



**Chairman's Statement of the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit: *"Moving forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community"***

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 May 2014

1. The 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, under Myanmar's Chairmanship theme, *"Moving forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community"*, was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from 10 to 11 May 2014. The Summit was chaired by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency U Thein Sein. The Summit was attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. Thailand was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister of its caretaker government as special envoy.
2. We, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States had productive discussions during the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, focusing on the timely realization of the ASEAN Community by 2015, strengthening ASEAN Institutions and envisioning a strategic direction for the ASEAN Community post-2015. We also exchanged views on regional and international issues and discussed ways to further deepen and strengthen ASEAN's external relations.

**Towards a Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community**

3. Reflecting the Chair's theme of *"Moving forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community"*, we underscored the importance of ASEAN unity as a foundation for all our efforts in promoting regional peace, stability and enhancing economic development. ASEAN unity was recognised as the core foundation for realising a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible ASEAN Community.

4. We reiterated our commitment to a rules-based community which would guarantee peace, security and stability throughout the region. In pursuit of ASEAN's goals and objectives in the political and security field, we committed to forging harmonious and shared values and norms among ASEAN Member States. We underscored the importance of taking a holistic approach to comprehensive security through shared responsibility.

5. We reaffirmed our pledge to strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this regard, we committed to adhere to the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes and non interference in internal affairs as reflected in the ASEAN Charter, which are in line with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law to complement global efforts for international peace and security.

6. We stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen cooperation under the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Declaration on Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality(ZOPFAN), and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). We reaffirmed the TAC was the key code of conduct for governing inter-state relations in the region and a foundation for maintaining regional peace and stability. In this context, we welcomed the adoption of the revised guidelines for accession to the TAC by Foreign Ministers and agreed to further consider the remaining requests from other countries to accede to the TAC, in accordance with the revised guidelines.

7. We reiterated our commitment to a Southeast Asian region free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as stated in the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the ASEAN Charter. We expressed hope for the early accession of all nuclear-weapon states to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ without reservation.

8. We shared the common view that despite widespread opportunities for our region, numerous challenges also existed. We agreed to continually look forward, planning for future issues, that would challenge and shape our region. We agreed that trust, communication, and management of differences were a common responsibility of the wider region. In this regard, we welcomed Indonesia's efforts to propose a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in the wider Indo-Pacific region.

9. We expressed our satisfaction with the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Charter, in providing the legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN since its adoption in 2007. In this respect, we urged ASEAN Member States for the timely ratification of all outstanding legal instruments.

10. We recognised continued progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC) Blueprint, particularly by ensuring peace and harmony among ASEAN Member States and global partners. We appreciated efforts by ASEAN Member States to push forward the implementation of APSC Blueprint and urged them to continue implementation. We reaffirmed our belief that measures taken to implement the APSC Blueprint would pave the way for regional peace, stability and security, which would contribute to regional growth and prosperity by providing a stable and predictable economic environment. We welcomed those ASEAN Member States that volunteered to shepherd the implementation of remaining action lines under the APSC Blueprint.

11. We welcomed the draft Concept paper on Establishing A Direct Communications Link in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Process to be adopted by the ASEAN Defence Ministers at their Eight Meeting on 20 May 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, which will provide a permanent, rapid, reliable and confidential means by which any two ASEAN Defence Ministers may communicate with each other to arrive at mutual decisions in handling crisis or emergency situations, in particular related to maritime security.

12. We take note of the progress of discussions by our officials on the proposal to extend our support to ASEAN Member States that do not have permanent representation in third countries to help their respective nationals in need of consular assistance. This would add meaning to the raising of the ASEAN flag alongside the national flags of ASEAN Member States in the ASEAN missions abroad and, in this regard, we task our relevant officials to continue their deliberations on consular assistance for ASEAN nationals in third countries.

13. We reiterated our strong belief that peace, stability and equitable economic growth within ASEAN would enable our peoples to enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD. In this respect, we acknowledged and commended the ongoing efforts of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on its various programs and activities. We looked forward to the review of the TOR of AICHR on both the promotion and protection of human rights within ASEAN. This review would be undertaken by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting.

14. We took note of the important contributions made by various mechanisms under the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM), ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF), to maintain and promote peace, security and stability in the region.

