



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN SUMMIT  
13 NOVEMBER 2017  
MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

**“PARTNERING FOR CHANGE, ENGAGING THE WORLD”**

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, gathered for the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit in Manila on 13 November 2017 under the Chairmanship of the Republic of the Philippines with the theme “Partnering for Change, Engaging the World,” which envisions an integrated, peaceful, stable and resilient ASEAN Community that actively takes a leading role as a regional and global player in advancing political-security cooperation, sustainable economic growth and socio-cultural development in Southeast Asia and in the world.

2. We engaged in productive and fruitful deliberations reflective of our commitment to renew the aspirations and the enduring values of the ASEAN Founding Fathers, in line with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Bangkok Declaration which launched ASEAN in 1967 and the ASEAN Charter and to realize the six thematic priorities of the Philippines as ASEAN’s main deliverables for 2017, during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN, namely: (a) A people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN; (b) Peace and stability in the region; (c) Maritime security and cooperation; (d) Inclusive, innovation-led growth; (e) ASEAN’s resiliency; and (f) ASEAN: a model of regionalism, a global player.

3. We signed the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and adopted the following documents as the outcomes of the Summit:

- a. ASEAN Declaration to Prevent and Combat Cybercrime
- b. ASEAN Declaration on Innovation
- c. Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women’s Economic Empowerment in ASEAN
- d. ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR): Combating AMR through One Health Approach
- e. ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on Disaster Health Management
- f. ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition
- g. ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth Development Index
- h. ASEAN Declaration on ‘Culture of Prevention’ for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society

- i. ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals
- j. ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-23)
- k. Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN

## **ASEAN COMMUNITY BUILDING AND THE WAY FORWARD**

### ASEAN Community Vision 2025

4. We commended the work of all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Organs for their commitment to fully and effectively implement the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprints 2025. We were pleased to note the efforts and work of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the IAI Work Plan III (2016-2020), respectively, which constitute an integral part of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

5. We reaffirmed our commitment that the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be implemented in a mutually-reinforcing manner to build a truly inclusive and people-oriented, people-centered ASEAN Community for the benefit of our peoples.

6. We noted with satisfaction ASEAN's efforts in promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We noted the Report by Thailand, UN ESCAP and the ASEAN Secretariat on Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which examines cross-cutting priority areas of poverty eradication, infrastructure and connectivity, sustainable production and consumption, sustainable management of resources, and resilience. We welcomed the successful "launch of ASEAN My World Survey" by ASEAN and UNDP in New York on 23 September 2017 which would help promote sustainable development at all levels, and a "Seminar on Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women in ASEAN" organized by Thailand and UN Women in New York on 22 September 2017. We also welcomed the successful organization of the "ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium on Financing the Implementation of the SDGs in ASEAN" in Chiang Rai, Thailand on 21-22 August 2017 and the issuance of its Regional Report on Financing the Implementation of the SDGs in ASEAN.

7. We reaffirmed the shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

## Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs

8. We reiterated our solid engagement and support to strengthen ASEAN's institutional capacity through the full and effective implementation of the recommendations by the High-Level Task Force (HLTF) on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs. We called upon the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) and the three ASEAN Community Councils together with the ASEAN National Secretariats, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), other relevant Senior Officials and the ASEAN Secretariat to accelerate the implementation of the remaining immediate and medium-term recommendations while continuing to carry forward all deliverables that remain relevant in advancing ASEAN's Community building process.

### Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)

9. We recognized the active roles of the IAI Task Force and noted the progress made in the first year of the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III to assist CLMV countries in meeting ASEAN wide-targets and commitment towards realising the goals of ASEAN Community, particularly in the areas of food and agriculture, trade facilitation, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), education as well as health and well-being. We recognized the importance of a concerted effort in narrowing the development gap within ASEAN and valued the strong cooperation with our Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and Development Partners as well as with external parties in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III. In this connection, we welcomed the positive outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> IAI Task Force Consultation Meeting with Dialogue Partners and External Parties and looked forward to further fruitful coordination.

### ASEAN Connectivity

10. We appreciated the efforts undertaken by the ACCC and relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in strengthening the implementation arrangements of and socializing the MPAC 2025 to relevant stakeholders. We welcomed the complete establishment of the National Coordinators (NCs), National Focal Points (NFPs) and Lead Implementing Body for Sustainable Infrastructure (LIB-SI) to enhance the coordination of implementation of the MPAC 2025.

11. We underscored the importance of mainstreaming ASEAN Connectivity in sectoral discussions and cascading the MPAC 2025 to relevant stakeholders through, among others, multi-stakeholder networks and forums. We noted the successful convening of the Forum on MPAC 2025 Initiatives and Project Concepts, which brought together relevant stakeholders to discuss the details of MPAC 2025 initiatives and identify the first set of projects for implementation; as well as the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Connectivity Symposium to discuss thematic areas relevant to the successful delivery of MPAC 2025 held in 14 July 2017. We looked forward to the commencement of the initial set of MPAC 2025 projects and urged all implementing bodies and stakeholders to work together in implementing the MPAC 2025.

12. We appreciated the valuable support and interest expressed by our Dialogue Partners and other external partners in the implementation of the MPAC 2025. In this regard, we welcomed the outcomes of the ACCC+1 Meetings and ACCC

Consultations with Dialogue Partners and other external partners on Connectivity in 2017, and looked forward to concrete cooperation with our external partners on MPAC 2025 projects. We underscored the importance of developing synergies, amongst the various connectivity strategies in the region.

### ASEAN Charter

13. We noted that the CPR had undertaken extensive deliberations on updating certain articles and sections of the ASEAN Charter, entailing substantive discussions on its implementation, which would serve as a basis for the review of the ASEAN Charter in the future. We remain committed to promoting a rules-based ASEAN Community in adherence to the purposes and principles stipulated in the existing ASEAN Charter, which sufficiently confers ASEAN a legal personality and provides an institutional framework for ASEAN to realize its goal of lasting peace, shared prosperity, security, stability, sustainable economic growth and social progress.

### ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

14. We congratulated AIPA on its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and acknowledged AIPA's continued support to the implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025. We commended the leadership role of the Philippines in chairing AIPA in 2017 and the successful conduct of the 9<sup>th</sup> AIPA Caucus in Jakarta and the 38<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly (GA) in Manila.

15. We welcomed the signing of the Committee Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> AIPA Fact-Finding Committee Meeting to Combat the Drug Menace at the successful conclusion of the meeting held from 4-8 July 2017 in Manila, Philippines.

16. We encouraged AIPA and the AIPA Secretariat to continue their support and active participation towards ASEAN regional integration process so as to promote a dynamic, rules-based, inclusive and people-centered ASEAN Community.

### ASEAN's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

17. We commended the efforts of all ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat in organizing various commemorative activities within and beyond the region to mark the Golden Jubilee of ASEAN's Anniversary. We expressed appreciation to the Philippines for its endeavour in shepherding the celebration of this special milestone with due attention, dignity and formality. We appreciated the contributions of the respective ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Organs, ASEAN Committees in Third Countries (ACTCs), Entities Associated with ASEAN, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, the private sector and other stakeholders, in engaging the ASEAN peoples to actively participate in the celebrations that enhanced ASEAN awareness and instilled a sense of ASEAN identity, pride and togetherness. We remain committed to bringing ASEAN closer to the peoples as we build an inclusive, peaceful, prosperous, resilient and caring ASEAN Community in the next 50 years.

