empowerment of women. The Meeting commended the continued efforts of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of The Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to forge ahead with the implementation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework

(AGMSF) across the ASEAN Community Pillars and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action (RPA) on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). The Meeting looked forward to strengthening and continuing cooperation for capacity building for empowering women in the context of WPS.

27. The Meeting recognized the megatrend of aging societies and its impacts on the region. The Meeting endeavored to explore ways in expanding cooperation on empowering older persons, enhancing access to social protection and health care in old age, building capacities, and raising the profiles of social workers and the broader social service workforce.
28. The Meeting recognized the importance of education for human resource development as well as social and economic well-being in post-pandemic recovery. In this regard, the Meeting noted the commitment of the APT Education Ministers' at the 6<sup>th</sup> APT Education Ministers Meeting, held on 14 October 2022 in Hanoi entitled "Joint Efforts to Reimagine Learning and Building Resilience of Education Systems in the ASEAN and Beyond in the New Context". The Meeting also encouraged the enhancement of cooperation in the Campus Asia Plus Program and welcomed the initiatives of the Working Group on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education among APT countries.
29. The Meeting noted the convening of the 8<sup>th</sup> APT Ministerial Meeting on Youth via videoconference on 21 June 2023 and was pleased to note the commitment to implement programmes under the APT Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025 across the five priorities. The Meeting commended the longstanding efforts of the APT Senior Officials Meeting on Youth and relevant ASEAN entities to provide greater access for youth in APT countries to participate and remain engaged in the ASEAN Community building and people-to-people exchange, through various annual youth exchanges, capacity building, and community immersion programs.
30. The Meeting commended the steady progress of implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3) Work Plan 2021-2025 that covers areas of mutual interests including e-governance, human resource management and human resource development, productivity in the public sector, good governance, public sector reform, local administration capacity building and cooperation, and research and innovation. The Meeting also noted the initiatives supported by the APT Cooperation Fund that sought to strengthen the overall capabilities of the ASEAN Civil Services, including the ongoing Baseline Study on Governance Systems among APT Countries and the ASEAN Guidelines on Public Service Delivery. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the implementation of the Guidelines through the completion of the Study Visit on Public Service Delivery to ROK on 12-16 December 2022 and the upcoming study visit to China. The Meeting looked forward to the implementation of the Workshop on Digitalization in Public Administration, a Series of Workshops on Transformative Leadership (Building Capacity on Transformative Leadership in



the Civil Service of ASEAN Member States), and the International Symposium hosted by Japan with the theme of "The Future of Civil Service" that would further support the realization of an agile, future-ready ASEAN civil service.

31. The Meeting commended the strengthening of the APT cooperation in the labour sector through the effective implementation of the first APT Senior Labour Officials' Meeting (SLOM+3) Work Plan 2021-2025 by engaging in practical activities and projects that covered the areas of human resources development (HRD), inclusive growth, sustainable development as a response to the ASEAN economic integration, social dialogue, and occupational safety and health in the workplace, and social protection. The Meeting encouraged APT cooperation on the protection of ASEAN Migrant workers in crisis situation and migrant Fishers in the entire migration process.
32. The Meeting noted the completion of the Study on Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Human Resources through Responsive TVET Curriculum as Component 1 of the ASEAN-ROK TEAM Project last year and the successful convening of the ASEAN+3 E-Forum on Skills Development on "Promoting Effective Policies towards a Human-Centred, Inclusive, and Resilient Recovery" on 20-21 September 2022, the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 HRD Forum on "Digital Skills Development and TVET for Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Growth" on 10-11 November 2022, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ROK-ASEAN Policy Sharing Workshop in the Employment and Labor Sector on 1-2 December 2022. The Meeting also noted the ongoing progress of the ASCC Research and Development Platform on the Future of Work and Future of Education, which will contribute meaningfully to more informed decisions on labor and education sectors.
33. The Meeting encouraged the enhancement of cooperation on disaster management, emergency response, and humanitarian assistance, particularly to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025 and the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region, by strengthening cooperation, through exchanges of information, best practices and experiences, and capacity building through joint training and exercises to reduce disaster risks and losses in addressing disruptions to the socio-economic development caused by disasters, build resilience to disasters and realize the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management which, among others, envisions ASEAN to be the global leader in disaster management.
34. The Meeting acknowledged the important contribution of the East Asia Forum (EAF) as a Track 1.5 level platform for government, business, academia, and think tanks to further deepen East Asia cooperation. In this regard, the Meeting noted with appreciation the convening of the 20<sup>th</sup> EAF under the theme "25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation: Recovering Together, Growing Together

toward Inclusive, Equitable and Sustainable Development in East Asia” hosted by Viet Nam on 19-20 December 2022 in Nha Trang, Viet Nam. The Forum underlined the need to further strengthen existing APT mechanisms/institutions and practical cooperation to bring about regional sustainable recovery, as well as to better prepare the region for emerging challenges, including food and energy crises, climate change, and public health emergencies, among others. The meeting encouraged exploring cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three countries on disaster management.