15. We underlined the importance of strengthening synergies among ASEAN mechanisms and other regional security mechanisms, to effectively tackle the challenges of non-traditional security threats, including cyber-crime; space security; terrorism; piracy and armed robbery against ships, transnational crime, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and illegal arms trafficking; infectious disease; climate change; water resource management; natural disasters and illegal, unreported, and unregulated

fishing (IUU). We tasked respective Ministers to enhance inter-agency and cross-sectoral coordination within ASEAN as well as with external partners, to improve resilience and enhance capacity to tackle these emerging transnational issues.

16. We emphasized the importance of military to military cooperation to build mutual trust and confidence. We endorsed the ADMM and ADMM-Plus' action oriented efforts to advance practical cooperation amongst our militaries. We looked forward to further progress in practical cooperation led by the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups.

17. Given the complex nature and challenges of trafficking in persons, while welcoming the progress made by the previous Working Group Meeting, we reaffirmed our continued commitment to the process of ACTIP and RPA to meet the urgent need to combat trafficking in person in the region.

18. We welcomed Viet Nam's offer to host the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Maritime Forum and the 3<sup>rd</sup>Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum from 26 to 28 August 2014 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. In this regard, we are hopeful that the forum would facilitate discussion and exchange of views to further enhance maritime cooperation and foster trust building in the region.

19. We looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN Plus Three forum on good governance on 25 September 2014 in Myanmar. We believed the forum would contribute to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of public administration, enhancing institutional capacity within the ASEAN Community and increasing the independence and transparency of judicial and legislative systems in the region.

20. We commended several efforts to operationalise the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation(AIPR). We urged the AIPR to work towards fulfilling its role to provide ASEAN as well as regional and global partners with recommendations, research and analysis in the areas of peace, conflict management and conflict resolution. We welcomed the convening of the AIPR Symposium on Peace and Reconciliation Initiatives and Processes in Manila and the Symposium on Peace and Reconciliation:

Principles and Best Practices in Bali, which demonstrated the capacity of this body to enhance peace and reconciliation efforts in the region. We encouraged the AIPR to take a proactive role in identifying areas of work, in accordance with its Terms of Reference, which would complement and add value in implementing the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC) Blueprint. We urged the AIPR to coordinate and work closely with regional think-tanks, including the ASEAN Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asian Pacific (CSCAP).

21. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) as a regional centre of excellence in addressing explosive remnants of war (ERW). We urged the ARMAC to play a pivotal role in capacity building for interested ASEAN Member States and to facilitate cooperation between interested ASEAN Member States as well as relevant international and regional institutions.

22. We appreciated the significant contribution of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) to the ASEAN community building process. We welcomed the convening of the interface meeting with representatives of AIPA and tasked relevant Ministers to follow-up on meeting recommendations. We looked forward to the outcomes of the 35<sup>th</sup> AIPA to be held from 14 to 20 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which would further strengthen the role of AIPA in supporting the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015 and in the development of the ASEAN Community post-2015 Vision.

23. We recognised the importance of our engagement with relevant ASEAN stakeholders, including the role of youth and civil society in realizing the ASEAN Community by 2015. We encouraged their continued constructive engagement in the ASEAN Community building process and acknowledged their contribution towards achieving a people-oriented ASEAN Community which would bring benefit to all our peoples.

24. We agreed that all efforts to achieve the ASEAN Community should bring forth tangible improvements and long-term benefits to our peoples and the generations to come. It should also fulfill the expectations of our peoples for a peaceful region with sustained growth, equitable development and social progress. In this context, we highlighted the importance of pursuing an inclusive and sustainable development path through narrowing development gaps within ASEAN and strengthening the productive capacity and competitiveness of ASEAN Member States, while continuing to promote peace and stability as a solid foundation and core of all ASEAN activities.

### **Towards a Resilient and Vibrant ASEAN Community**

25. We recognised that ASEAN economic performance remained robust despite domestic and global challenges. In this respect, we agreed to remain vigilant in implementing outstanding action lines in the ASEAN Economic Community(AEC) by 2015. We agreed to intensify our efforts to ensure timely implementation of high-impact measures identified last year.

26. Acknowledging the importance of outreach programs to promote awareness and understanding of the AEC, we looked forward to the launch of the AEC Booklet “Thinking Regionally, Prospering Globally – The ASEAN Economic Community 2015: Messaging for our Future” and the development of the ASEAN Communication Master Plan.