18. We noted the publication by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) of the five-volume book set to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN, as well as the holding of symposia on ASEAN's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including

the High-Level Forum on ASEAN@50: Retrospectives and Perspectives on the Making, Substance, Significance and Future of ASEAN in Manila on 19 October 2017.

#### Appointment of the New Secretary-General of ASEAN

19. We expressed our great appreciation for H.E. Le Luong Minh's valuable contribution, in his capacity as Secretary-General of ASEAN, in advancing the work of ASEAN during his five-year term of 2013-2017. We agreed to appoint H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi as the new Secretary-General of ASEAN from Brunei Darussalam for the next five-year term of 2018-2022.

### **ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY**

#### Implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025

20. We welcomed the progress made in the second year of the implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025 to bring about a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centered ASEAN Community that is peaceful, stable, resilient and outward-looking. We further reaffirmed our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025 and encouraged all relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Organs to follow up on the necessary measures to implement the Blueprint, including through more effective coordination on cross-sectoral and cross-pillar issues. We looked forward to the first biennial review and evaluation of the APSC Blueprint 2025 which will be presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN-Political Security Community (ASCCO) in the first quarter of 2018.

#### ASEAN in the Evolving Regional Architecture

21. We stressed the importance of maintaining ASEAN Centrality and unity in our engagement with external parties and in responding to regional security challenges. We, therefore, applauded ASEAN's efforts to preserve its centrality through effective and timely response to emergency situations in the region, projecting a unified position on issues of common interests, and ensuring that ASEAN's collective interests are not compromised. On this note, we underscored the vital role of all the ASEAN-led mechanisms as platforms to promote confidence building and foster dialogue on a wide range of security issues of common interest and concern. We further encouraged all relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Organs to implement the revised Work Plan on Maintaining and Enhancing ASEAN Centrality that serves as a strategic guideline to ensure ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture.

#### Global Movement of Moderates (GMM)

22. We underlined the importance of the values of moderation, tolerance, mutual understanding, dialogue, respect for diversity and inclusiveness towards achieving peace, security and harmony in the region. We noted with appreciation activities initiated by relevant stakeholders to support the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates.

Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC)

23. We reaffirmed the TAC as the key code of conduct governing inter-State relations in the region and a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. We noted with appreciation the growing interests of other non-ASEAN Member States to accede to the TAC which reflect their political will and commitment to peace and stability in the region. We looked forward to the Foreign Ministers' deliberation on new requests made by countries to accede to the TAC in accordance with its Revised Guidelines. We recognized the importance of promoting the purpose and principles embodied in the TAC and encouraged High Contracting Parties to adhere to the principles contained therein.

ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

24. We noted with satisfaction the progress of the AICHR in the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN and the implementation of its Annual Priority Programmes/Activities 2017. We acknowledged the ongoing efforts of the AICHR in its dialogue and consultation with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Organs on areas such as children's rights, disability rights and the application of a human rights-based approach in the fight against trafficking in persons. We recognized the AICHR's continuous effort in establishing consultative relationships with external parties and stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs). We encouraged the AICHR to continue its work in mainstreaming human rights across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community through consultations among relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Organs, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of AHRD as well as the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ)

25. We remain resolute in our shared commitment to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the SEANWFZ Treaty and the ASEAN Charter. We welcomed the SEANWFZ Commission's decision in August 2017 to extend the Plan of Action (POA) on Strengthening the Implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty for another five-year period (2018-2022) and encouraged the full and effective implementation of the POA. We reaffirmed our commitment to continuously engage the Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) and intensify the ongoing efforts of all Parties to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty. We welcomed the progress in the work of the ASEANTOM and its continuing engagement with the IAEA.

ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus)

26. We commended the progress of defence cooperation under the ambit of the ADMM and the ADMM-Plus. We welcomed the completion of Phase I of the ASEAN Direct Communications Infrastructure (ADI) – formerly codenamed the Direct Communications Link in the ADMM Process (DCL) and its launching at the margins of the 4<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus in October 2017. We also took note of the ongoing work towards

the full operationalization of the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group (AMRG) as well as progress made by the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine (ACMM). We welcomed the adoption of the Standard Operating Procedures on Multinational Coordination Center (MNCC SOP) for submission to the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) as inputs to SASOP Chapter VI by the 11<sup>th</sup> ADMM. We further noted that in paving the way towards future ADMM cooperation, the 11<sup>th</sup> ADMM adopted the ADMM Three-Year Work Programme 2017-2020 and established several guidelines and initiatives for future conduct of ADMM and ADMM-Plus. We appreciated the strengthened linkages between the ADMM and the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces' Informal Meeting (ACDFIM).

27. We welcomed the agreement to annualize the ADMM-Plus, which will enhance dialogue and cooperation on common regional security challenges between ASEAN and its Plus partners. We look forward to Singapore hosting the ADMM-Plus in 2018 and welcome the new set of co-chairmanships of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) and the adoption of their new work plans for 2017-2020.

#### ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)

28. We commended the work of AMMTC in collectively addressing the prevalent threat posed by various emerging forms of transnational crime in the region. We welcomed the outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> AMMTC and the renewed commitment in addressing the emerging threats of transnational crime through the adoption of the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime 2016-2025 and the establishment of two Working Groups on Arms Smuggling and Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife and Timber under this framework. We were pleased to note that the AMMTC will meet annually starting this year.

29. Encouraged by the recent successes of some ASEAN Governments in combatting local terrorist groups, we took note and commended the adoption of the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism and the updated ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism (ACPOA on CT). We took note of the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism (SAMMRRVE) and looked forward to the development of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism.

30. We noted the Bohol Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Work Plan 2017-2020, which has been finalized after its full endorsement of all the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies. We commended all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies involved in the development of this Work Plan which implements the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP).

31. We reiterated our commitment in addressing the irregular movement of persons in the region and underscored the importance of the contribution made to the Trust Fund to Support Emergency Humanitarian and Relief Efforts in the Event of the Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia from ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners, and the international community.

32. Under the ambit of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM),

we noted the cooperation among the ASEAN Heads of Major Immigration Checkpoints in discussing the issue of the movement of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs). We noted the on-going discussions on the proposed ASEAN Common Visa and the ASEAN Business Travel Card, as well as the ongoing deliberation on development of the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of other ASEAN Member States. We looked forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs DGICM on 20-24 November 2017 in Vientiane.

#### ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD)

33. We reaffirmed our commitment to an aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN and, in this regard, welcomed the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle 2017-2019, charting the region's actions for the next two years in tackling the drug problem in that area. We commended the good work of the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center (ASEAN NARCO) in publishing the second series of the region's drug report, the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2016, incorporating the drug trends and drug problem in the region in 2016. We acknowledged the continuing efforts of the ASEAN-NARCO, the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force and the ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force in strengthening ASEAN cooperation, especially on information sharing and intelligence exchange as well as capacity building among our drug control and law enforcement agencies at border checkpoints in the region.