35. The Meeting also recognized the important contributions of the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) towards APT cooperation and looked forward to the outcomes of NEAT to be submitted to the 26<sup>th</sup> APT Summit in September 2023, for notation.
36. The Meeting underscored the importance of forging closer cooperation in other areas, such as climate change, plastic pollution, women empowerment and gender equality, disaster management and humanitarian assistance, and narrowing the development gap.
37. The Meeting appreciated the initiatives to implement the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific as reflected in the Matrix of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Programmes, Projects, Activities, and Initiatives Related to the Implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on The Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The Meeting was determined to further promote and mainstream AOIP in concrete projects and activities within the ASEAN Plus Three framework. Moreover, the Meeting looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum: Implementation of AOIP this year that will focus on the creative economy, infrastructure, business, and investment and the role of youth in digital development for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **Regional and International Issues**

38. The Meeting supported ASEAN to lead the shaping of the region's economic and security architecture and ensure that geopolitical and geostrategic dynamics will continue to bring about peace, security, stability and prosperity for the peoples in the Southeast Asia as well as in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions or the Indo-Pacific.
39. The Meeting recognized the strategic importance of ASEAN as an Epicentrum of Growth for our security, stability, and prosperity. ASEAN Plus Three will continue to serve its purpose to facilitate constructive dialogue and concrete cooperation among its members and support the centrality and proactive role of ASEAN in an open, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture anchored in international law. The Meeting expressed concern over intensifying geopolitical tensions and is convinced more than ever of the value and relevance of further

strengthen the APT partnership in accordance with the principles of the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The meeting also encouraged the revitalization of Trilateral Mechanism to further promote peace and prosperity in the region.

40. The Meeting committed to maintaining the region as an epicentrum of growth and mitigating the impacts of geopolitical tensions by building resilience and preparedness against future shocks towards inclusive, equitable, and sustainable growth, through cooperation on maintaining financial stability, strengthening regional health architecture, building food security and resilience, accelerating the inclusive and just energy transition and strengthening the existing rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open, and inclusive multilateral trading system.

#### *Developments in the Korean Peninsula*

41. The Meeting expressed grave concerns over launch of the ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 12 July 2023. The Meeting stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. The recent surge in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s intercontinental ballistic missile testing and ballistic missile launches and resulting tensions in the Korean Peninsula are a worrisome development that threatens peace and stability in the region. The Meeting urged all concerned parties to resume peaceful dialogue and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. The Meetings reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Diplomatic efforts, including the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties should remain a priority. The Meeting reiterated our readiness to play a constructive role, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere for peaceful dialogue amongst the concerned parties. Some Ministers emphasised the importance of addressing issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions and detainees issues.

#### *Development in Myanmar*

42. The Meetings discussed the development in Myanmar and reaffirmed our united position that the 5PC remains our main reference to address the political crisis in Myanmar. The Meetings strongly condemned the continued acts of violence, including air strikes, artillery shelling, and destruction of public facilities and urged all parties involved to take concrete action to immediately halt indiscriminate

violence, denounce any escalation, and create a conducive environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogue.

43. The Meetings commended the AHA Centre for its partial delivery of aid to 400 households of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Hsiseng Township, located in the Southern Shan State, on 7 July 2023. The Meetings appreciated the support of the relevant stakeholders in ensuring safe delivery. The Meetings called on further facilitation to ensure the humanitarian assistance can safely reach the 1,1 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) identified in the Joint Need Assessment (JNA) Report of the AHA Centre. The Meetings appreciated the support from all stakeholders in Myanmar for helping the completion of the JNA by the AHA Centre in an inclusive manner facilitated by the ASEAN Chair. The Meetings called for additional support from the international community for humanitarian assistance to implement the JNA Report.
44. The Meetings appreciated the Chair's efforts in intensifying engagement with all relevant stakeholders in Myanmar to build trust and confidence, create a conducive environment, and bridge gaps and differences leading toward an inclusive dialogue for a comprehensive political solution. The Meetings supported sustaining such engagements to push for the implementation of the 5PC in its entirety, in line with ASEAN Leaders' decision at the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit. The Meetings called for continued support of the External Partners, including the UN and neighboring countries of Myanmar, to work with ASEAN for concrete implementation of the 5PC.

#### **Other Matters**

45. The Meeting discussed the preparations for the 26<sup>th</sup> APT Summit and noted the proposed statement to develop electric vehicle ecosystem to be adopted at the 26<sup>th</sup> APT Summit to be held in September 2023 in Jakarta.

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