27. We noted the progress of work on trade facilitation, including the progress on tariff elimination, trade facilitation and non-tariff measures. We welcomed the efforts of ASEAN Member States to strengthen customs and cross-border cooperation to expedite trade transactions and looked forward to the timely operationalisation of the ASEAN Customs Transit System. We reaffirmed our commitment to the free flow of goods in the region and welcomed progress towards establishing the ASEAN Single Window (ASW). We encouraged all ASEAN Member States to prioritise the development of their respective National Single Window to ensure its timely

implementation. In this regard, we looked forward to the finalisation of the Protocol on the Legal Framework to Implement the ASW.

28. We noted on-going activities aimed at improving ASEAN investment regimes and promoting ASEAN as a single investment destination. We welcomed the launch of the Invest ASEAN website, which would serve as the main platform for information on investing in the region and ASEAN's initiatives in this area.

29. We were satisfied with continued progress on liberalizing trade in services. We looked forward to the commencement of negotiations on the ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA), which would enhance and build upon the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) and other related initiatives. We looked forward to the conclusion of ATISA by the end of 2015, noting that it would lay the foundation for the post-2015 ASEAN policy on trade in services.

30. We noted progress made under the ASEAN Capital Market Forum (ACMF), with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand to establish a Framework for the Cross-Border Offering of the ASEAN Collective Investment Scheme (CIS), which is expected to further promote cross-border investment and flow of fund products among the countries involved. We looked forward to the early signing of the Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Financial Services Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS).

31. We looked forward to the "Conference on Financial Inclusion- Enhancing Microfinance and Mobile Banking for Unbanked peoples in the ASEAN Region" which would be held in Myanmar in 2014. We were convinced that this conference would contribute to deepening the ASEAN financial sector by promoting ASEAN people's access to finance.

32. Recognising the contribution of SMEs to the region's economic growth, we welcomed the progress made by the SME Working Group (SMEWG) in implementing the SME Strategic Action Plan, establishing the ASEAN SME Service Centre and creating a SME Credit Rating model by the end of 2014. We were also encouraged by



SMEWG's work in creating a good policy environment for SME development in the region including to enable SMEs and entrepreneurs active role in the regional supply chain.

33. We noted with satisfaction cooperation in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors in order to facilitate the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015. We welcomed the successful outcome of the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF+3) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMAFF) that was held from 23 to 29 September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur. We looked forward to the 36<sup>th</sup> AMAF which would be hosted by Myanmar from 20-26 September 2014.

34. To support the competitive position of ASEAN agricultural products in international markets, we agreed we needed to focus on developing and applying quality management systems. In this regard, we reaffirmed our commitment to promote cooperation and technology transfer amongst ASEAN Member States, as well as with dialogue partners, international organizations and the private sector.

35. We reiterated the importance of food security cooperation in the region and supported the development of the second phase of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and its Strategic Plan of Action (SPA-FS), with increased focus on ensuring a sufficient supply of safe and nutritious foods that meet the dietary requirements of our populations. Owing to many emerging threats to food security, we agreed to promote a common and unified position to ensure sustainable food security and nutrition in ASEAN.

36. We reaffirmed the importance of joint ASEAN efforts in responding to the impacts of climate change. In this regard, we agreed to apply Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), which would contribute to regional food security and maintaining environmental protection.

37. We were pleased with progress made on the implementation of the Brunei Action Plan (BAP) and the ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2011-2015. In particular we noted the conclusion of the Eighth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) and urged remaining Member States to make concerted efforts to complete the Ninth Package of Services Commitments by August this year. We also acknowledged the Study on Formulating an ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM), Implementing Strategy and Protocol 2 on the Fifth Freedom Traffic Rights of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement and the launch of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Statistics Book. We welcomed the establishment of a task force to develop the post-2015 vision for ASEAN transport cooperation and the successive plans for the BAP and ATSP.

38. In order to strengthen ASEAN's competitiveness and enhance connectivity in the region, we reaffirmed our strong commitment to developing an efficient, secure, sustainable and integrated transport network including completion of the ASEAN Highway Network (AHN), Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL), ASEAN Single Aviation Market (ASAM) and the ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM) initiatives.