34. Recognizing that the illicit-drug problem is affecting not only ASEAN Member States, but also other countries outside the region, we welcome the assistance of Dialogue Partners and other external parties in addressing this problem through capacity-building, intelligence information sharing, and other forms of cooperation consistent with relevant international laws and all the while preserving the sovereign right of countries in deciding the most appropriate approaches to address their national drug situations.

#### ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM)

35. We noted with satisfaction the continued work of the ALAWMM, including the progress of the implementation of various programmes and activities to enhance legal cooperation in ASEAN, and in particular the discussions to elevate the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to an ASEAN instrument and efforts to finalize the text of the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty (MAET).

36. We took note of the discussion on the possible development of an ASEAN Convention on Transfer of Sentenced Persons (ACTSP), as proposed by some Member States in the work of ALAWMM. We looked forward to the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) in 2018 in Vientiane.

37. We commended the work of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) in continuing to facilitate closer cooperation and collaboration among the ASEAN judiciaries as well as contribute to raising awareness of the legal systems of Member

States through various means, including the establishment of an ASEAN Judiciaries Portal, which will be soft launched in March 2018. We looked forward to the official launch of the Portal in July 2018 at the CACJ Meeting in Singapore.

ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

38. We commended the contribution from the Government of Indonesia to the operationalization of the Secretariat of AIPR, and welcomed the appointment of the AIPR's first Executive Director. We looked forward to the operationalization of the AIPR Secretariat. We noted the successful convening of the AIPR symposium entitled "Strengthening Convergences for Humanitarian Action in ASEAN: An AIPR Symposium on International Humanitarian Law" and encouraged the AIPR to continue its work in promoting peace and reconciliation in accordance with its Terms of Reference (TOR) as well as the APSC Blueprint 2025. We also encouraged the AIPR to ensure that its initiatives remain relevant to ASEAN by maintaining ASEAN Centrality and addressing issues of interest of the ASEAN Member States.

39. We noted the launch of the AIPR publication *Symposium on Principles, Mechanisms, and Practices of Peace and Reconciliation Processes* on 5 August 2017 in Manila, Philippines. We recognized that such initiatives would strengthen efforts by ASEAN Member States to ensure continued peace in the region.

ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC)

40. We commended the efforts and contribution towards the operationalization of the Center and encouraged further voluntary contribution to support the full operationalization of the ARMAC. We welcomed the appointment of the Executive Director of the ARMAC Permanent Secretariat and looked forward to the finalization of the Work Plan of ARMAC. We commended the outcome of discussions of the Steering Committee, the main oversight and policy-setting body of the ARMAC, particularly in the full operationalization of its Permanent Secretariat. We also looked forward to the signing of the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the ARMAC on Hosting and Granting Privileges and Immunities to the ARMAC in the near future in Phnom Penh. Acknowledging the importance of the mandate of the ARMAC, we valued cooperation with dialogue partners, external partners, and other relevant stakeholders in supporting and promoting the ARMAC activities so as to effectively address the challenges of the explosive remnant of war (ERW).

ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF)/Expanded AMF

41. We welcomed cooperation and constructive dialogue on cross-cutting maritime issues of common interests and concerns including search and rescue, maritime capacity-building, freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea, crimes at sea, maritime scientific research, maritime connectivity, protection of the marine environment, promotion of eco-tourism in East Asia and combating piracy and armed robbery against ships and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. We encouraged better coordination of cross-sectoral ASEAN maritime-related cooperation between the AMF and the Expanded AMF (EAMF) and other relevant ASEAN mechanisms such as the ARF, ADMM-Plus and the East Asia Summit (EAS).

42. We looked forward to the convening of the 7<sup>th</sup> AMF and 5<sup>th</sup> EAMF in Bali, Indonesia on 6-7 December 2017.

### Cybersecurity

43. We noted the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity on 18 September 2017 in Singapore. We reaffirmed the need for ASEAN to take a holistic and more coordinated approach to regional cybersecurity cooperation and capacity building.

44. We recognized that cybersecurity is an issue that required coordinated expertise from multiple stakeholders from across different domains to address effectively.

45. We underscored the importance of enhancing coordination between various platforms of the three pillars of ASEAN in addressing the cross-cutting issue of cybersecurity and to counter increasingly sophisticated cyber threats. We noted ongoing efforts to develop an ASEAN Cyber Centre and Hub to further enhance cooperation in cybercrimes in the future.

## **ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**

### Economic Outlook

46. We welcomed the positive global growth outlook with ASEAN's economy projected to register a stronger growth of 5.0% in 2017. We were pleased that ASEAN's merchandise trade remained strong at USD2.2 trillion in 2016, of which 23.1% was intra-ASEAN. We noted that trade in the region is expected to stage a rebound in 2017 mirroring the projected broad-based improvements in global trade. We noted that in 2016 the region attracted USD98.0 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, of which 25.2% was intra-ASEAN, reflecting continued investors' confidence in the region. We noted that FDI inflows to the region are also anticipated to be higher in 2017 following the expected recovery in global FDI flows. We recognised the contribution of the AEC to this positive outlook, and reaffirmed our commitment to further advance the AEC initiatives to strengthen ASEAN's collective resilience and long-term competitiveness.

47. We underscored the importance for appropriate policy responses to the onset of the Fourth industrial revolution in many relevant areas such as I.C.T. infrastructure and education.

48. We recognised that ASEAN should also capitalise on our young, educated and technology-savvy population to help boost the region's economic growth and prosperity.

### ASEAN Economic Community 2025

49. We welcomed the on-going efforts to implement the AEC Blueprint 2025. To this end, we noted with appreciation that all 23 AEC 2025 sectoral work plans are now in place, following the recent endorsement by the ASEAN Economic Community

(AEC) Council of the Strategic Action Plan 2016-2025 for ASEAN Taxation Cooperation; the ASEAN 2025 Trade Facilitation Strategic Action Plan; as well as the ASEAN Work Programme on Electronic Commerce 2017-2025, which is also a Philippine ASEAN Chairmanship priority economic deliverable. Implementation of all these sectoral work plans, including the 2017 priorities, is well underway and is monitored based on the AEC 2025 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.

#### Economic Priority Deliverables for the Philippines' ASEAN Chairmanship

50. We were pleased to note that most of the priority economic deliverables under the Philippine Chairmanship's thematic priority of "inclusive, innovation-led growth" have been achieved.

51. We recalled the launch of the Davao-General Santos-Bitung route of the ASEAN Roll-on Roll-off (RO-RO) System in April 2017 and reiterated the potential contribution of RO-RO not only in stimulating trade and investment in the sub-regions but also in expanding the boundaries for MSMEs to allow them to engage in international trade and gain greater access to key markets through lower transport costs. In this regard, we encouraged that other RO-RO routes be considered taking into account the need to address the policy, infrastructure and logistics bottlenecks to the viability of other ASEAN RO-RO routes as well to ensure maritime security.

52. We welcomed the progress in the implementation of the AEC 2025 (M&E) Framework that provides for a more systematic and robust method for keeping the AEC on track and the conduct of the AEC 2025 M&E Country Visit to the Philippines that was the first comprehensive exercise to review the progress in fulfilling the commitments under the AEC and to understand the links between national-level initiatives and the regional integration agenda.

53. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Seamless Trade Facilitation Indicators (ASTFI) that provides a tool for measuring trade facilitation at the national and regional levels, and improving the overall trading environment in the region. We looked forward to the potential contribution of this methodology in achieving the 10% target reduction in trade transactions cost by 2020 simultaneous to the doubling of intra-ASEAN trade between 2017 and 2025.

54. We commended the endorsement of the Focused and Strategic (FAST) Action Agenda on Investment, which aligns with the goals and four pillars of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), namely investment promotion, facilitation, protection, and liberalisation. We welcomed the successful implementation of its initiatives that aimed at promoting intra-ASEAN and foreign investments into the region, which includes the conduct of investment promotion by linking ASEAN MSMEs with ASEAN and Global MNEs on 19 October 2017.

55. We were pleased to adopt the six-point Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) in ASEAN, which is part of the Manila Statement on Mainstreaming WEE in ASEAN, an outcome of the first ASEAN Women's Business Conference held on 31 August 2017 in Manila, Philippines. We noted that the Action Agenda aims to mainstream women in regional economic activities by encouraging all AMS to work together to invest in programs that provide an enabling environment where MSMEs can thrive and prosper.

56. We were also pleased to adopt the ASEAN Declaration on Innovation, which was endorsed at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST) and by the AEC Council, to signify ASEAN's commitment towards strengthening the impact of science, technology, and innovation towards people's empowerment, inclusive growth, and strengthening of the ASEAN Community.

57. We looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN-wide Self-Certification Scheme in 2018. We also noted the progress made towards the substantial conclusion of the ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement negotiations by end-2017 and looked forward to its signing by the ASEAN Economic Ministers next year.

### Electronic Commerce

58. We recognised that advances in e-commerce allows MSMEs to go beyond local frontiers and reach clientele and markets that were previously inaccessible. We welcomed the adoption and look forward to the implementation of the ASEAN Work Programme on E-Commerce 2017-2025 that will pave the way for the ASEAN Agreement on E-Commerce. We recognised that technological/digital breakthroughs such as online trading provides new opportunity to mainstream MSME participation in both domestic and international economic activities. We will embrace the evolving digital technology as leverage to enhance trade and investments and provide an e-based business platform.

### Competition

59. We were encouraged by the initiatives undertaken to strengthen the ASEAN competition regimes and build institutional capacities. In this context, we welcomed the completion of the ASEAN Self- Assessment Toolkit on Competition Enforcement and Advocacy and the ASEAN Regional Capacity Building Roadmap for Competition Policy and Law (2017-2020). We urged ASEAN competition officials to further their efforts to strengthen the competitive environment of ASEAN.

### Consumer Protection

60. Private consumption is on an uptrend in ASEAN with strong growth potential in the ASEAN region. Promoting consumer protection and empowered consumers are important goals and we welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN High-Level Principles on Consumer Protection, which will provide a framework for the assessment of consumer protection regulatory regimes. We also welcomed the efforts to promote the interface with other regulatory agencies in enhancing consumer protection in ASEAN.

### Intellectual Property

61. We acknowledged the importance of intellectual property rights protection in ASEAN and welcomed the accession of Indonesia and Thailand to the Madrid Protocol, bringing the number of ASEAN Member States that have acceded to eight. We welcomed the completion of a number of tools that helps to improve service delivery, including the recent ASEAN PATENTSCOPE (<http://ipsearch.aseanip.org/>) database which allows free access to over 500,000 ASEAN patent documents, and supports innovation and technological developments.

### Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

62. We commended the emphasis placed this year on ASEAN micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as drivers of inclusive and innovative growth and the efforts taken towards enhancing the ecosystem for MSME development. These included the adoption of the ASEAN regional principles for good business registration practices; production of relevant publications on key areas such as facilitating equity crowdfunding, access to alternative sources of finance for MSMEs, strengthening of women's entrepreneurship, and success stories on internationalisation of ASEAN MSMEs; and the launch of the ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network and the study on MSMEs' participation in the digital economy. We thanked our ASEAN Dialogue and Development Partners for their support in these initiatives.

### Inclusive Business

63. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Inclusive Business (IB) Framework by the ASEAN Economic Ministers, which institutionalises and mainstreams IB into ASEAN's economic community-building efforts, particularly on MSME development. We recognised the role of Inclusive Business models in achieving the ASEAN Economic Community Vision 2025 of a resilient, inclusive, people-oriented and people-centred community, through market driven and innovative solutions to economic empowerment and social impact to over 300 million people at the Base of the Pyramid in ASEAN.

64. We acknowledged the strong support for Inclusive Business in ASEAN expressed through the successful conduct of the ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit held in Manila on 6 September 2017 and the ASEAN-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) inaugural ASEAN Inclusive Business Award 2017. We also acknowledged that several companies and governments in ASEAN have taken advantage of Inclusive Business opportunities for poverty reduction and recognised the ASEAN Inclusive Business Awardees for paving new pathways to achieve our socio-economic development goals.

65. We called for greater emphasis on creating an enabling environment for Inclusive Businesses in ASEAN Member States through conducive rules and regulations, enhanced access to financial resources, awareness raising and education, and capacity building for both businessmen and women, and poor communities. In this regard, we have referenced the Inclusive Business Framework by G20 and noted the increasing recognition of Inclusive Business on a global, regional and national policy level. We therefore look forward to ASEAN playing an active role in positioning the ASEAN perspective on Inclusive Business in the global policy discussion.

### Tourism

66. We were pleased to note the successful conduct of the *Visit ASEAN@50: Golden Celebration* campaign through various promotional activities at international events and online marketing in collaboration with key partners at both ASEAN and national levels to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Anniversary and showcase ASEAN as a single tourism destination. In sustaining the Campaign's effort and enhancing the

competitiveness and awareness of ASEAN as a single tourism destination, we welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Tourism Marketing Strategy (ATMS) 2017-2020 that would provide a framework and strategic marketing direction prioritising the promotion of intra-ASEAN travel. We also noted the full implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professionals (MRA-TP) with the completion of all toolboxes, and training of master trainers and master assessors for all divisions under MRA-TP.

### Food, Agriculture, and Forestry

67. We acknowledged the continuing efforts of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) to promote the harmonisation of standards of food, agriculture and forestry products in ASEAN to ensure safe and good quality agricultural produce and to facilitate ASEAN trade of these products. Recognising the importance of food security and nutrition in the region, we welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Policy to ensure sustainable supply of sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious foods that meet the dietary requirements of increasing populations in ASEAN. The Guidelines on FSN Policy introduce various options for different stakeholders to incorporate nutrition objectives, components, measurable indicators into the design of food and agricultural, trade, food security policies and programmes and provide ASEAN with a set of options to promote inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination mechanisms between ASEAN Sectoral Bodies related to agriculture, health, rural development, education environment, economic, labour, energy, social welfare and others.

68. Considering the importance of leveraging private sector investments in technology development in the food, agriculture and forestry (FAF) sectors through Public Private Partnership (PPP), as well as collaboration between ASEAN Member States, international research institutes and development partners, we encouraged the implementation of the ASEAN PPP Regional Framework for Technology Development in the FAF Sector. This will create a mechanism for ASEAN to expedite the exchange of technology, resources, skills, expertise and access to markets so as to improve productivity and competitiveness in the FAF sector, as well as to ensure sustainability and inclusiveness.