39. We welcomed progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2011-2015 and commended on-going efforts to promote sustainable tourism. We look forward to the establishment of a regional secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for tourism professionals in Indonesia in 2015. We supported the ASEAN National Tourism Office commencing work on the formulation of the post-2015 vision for ASEAN tourism cooperation, including the development of a plan to replace the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2011-2015.

40. We commended the good progress made on the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Master plan 2015 (AIM 2015) and agreed to further intensify our efforts for its timely completion. We also supported further efforts to strengthen regional digital inclusion to increase ICT adoption, particularly in rural areas, to enable all ASEAN

citizens to have equal opportunity to participate in the regional development process through the rollout of national broadband networks, improvements of national Universal Service Obligations (USOs) and collaboration with relevant sectors such as education.

41. We recognised the importance of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) as a platform for achieving equitable economic development in the region and narrowing the development gap between ASEAN-6 and CLMV countries. In this regard, we reaffirmed our support for CLMV cooperation as well as support for the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) and welcomed the completion of its mid-term review. Following the review, we looked forward to the effective implementation of the IAI until 2015. Owing to the cross-cutting nature of the development gap and its significance to the ASEAN integration process, we agreed to task our officials to initiate discussions on developing the post-2015 for the IAI. We welcomed closer collaboration between ASEAN and other Mekong sub-regional cooperation mechanisms, such as the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) the Mekong-Japan, Mekong-Korea and ACMECS.

42. Acknowledging the importance of the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development (AFEED), we were pleased to note that in collaboration with the World Bank, ASEAN is currently developing a monitoring tool to track the level equitable economic development in the region. The monitoring tool would provide ASEAN Member States with a common basis for both understanding trends in equitable development across the region and identifying areas of concern, while also analysing factors affecting changes in equitable development. The monitoring tool would also support the formulation of ASEAN-wide policies to promote equitable economic development.

43. We welcomed progress on the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), which would promote economic growth, narrow development gaps and contribute to ASEAN integration and community building. Connecting

ASEAN Member States within the region and with the rest of the world, we noted that the MPAC would enhance ASEAN's competitiveness, promote deeper social and cultural understanding and greater people mobility. We appreciated the continued efforts of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) in facilitating the implementation of the MPAC. We recognised the importance of mobilizing financial and technical resources, utilisation of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF) as well as the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) as a model for financing infrastructure projects. In this regard, we looked forward to the 5th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium entitled "Catalysing Public-Private Partnerships to Finance ASEAN Connectivity" which would be held in Myanmar in September this year. We were pleased with Dialogue Partners' support for the MPAC and encouraged Ministers to further engage and collaborate with Dialogue Partners, external parties and the private sector to implement the MPAC.

44. Acknowledging the vital role of the private sector in ASEAN integration, we welcomed the continued efforts of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) to improve business integration and support outreach programs on ASEAN initiatives in the lead up to AEC 2015. We commended the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Consultation Meeting of ASEAN Business Councils and urged ASEAN-BAC to continue consultations. We looked forward to the ASEAN Business Investment Summit (ABIS) and ASEAN Business Awards in Myanmar in November this year.

45. Acknowledging the role of ASEAN plus one Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in strengthening the AEC, we supported the existing commitments of the ongoing ASEAN plus one FTAs and the idea of prioritizing the negotiations of the RCEP to be concluded in 2015 which would support ASEAN's integration into the global economy. In this regard, we welcomed progress on the implementation of ASEAN plus one FTAs, particularly the substantial conclusion of the Trade in Services and Investment Chapters of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and looked forward to the signing of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreement and the signing of the ASEAN-India Agreement on Services and

Investment (AIASA). We encouraged continued effort to enhance the implementation of the ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Korea and ASEAN-Australia-NewZealand FTAs. While recognising the opportunities in forging an economic partnership with Hong Kong, we welcomed the commencement of the ASEAN-Hong Kong negotiations in July this year and looked forward to its early conclusion.

46. We reaffirmed our efforts to maintain peace and stability and promote economic dynamism in the region, aimed at ensuring ASEAN peoples could enjoy the full benefits of ASEAN integration.

### **ASEAN for its Peoples**

47. We re-emphasized our continued efforts to move towards a people-oriented ASEAN Community which would ensure the well-being of the peoples of ASEAN. In this regard, we are committed to creating an environment which would allow our peoples to participate in and benefit from the process of ASEAN Community building.

48. Noting our commitment to eliminate violence against women and children, we welcomed the launch of the ASEAN best practices in eliminating violence against women and violence against children. We supported the concrete initiatives and joint collaboration between the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and stakeholders on projects and activities aimed at implementing the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN. We welcomed the concrete initiatives for collaboration between ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) particularly in implementing the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN through Dialogue with NGOs and CSOs. We also urged for inclusion of initiatives that would further enhance the role of women and children in formulating the ASEAN Community's post 2015 Vision.

49. We noted that ASEAN Civil Service Authorities were increasing cooperation within the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) forum. We stressed this was an important forum for addressing issues of common concern, establishing common projects and learning from one another to become even better at serving the region, its governments and the public. In this regard, we expressed our satisfaction with the cooperation of ASEAN's Civil Service Authorities during Myanmar's Chairmanship of the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM). We emphasized the need for building civil service capabilities and acknowledged the role of the ACCSM in the promotion of effective and efficient civil service, public accountability and good governance.

50. In order to promote sustainable rural development, robust rural economic growth and poverty alleviation, we reiterated our commitments to implement projects under the endorsed Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015).

51. Underscoring the role of ASEAN Youths as the region's next generation of leaders and their tremendous potential to contribute to the community building process, we welcomed efforts to implement the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment. We welcomed a series of youth exchange events and encouraged all stakeholders to intensify efforts to strengthen the entrepreneurial skills of young people and increase youth employment.

52. Noting the importance of human resource development, knowledge and education to the success and sustainability of the ASEAN Community, we encouraged strengthened cooperation on education and looked forward to the launching of ASEAN Virtual Learning Centre (AVLRC) in 2014. We reaffirmed our belief that the AVLRC would become a major reference tool for those studying and gathering information about ASEAN Member States and ASEAN as a Community. We agreed the AVLRC would not only distribute information about ASEAN, but would also promote coordination on cross-sectoral issues.

53. Recognising the importance of health care for the peoples of ASEAN, we emphasised the need for the effective implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases, and welcomed the ongoing activities under the ASEAN Work Programme for HIV AIDS and implementation of the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment: Getting to Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS-Related Deaths. We commended the establishment of the ASEAN Business Coalition on HIV AIDS (ASEAN BCA) and ASEAN Red Ribbon for Outstanding Workplace Awards (ARROW) by the ASEAN Senior Labour Officials as platforms for greater participation of the private sector in HIV prevention, control and non-discrimination in the workplace.

54. In order to encourage inclusive development in the ASEAN Community, we acknowledged the importance of social protection policies in combating poverty, reducing inequalities, improving living standards and unlocking the productive capacities of vulnerable groups. In this regard, we tasked Ministers to step-up the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Social Welfare and Development, aimed at safeguarding the rights, providing equal opportunities and raising the quality of life and living standards for the elderly, persons with disabilities, children and other vulnerable groups.

55. Recognising the contribution of migrant workers to both the society and economy of ASEAN, we reiterated the importance of creating a secure and prosperous ASEAN Community by improving the quality of life of the peoples of ASEAN and safeguarding the human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals, including the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers. In this regard, we tasked Ministers to work towards the timely finalisation of the ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers.

56. We stressed the importance for ASEAN to further enhance cooperation on climate change. We tasked the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community (ASCC) to develop a Joint Statement on Climate Change for our consideration at the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit.

57. Noting our region was prone to natural disasters, we supported efforts to synergize the existing regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mechanism with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). We appreciated the conduct of the Mentawai Megathrust Disaster Relief Exercise (MMDiREx) 2014 in West Sumatra by the Indonesian Government in March 2014.

58. We welcomed the adoption by the ASEAN Coordinating Council of the Terms of Reference of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator. We hoped this would facilitate the timely activation and thus effective implementation of the mandate of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator in the event of major disasters.

59. Stressing the importance of maintaining ASEAN's rich biodiversity and preserving the environment, we welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatlands Ecosystem (2014- 2020) at the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (AMME). We also acknowledged the successful completion of the Seminar on Green Productivity Improvement, held at the Central Institute of Civil Service, Upper Myanmar from 17 to 21 March 2014. This seminar was one of the nine pilot projects of ACCSM+3 Work Plan.