69. We are deeply concerned about the expansive and adverse impact of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in agriculture on public and animal health, livelihoods, food security and safety and, in that regard, we welcomed the initiative to protect human and animal health from AMR through the ASEAN Guidelines on Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Livestock and the initiative on the ASEAN Cooperation Activities for AMR in Aquaculture Sector.

### Transport

70. We commended the achievements made in further enhancing regional connectivity and integration, particularly the signing of: (i) ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross Border Transport of Passengers by Road Vehicles (CBTP), which would facilitate cross-border mobility of passengers between and among ASEAN Member States for the enhancement of people-to-people connectivity as well as promotion of tourism and investment in the region; (ii) Protocol to Implement the Tenth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the

ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS), which would further liberalise air transport ancillary services in the region; (iii) Protocol 3 on Domestic Code-Share Rights between Points within the Territory of any other ASEAN Member States, which would facilitate airlines of Member States to expand their services and facilitate intra-ASEAN travel; and (iv) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Flight Crew Licensing, an overarching framework agreement to facilitate and support future mutual recognition of licences issued by ASEAN Member States for pilots flying commercial flights. We welcomed the important steps being taken to improve the safety and efficiency of air travel in the region and beyond through the adoption of the (i) ASEAN Air Traffic Management (ATM) Master Plan, which will enhance ATM safety, efficiency, and capacity in the region, and advance the Seamless ASEAN Sky; and (ii) Terms of Reference (TOR) for ASEAN Foreign Operator Safety Assessment (AFOSA), which seeks to enhance the capability of individual ASEAN Member States to assess safety compliance and address adverse safety trends.

71. On transport cooperation with Dialogue Partners, we welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Authorities in charge of Aircraft Accident Investigation of ASEAN Member States and the Civil Aviation Administration of China on cooperation relating to Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation, which will further strengthen cooperation in the safety investigation of aircraft accidents and incidents, investigation training and sharing of safety information. We also supported the establishment of an ASEAN-EU Transport Dialogue which will be held annually at the senior transport official level to support ASEAN integration, pursue greater connectivity between the two regions, including working towards the conclusion of an ambitious and pace-setting ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement, and enhance cooperation in areas of regional and global significance.

### Energy

72. We were pleased to note the steady progress towards secure, accessible, affordable, and sustainable energy in ASEAN, including measures to achieve the regional targets on energy efficiency and renewable energy, noting the achievement of 18.3% energy intensity reduction and 13.6% renewable energy share in the ASEAN energy mix, based on 2005 levels. We were also pleased with the pace of recent developments in implementing the long-term goal of open access systems in gas markets in the region, with the three ASEAN Member States having obtained regulatory approval for open access. We welcomed the signing of the Energy Purchase and Wheeling Agreement (EPWA) among Lao PDR, Thailand and Malaysia (LTM), which will bring about the very first multilateral electricity transaction in ASEAN by January 2018 -- a milestone achievement towards implementing multilateral power trade in the region. We looked forward to the completion of work pursuing minimum energy performance standards and mutual recognition arrangements in ASEAN for energy efficiency for lighting and appliances, as forerunner to wider applications in other energy-intensive appliances and sectors.

### Minerals

73. Recognising that sustainable practices in the development of the ASEAN minerals sector is crucial to improving the environment for investment and trade in minerals as well as managing impacts to the environment and local communities, we were pleased to note the work towards establishing an ASEAN reporting mechanism

to monitor the adoption of sustainability assessment frameworks and guidelines in support of sustainable mining development in ASEAN. We looked forward to the launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Minerals Awards to recognise best practices in sustainable minerals development at the forthcoming ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals in end-November 2017.

#### Science and Technology

74. Recognising the benefits to invest in science and technology to build a robust innovative ASEAN community ecosystem for economic integration and societal benefits, we welcomed the joining of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore with the Philippines and Thailand in pledging USD 1 million each to the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Partnership Contributions. We commended the establishment of the ASEAN Large Nuclear and Synchrotron Network and the ASEAN Network for Nuclear Power Safety Research, for furthering regional cooperation involving scientific infrastructures of large investments. We also welcomed the progress in establishing the ASEAN Hydroinformatics and Climate Data Centre, and look forward to the Centre's contribution to the preparedness of the region to climate changes. We are pleased to note the conduct of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN STI Week for furthering STI awareness.

#### External Economics Relations

75. We welcomed the conclusion of the negotiations for the ASEAN-Hong Kong, China (HKC) Free Trade Agreement and ASEAN–HKC Investment Agreement, and the signing of the two Agreements on 12 November 2017. We looked forward to the timely implementation of these Agreements to strengthen the economic integration building upon on the complementarities between ASEAN and HKC. We also welcomed the finalisation of Stage One General Review of ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA), which would be the basis for Stage Two of the AANZFTA General Review aimed at proposing recommendations to further unlock the potential of the AANZFTA.

76. We reiterated the immense potential of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to serve as a growth driver and platform for an ASEAN-led deeper regional economic integration. We reaffirmed ASEAN-centrality in the RCEP negotiations and we urged RCEP Participating Countries to further intensify efforts in 2018 to bring the RCEP negotiations to conclusion. We welcomed the holding of the RCEP Summit on 14 November 2017, reflecting the political commitment of all RCEP Participating Countries to significantly advance the negotiations.

77. We noted that the 11<sup>th</sup> World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC11) will be held from 11 to 14 December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We looked forward to the successful outcomes of the MC11. As all ASEAN Member States are also WTO Members, we reaffirmed our support to the multilateral trading system and emphasised its complementarity with our regional integration efforts.

#### Palm Oil Industry

78. We recognized the deep concern of some ASEAN Member States on issues relating to restricting market access for palm oil in the European market. These

restrictions do not reflect the commitment by the global community towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and entail adverse implications for the palm oil industry, a critical economic element in producer countries within ASEAN.

### Regional Growth Area

79. We acknowledged the significant role of sub-regional cooperation as building blocks for regional integration. We noted the adoption of the post-2016 Visions of the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (MIT-GT) and Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) that aim to achieve inclusive, sustainable and competitive economic areas. We encouraged greater cooperation and synergy between sub-regional groupings and ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in achieving our shared goals and spreading the benefits of the ASEAN Economic Community to the farthest corners of the region.

### Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

80. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) for their invaluable contribution and support not only to the Philippine Chairmanship of ASEAN but also to the commemoration of ASEAN@50. We noted the High-Level Forum on ASEAN@50, held on 19 October 2017 in Manila, that also launched the publication of ASEAN@50: Retrospectives and Perspectives on the Making, Substance, Significance, and Future of ASEAN. We also acknowledged ERIA's contribution in the delivery of the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Strategic Action Plan (ATF-SAP) and the ASTFI that are geared towards addressing Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) in the region. We further commended ERIA's resolve in promoting regional economic integration, including support for RCEP negotiations and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025.

## **ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY**

### Implementation and Review of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025

81. We noted that the ASCC Blueprint 2025 is being progressively implemented through the work of the 15 Sectoral Bodies under the ASCC pillar, 14 of which had their work plans/programmes adopted. We acknowledged that the monitoring system of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 has been in place, including the Framework for Reporting on ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation for the Sectoral Work Plans and Monitoring Matrix of Declarations/Statements under ASCC. We noted that a project to develop and finalize ASCC Blueprint 2025 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) is on-going.

### People-oriented, People-centered ASEAN Community

82. We were pleased with the multitude of cultural events that have been organized to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN which promote people-to-people exchanges and inter-cultural dialogue. We appreciated the high visibility of cultural events such as the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts and the ASEAN Young Contemporary Music Concert that were organized by the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN COCI) and those that were organized at the national level throughout 2017.

83. We reaffirmed our shared values of tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for life as enshrined in ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and in this regard adopted the ASEAN Declaration on 'Culture of Prevention' for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society. We noted that the 'Culture of Prevention' represented a paradigm shift in the way ASEAN addresses the pressing challenges through socio-cultural means at their root causes. We emphasized that the cross-cutting nature of the 'Culture of Prevention' will enhance the preventive aspects pertaining to the mandates of ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, especially by the education, culture, information, youth, women and migrants' sectors.

#### Building Resiliency in ASEAN

84. We reiterated our full support for the operationalization of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region and welcomed new initiatives of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) including the convening the 1<sup>st</sup> Inter-Ministerial Dialogue on Disaster Management (IMDDM) in 2018 in Malaysia which will ensure policy cohesion and enhance cross-sectoral and cross-pillar coordination in operationalizing the Declaration on One ASEAN One Response as mandated by the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan. In this connection, we encouraged ASEAN's active participation in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2018, the Regional Organizations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN) and the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2019.

85. We commended the achievements of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management in the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2016-2020 as well as the Governing Board of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in overseeing and guiding the operationalization of the AHA Centre.

86. We recognized the important role of the AHA Centre in operationalizing the One ASEAN One Response Declaration and extended appreciation for the prompt response in the delivery of relief items for the Northern Viet Nam flash flood and landslides victims and the displaced communities in Marawi City, the Philippines.

87. With regard to role of the AHA Center and the Northern Rakhine State in Myanmar, a number of Leaders expressed support to Myanmar's humanitarian relief programme and welcomed the launch of the Myanmar Government-led mechanism in cooperation with the Red Cross Movement and the assistance from the international community in these endeavours. They underscored the importance of increased humanitarian access to the affected areas and that assistance be given to all affected communities. They further urged Myanmar to continue to implement the recommendations of the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and welcomed Myanmar's establishment of a Ministerial Committee for this purpose. They welcomed the commitment by Myanmar authorities to ensure the safety of civilians, take immediate steps to end the violence in Rakhine, restore normal socio-economic conditions, and address the refugee problem through verification process. They expressed support to the Myanmar Government in its efforts to bring peace,

stability, rule of law and to promote harmony and reconciliation between the various communities, as well as sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD)

88. We noted the robust cooperation among various Sectoral Ministerial Bodies on social protection, through the implementation of the Regional Framework and Action Plan on Implementing the Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection in ASEAN; on promoting the welfare of children through the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children; and on promoting the welfare of persons with disabilities through the implementation of the Mobilization Framework of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020. We looked forward to the development of a regional plan of action on implementing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN. We noted Thailand's efforts to establish an ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) in Thailand by 2019, which will support the operationalization of the ASEAN Post 2015 Health Development Agenda for 2016 to 2020.

ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM)

89. We registered our commitment to the protection and promotion of the rights of ASEAN migrant workers in the region by signing the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. We applauded the ASEAN Labour Ministers for their unwavering effort in finalizing this milestone document which is a living document that will continuously evolve in the years to come. We tasked the ASEAN Labour Ministers to proceed with the development of an action plan to translate the ASEAN Consensus into concrete actions.

90. We acknowledged that the economic progress of our region must go hand in hand with decent work of our workforce. In this regard, we supported the commitment of our ASEAN Labour Ministers to implement the Statement on Improving Occupational Safety and Health for Sustainable Economic Growth signed at the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2017 on 3 September 2017 in Singapore.

91. We noted the finalization of the Regional Plan of Action to Implement the Vientiane Declaration on Transition from Informal Employment to Formal Employment towards Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN that was adopted at the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits. We looked forward to the adoption of the Regional Action Plan by the ASEAN Labour Ministers and its subsequent implementation.

92. We encouraged the use of findings from the Study Report on Women Migrant Workers in the AEC and the ASEAN Compendium on Migrant Workers' Education and Safe Migration Programme to raise awareness of and engage all stakeholders in promoting, protecting and empowering ASEAN migrant workers in our region.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (AMME)

93. We reiterated our commitment and support for the environment and in this regard encouraged the AMME to expedite the finalization of the ASEAN Strategic Plan

on Environment (ASPEN) 2016-2025 to serve as key reference and comprehensive guide for ASEAN cooperation on environment for the period of 2016 to 2025.

94. We adopted the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-23) and looked forward to the successful outcomes of UNFCCC COP-23 in Bonn, Germany on 6-17 November 2017. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Joint Declaration on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes Management by the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Environment and the launch of the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN State of Environment Report. We noted that Thailand will host the ASEAN Conference on Reducing Marine Debris in ASEAN region on 22 – 23 November 2017 in Phuket.

#### ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)

95. We reiterated our full support to the ACB and noted with pleasure the new headquarters building of the ACB in Los Banos, the Philippines, which was inaugurated on 29 July 2017. We expressed our high appreciation to the Government of the Philippines for its continued support and commitment to the Centre.

96. We commended the ACB for its excellent support to the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme which currently includes 40 ASEAN Heritage Parks as well as the organization of several resource mobilization strategies to increase existing capital funds for biodiversity conservation initiatives, including the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund.

97. We congratulated the ACB for publishing the second edition of the ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook, a midpoint assessment on how the region has fared in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and contributed to the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. We recognized 10 outstanding individuals who have achieved so much for biodiversity in their respective countries and in ASEAN through the ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes Award.

#### Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP AATHP)

98. We reiterated our commitment to fully and effectively implement the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) and the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation to achieve a Haze-Free ASEAN by 2020. We agreed to conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the Roadmap to take stock of the progress and sustain momentum in ensuring demonstrable improvements. We also appreciated Indonesia's efforts in addressing transboundary haze pollution in the region.

99. We welcomed the progress towards the finalization of the Establishment Agreement and Host Country Agreement of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC THPC) in Indonesia. We looked forward to the operationalization of ACC THPC as part of the full and effective implementation of the AATHP.

100. We noted the endorsement of the Chiang Rai 2017 Plan of Action to identify a common set of priorities for the implementation of the Roadmap, and encouraged

further collaboration among Mekong Sub-Region countries and synergies with other initiatives under AATHP.

ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

101. We adopted the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN to reaffirm our commitments to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, and to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, towards realising an inclusive, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community.

102. We commended the progress of cooperation in combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children and looked forward to the completion of Regional Multi-sectoral Guidelines and Procedures to Address the Needs of TIP Victims in accordance with the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (ACTIP). We noted the initiative on promoting legislation to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation in ASEAN Member States, in line with the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children.