60. We noted that transboundary haze pollution remains a concern in the region. In this regard, we agreed to further intensify regional and international cooperation including those under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), particularly to promote efforts among ASEAN Member States to ensure the full and effective implementation of the zero burning techniques in land clearing. We acknowledged that the ASEAN Sub-regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS) is a useful tool to assist in monitoring and internal enforcement actions against irresponsible parties contributing to fires. We urged the MSC countries to take the necessary action in order to operationalise the HMS. We looked forward to Indonesia's early ratification of the AATHP.



61. Stressing the important role of culture in the ASEAN Community and ensuring ASEAN's sustainable development, we noted the need for enhanced cooperation in the area of arts and culture. We emphasised the importance of developing a common ASEAN identity and raising people's awareness of the ASEAN Community. In this regard, we welcomed the success of the 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (6th AMCA) and the Inaugural Meetings between ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts and Japan, and Republic of Korea held in Hue, Viet Nam from 19 to 20 April 2014.

62. We commended Indonesia's efforts to promoting harmony among civilizations with the hosting of the 6th the United Nations Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC) Global Forum in Bali, Indonesia from 29 to 30 August 2014.

#### **ASEAN in the Regional and Global Context**

63. We exchanged views on regional and international issues and stressed the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security not only within the region but also throughout the world.

64. We expressed serious concerns over the on-going developments in the South China Sea. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability, maritime security, freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. We called on all parties to the DOC to undertake full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety in order to create an environment of mutual trust and confidence; to exercise self-restraint, not to resort to threat or use of force, and to resolve disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We emphasized the need for expeditiously working towards an early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). In this regard, we noted the importance of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the current developments in the South China Sea issued on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

65. We were encouraged by recent indication that good progress has been made in the negotiations between Iran and P5+1. We hope that a comprehensive agreement would be achieved that would fully address the international community's concerns over the nature of Iran's nuclear program.

66. We expressed concerns over suspension of the negotiations on the Middle East Peace Process. We reiterated ASEAN's support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for an independent state of Palestine and a two-state solution where both countries could live side by side in peace. We called upon Israel and Palestine to constructively engage in peace negotiations and reiterated our call for all parties to make efforts to remove obstacles related thereto, in particular, the construction of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territories to reach a final status agreement.

67. We shared the concerns of the international community on the use of chemical weapons in Syria which has caused the loss of lives. We expressed our deep concern over the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Syria and emphasized the need to ensure unrestricted access to humanitarian assistance was provided to those in need. We further stressed the importance of ensuring the safety and security of civilians, and in this regard, we underscored the importance of resolving the crisis in a peaceful manner and supported all efforts, particularly by the United Nations, including the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118 and 2139.

68. We welcomed the convening of inter-Korean family reunions at a mountain resort in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in February 2014. We reiterated the importance of fully complying with the obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks. We highlighted the importance of enhancing dialogue and creating a conducive environment for the early resumption of the Six-party Talks, which would pave the way for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.

69. We recognised the need to further strengthen coordination and synergy among regional economic architecture, including APEC, ASEAN and G20, in order to create complementarities and avoid duplication of work. We hoped collaboration would increase in future, particularly in the areas of connectivity and infrastructure, food security, sustainable development, energy security, climate change and disaster response and preparedness.

70. We welcomed the outcomes of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Sydney, Australia from 22 to 23 February 2014. We appreciated the G20's commitment to develop ambitious, but realistic policies with the aim to increase global growth by more than 2 percent over the next five years and developing new measures, in the context of maintaining fiscal sustainability and financial sector stability, to significantly raise global growth. We were pleased with the opportunity to share ASEAN's views on current issues affecting the global economy in the G20 through regular participation of the ASEAN Chair. We continued to support the work of the G20 to achieve strong, balanced and sustained growth.

71. We noted APEC's ongoing contribution to the promotion of open trade and investment, economic development and prosperity and welcomed progress towards achieving the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2020. Referring to the APEC Blueprint on Connectivity, we anticipated this would take into account the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. We looked forward to the APEC Blueprint on Connectivity providing concrete outcomes to enhance connectivity in both South East Asia and the greater Asia Pacific region. We expressed support for China's hosting of the 2014 APEC Summit.

72. We congratulated Indonesia for hosting a successful 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali, which reaffirmed the WTO's role as the pre-eminent forum for multilateral trade negotiations. We welcomed the outcomes of the conference, including the "Bali Package" of decisions aimed at streamlining trade, allowing developing countries more options for providing food security, boosting least-developed countries'

(LDC) trade and helping LDCs to obtain greater benefits from the multilateral trading system.