103. We took note of recently completed projects of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) such as the AICHR-ACWC Training Workshop on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the report on Institutional Strengthening of the ACWC, International Workshop and International Conference on Diversion Through Restorative Justice, and the Regional Workshop for Promoting Comprehensive and Harmonized National Legislation aimed at Preventing and Combating Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) in ASEAN Member States. We took note of the ACWC Work Plan 2016-2020, with projects under the areas of eliminating child marriage; awareness raising campaign on social impact of climate change on women and children; women, peace, and security; and women economic empowerment.

Sexual Offences Against Children

104. We recognised the need to also focus on the issue of sexual offences against children, which is a violation of children's rights. We noted Malaysia's initiative to convene an ASEAN Seminar on Sexual Offences Against Children in July 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, which aims to increase awareness and develop better understanding among ASEAN states on the magnitude and nature of sexual crimes against children.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMMRDPE)

105. We commended the progress of implementing the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2020, particularly the policy guidance on community-driven development approach in delivering social protection. We looked forward to the continued multi-stakeholder engagements through the annual conduct of the ASEAN Public-Private-People Partnership Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication.

106. We noted that the percentage of the populations of ASEAN Member States living below the poverty line decreased from 31% in 1990 to 14% in 2015. People living in the rural areas decreased from 63.5% in 1997 to 50.1% in 2016.

107. We recognized that more efforts are needed to develop rural areas to make it more attractive for the population, especially the youth, to stay and make a living. Promoting human capital development, economic self-reliance, and sustainable livelihood are among the strategies that should be pursued to develop rural areas and eradicate poverty.

#### ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)

108. We commended the great strides in promoting women economic empowerment and women entrepreneurship, through the conduct of the ASEAN Women Business Conference led by the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network and ACCSME held on 28 August to 1 September 2017 in Manila. We noted the progress of developing the strategies to mainstream gender perspectives in the three pillars of ASEAN Community and looked forward to the development of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on the Collection and Analysis of Data on Violence Against Women and Girls.

#### ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY)

109. We noted with satisfaction the launch of the First ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI) Report which provides reliable youth development-related data for policy making and programme planning and the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN YDI. We also noted with satisfaction the awarding of the ASEAN Youth Award 2017, the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations in ASEAN Award and the ASEAN Youth Social Entrepreneurship Awards in 2017.

110. We acknowledged the efforts of Indonesia in engendering dialogue and mutual understanding between youth of different faiths and cultural backgrounds through the ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp 2017, which was held on 28-30 October 2017 in UNIPDU, Jombang, Indonesia.

#### ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED)

111. We noted with satisfaction the convening of the First ASEAN Student Mobility Forum in Manila in June 2017.

112. We welcomed the on-going development of an action plan to implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth and looked forward to greater efforts in strengthening regional agenda on inclusive education and reinforcing teacher support.

113. We encouraged the development of higher education through internationalization and quality assurance including the further testing of the ASEAN Credit Transfer System with support of the EU-SHARE Programme to allow all universities in the region to benefit from the evolving regional higher education space in ASEAN as well as the advanced state of higher education development in other ASEAN Member States.

114. We noted the proposal of the Philippines to create an ASEAN Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Development Council to intensify convergence among ASEAN Member States on TVET and workforce development efforts, with a view to developing a world-class ASEAN labor force responsive to the rapidly changing needs of the labor market. To look into the opportunities of integration, the proposed ASEAN TVET Development Council shall focus on the development of a progressive, comprehensive, and integrated regional work plan, as well as comparable qualifications systems, strategies, and policies to ensure skills recognition and mobility of workers across the region.

115. We welcomed Brunei Darussalam's announcement to provide 50 scholarships to enhance the professional communication skills of nationals from ASEAN Member States over the next 5 years.

#### ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS)

116. We noted the establishment and inauguration of the ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports in Nay Pyi Taw in October 2017.

117. We congratulated Malaysia for hosting the 29<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games and the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games in Kuala Lumpur in August and September 2017, and Singapore for convening the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN School Games in Singapore in July 2017. We also looked forward to the hosting by Indonesia of the 18<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang on 18 August–2 September 2018, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Para Games in Jakarta on 6-13 October 2018.

#### ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM)

118. We noted the progress made by ACCSM following our signing of the ASEAN Declaration on the Role of Civil Service as a Catalyst for Achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 at the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit. In particular, we welcomed the initiatives of ACCSM to collaborate with other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in charge of environment, disaster management, health, gender mainstreaming, labour and education. We noted the on-going cooperation between ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries under ACCSM+3 and supported the interest of ACCSM to expand the cooperation to Australia, Canada and India.

#### ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting (AHMM)

119. We adopted the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR): Combating AMR through One Health Approach; the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management; and the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition which would support regional initiatives in moving towards a healthier ASEAN.

120. We recognized that nutrition is an essential factor to overall health and well-being, thus contributing to the overall productivity and development of the ASEAN Member States. We acknowledged the joint efforts of health and nutrition, social welfare, and agricultural sectors in crafting an ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition that calls for multi-sectoral coordination, cross-pillar

cooperation through the integration of nutrition in sectoral frameworks, and for sustained delivery of quality nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in the region. We looked forward to the formulation of the multi-sectoral ASEAN Framework of Action for Nutrition in 2018 as a way forward for implementing the Declaration. We appreciated the continuing initiatives toward the establishment of the ASEAN Nutrition Surveillance System to monitor progress of initiatives toward achieving nutrition security.

121. We noted other developments in the health sector such as the adoption of the ASEAN Health Cluster Work Programmes for 2016-2020 as well as current progress of coordination and collaboration with various partners in the implementation of the Work Programme activities.

#### ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture & Arts (AMCA)

122. We acknowledged the culture sector's continuous efforts to realize the Vientiane Declaration on Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Cooperation in ASEAN and the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Culture and the Arts to Promote ASEAN's Identity Towards a Dynamic and Harmonious ASEAN Community, including initiatives to develop and build the capabilities of ASEAN's culture managers and the developments in the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Culture and Arts 2016-2025.

#### ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI)

123. We commended the important role of AMRI in continuously raising ASEAN awareness, identity and communicating to the people the benefits and opportunities of ASEAN integration, including its efforts in countering the spread of fake news in the region. We looked forward to the development of the ASEAN Communication Master Plan 2 (ACMP-2) and AMRI's cooperation with relevant stakeholders to counter misinformation and communicating the right information on all forms of media. We also applauded the information sector's initiatives on promoting media and information literacy (MIL) to equip young people with the right values and skills to use information responsibly.

124. We were pleased with the efforts of AMRI in maximizing the use of multimedia platforms in close coordination with other ASEAN sectoral bodies and to complement their respective communication activities. We also acknowledged AMRI for engaging private media organisations toward heightening public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of ASEAN. We noted the conduct of the ASEAN Government-to-Business (G2B) Dialogue in July 2017 and the ASEAN Information and Media Dialogue in August 2017, which yielded fruitful discussions on how the ASEAN information sector and private media could work together in further promoting ASEAN and strengthening the region's information and media sector.