### **External Relations**

73. We discussed the way forward to further consolidate and enhance ASEAN's role in the international arena. We stressed the importance of promoting ASEAN's profile and strengthening its leadership role. We reiterated our commitment for ASEAN to remain united, cohesive and resilient and continue to play a central role in the evolving regional architecture. We also reiterated our commitment to further encourage the participation of our peoples and all the stakeholders in the ASEAN community building process. In this regard, we tasked respective Ministers for complete implementation of the Plan of Action of the Bali Concord III.

74. We expressed our satisfaction with the improvement of ASEAN's external relations and agreed to further enhance and strengthen our partnerships through various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One and Plus Three (APT) mechanisms, the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus, as well as through the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum, while adhering to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) and the Declaration of the EAS on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations "Bali Principles".

75. Noting the EAS was one of the primary ASEAN-led mechanisms, we agreed to further consolidate and strengthen it. We also agreed measure the coherence and effectiveness of various programs and activities within the EAS.

76. We welcomed the adoption of the Guidelines for ASEAN's External Relations, which would be used for developing and exploring cooperation with new interested external parties. Acknowledging the rapidly changing dynamics of our region and the globe, as well as the increased interest of external parties in ASEAN cooperation, we looked forward to HLTF's recommendations on ASEAN's conduct of external relations, especially on the issue of moratorium. We believed it was necessary for ASEAN to

continue to renew its cooperation and partnerships in order to benefit from new opportunities.

77. We appreciated the support of Dialogue Partners and their recognition of ASEAN centrality and leadership in regional cooperation and in the evolving regional architecture. We encouraged all dialogue partners to firmly support ASEAN's efforts in maintaining and ensuring an environment of peace, security, stability and economic prosperity in the region, and to effectively address challenges, including natural disasters, climate change, water security, energy and food security. We further encouraged Dialogue Partners to continue to broaden and deepen their relations and partnerships with ASEAN across the political, economic and socio-cultural pillars and to support the successful building of the ASEAN Community in 2015.

78. We welcomed the progress made by the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group (ACCWG) in its deliberations on Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership and encouraged the ACCWG to proceed with the studies mandated to the ACCWG Sub Working Groups.

79. We welcomed commemorative activities to mark the anniversary of relations with our Dialogue Partners, including, the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations. We looked forward to the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit in 2015 in Malaysia to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations. We also looked forward to the 10th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit (EAS) in 2015.

#### **ASEAN Institutions for ASEAN Community**

80. We underscored the important role played by the ASEAN Secretary General and the ASEAN Secretariat in moving towards an ASEAN Community. In this regard, we encouraged further strengthening of the role of ASEAN Secretary General and the ASEAN Secretariat by providing greater facilitation and coordination of the ASEAN Member States in carrying out their commitments under various agreements and by

monitoring and reporting the progress of ASEAN's work under respective pillars as well as ASEAN's relation with its dialogue and external partners.

81. We welcomed the establishment of the High Level Task Force (HLTF) on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs. We believed its work would enhance the efficiency and procedural coherence of ASEAN Institutions and activities, thereby enabling ASEAN to respond more effectively to the changing dynamics of the region. We noted with satisfaction the progress of the first and second meetings of the HLTF. We looked forward to the HLTF submitting its recommendations to the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting.

### **Vision for ASEAN's Future**

82. We acknowledged the achievements made thus far by ASEAN over the past 46 years, would serve as a basis for the future vision of the ASEAN Community.

83. We recognised that the future vision of the ASEAN Community must take into consideration both the present and emerging issues facing our region, as well as those issues facing the globe. In this context, we commended the progress of the work by the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group (ACCWG) in formulating the ASEAN Community's Post 2015 vision and encouraged them to develop a comprehensive, achievable, action oriented and time bound Vision.

84. Finally, we again reiterated our resolve to expedite the full implementation of the ASEAN Community Blueprints with high quality in order to realize the ASEAN Community by 2015 including IAI Work Plan II. We further stressed the need to develop a post-2015 ASEAN Vision, which maintains the future relevance, credibility and centrality of our organization among the global community of nations. We also re-emphasised our commitment to transform our organisation into a truly people-oriented ASEAN.

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