#### ASEAN Foundation

125. We acknowledged the ongoing efforts of the ASEAN Foundation to orient civil society organizations about the ASEAN blueprints through the S Rajaratnam Endowment-ASEAN Community Forum Series, strengthening peer-to-peer learning exchanges among the private sector, governments and farmers organizations through

the ASEAN Learning Series on Agriculture Cooperatives as well as the ASEAN Leaders programme for senior leaders for civil society, government and the private sector to build connections and share knowledge. We recognized the various digital creative initiatives targeted at youth through the ASEAN Youth Video Contest, the ASEAN Youth Citizen Journalism initiative and the ASEAN Data Science Explorer competition to increase ASEAN awareness by promoting support and participation of the ASEAN Community among ASEAN youths. We noted the continuous interest by students of ASEAN diplomacy through the ASEAN Foundation Model ASEAN Meeting. We appreciated the efforts of the ASEAN Foundation to continuously partner with the private sector and universities to support its initiatives and recognized the increased media coverage of the ASEAN Foundation's activities.

#### Dialogue between ASEAN and Civil Society Organizations

126. We reaffirmed the importance of engagement and regular dialogue with civil society organizations (CSOs) as an integral part of building a people-centered, people-oriented Community, and of attaining ASEAN Vision 2025. We noted the various existing mechanisms in ASEAN that conduct dialogue with CSOs, such as the Leaders' Interface with CSOs, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Coordinating Conference, GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development, GO-NGO Forum conducted by SOMRDPE, the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour, and consultations done by the AICHR and other ASEAN sectoral bodies and organs.

#### International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

127. We noted the ASEAN statement issued by the ASEAN Secretary-General on the important contributions of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the international Committee of the Red Cross, collectively known as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in providing protection and humanitarian assistance to peoples and countries in the region affected by disasters in the spirit and vision of "One ASEAN, One Response." In line with the goal of enhancing ASEAN's resiliency, we looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Engagement between ASEAN and the IFRC which will allow both sides to work closer and in a more coordinated way. We also commended the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management for the work done on behalf of ASEAN.

#### **TIMOR-LESTE'S APPLICATION FOR ASEAN MEMBERSHIP**

128. We noted that the study on Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership is ongoing and therefore, looked forward to the outcomes of discussion by the ACC Working Group (ACCWG) on this matter, which will be held on 5 December 2017 in Bali, Indonesia. We urged ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Organs to continue exploring relevant capacity-building activities for Timor-Leste's participation, in accordance with the elements and procedures outlined by ASEAN Member States.

**ASEAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

129. We noted with satisfaction the strengthening of relations with Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, Development Partner and other external partners through existing frameworks and the effective implementation of various Plans of Action (POAs).

130. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining ASEAN centrality and unity in shaping the evolving regional architecture built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, and in further deepening our engagement with external parties to address existing and emerging challenges as well as strengthen development cooperation in ASEAN.

131. We looked forward to the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit, 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit, 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit, 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit, 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit and the 12<sup>th</sup> EAS and welcomed the forthcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Summits with Canada, European Union (EU) and the United States (U.S.) as well as the commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three in adding momentum to strengthen our partnerships with our Dialogue Partners.

132. We were pleased to note the continuous strengthening of the EAS mechanisms through the meetings of the EAS Ambassadors in Jakarta, the promotion of practical cooperation under the six priority areas and the inclusion of maritime cooperation as a new area of cooperation in the new plan of action of the EAS.

133. We were pleased with the convening of the EAS Conference on Combating Marine Plastic Debris in Bali on 6-7 September 2017, in relation to maritime cooperation. We recognized with great concern that marine debris, particularly plastic waste, has increasingly become a major challenge in the region, as it threatens marine biodiversity and human health as well as adversely affects fishing and tourism activities. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen coordinated efforts at the regional level to address this issue.

134. We recognized new external parties' growing interest in establishing formal partnerships with ASEAN and resolved to consider such requests in accordance with the Guidelines for ASEAN's External Relations and on the basis of mutual interest and benefit to support ASEAN's Community building efforts. We welcomed the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' decision to confer the formal status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner to Turkey in August 2017. We were pleased with the progress made to develop substantive cooperation with Switzerland and Germany following the conferment of the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner and Development Partner, respectively, in 2016.

135. We welcomed the strengthening of ASEAN's partnership with international and regional organizations such as the United Nations (UN), Pacific Alliance (PA), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), MERCOSUR and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), as well as inter-regional frameworks such as the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), and welcomed the

strengthening of ASEAN's partnership with these organizations through concrete cooperation. We noted Viet Nam's initiative to host the first-ever APEC and ASEAN Informal Dialogue under the theme "Partnering for New Dynamism for a Comprehensively Connected and Integrated Asia-Pacific" on 10 November 2017 in Da Nang.

136. We welcomed the work of the CPR in enhancing cooperation with external partners, including closer engagements with the Ambassadors of non-ASEAN Member States accredited to ASEAN (NAAAs) as well as the ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and International Organisations and stepping up engagements with the ACTCs to promote ASEAN in the respective host countries and international organizations. We were pleased to note the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN by several ACTCs and the visits of the Secretary-General of ASEAN to a number of ACTCs to engage stakeholders and to raise the profile of ASEAN in those countries. We also welcomed various commemorative activities to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN organised by our Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, Development Partner and ACTCs which help raise the profile of ASEAN in this momentous occasion.

## **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS**

### South China Sea

137. We discussed the matters relating to the South China Sea and took note of the improving relations between ASEAN and China and, in this regard, are encouraged by the adoption of the framework of the Code of Conduct for the South China Sea (COC), which will facilitate the work and negotiation for the conclusion of a substantive and effective COC. In view of this positive momentum, we looked forward to the announcement of the start of substantive negotiations on the COC with China at the 20th ASEAN-China Summit and the subsequent convening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-China Joint Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC in Viet Nam in early 2018.

138. We reaffirmed our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety, and the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence amongst parties. In this regard, we welcomed the successful testing of the MFA-to-MFA Hotline to Manage Maritime Emergencies in the South China Sea, and looked forward to the operationalization of the Joint Statement on the Observance of the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) in the South China Sea. In our view, these are practical measures that could reduce tensions, and the risks of accidents, misunderstandings and miscalculation.

139. We likewise reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, maritime safety and security, rules-based order and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea. In this regard, we further reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, emphasized the importance of non-militarization 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, and stressed

the need to adhere to the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

#### Maritime Security and Cooperation

140. We welcomed positive developments in maritime cooperation among ASEAN Member States, including through continued constructive dialogues on issues of common interest and concern, marine scientific research, maritime domain awareness, and marine environment and protection, including through the adoption of the ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter, and eliminate IUU Fishing.

141. We condemned piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea and, in this regard, we applauded the launch of the Trilateral Maritime Patrol under the purview of Trilateral Cooperative Arrangement (TCA) by the Defense Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines in Tarakan, Indonesia on 19 June 2017. We were pleased with the progressive development of the TCA and reiterated our support to the TCA and other sub-regional efforts to combat transnational crime, including the efforts to address security issues under Trilateral Meeting between Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines on security matters for the benefit of regional security infrastructure. To further strengthen our capacity to combat this scourge, we expressed our readiness to cooperate with Dialogue Partners and other external parties based on mutually agreed modalities and consistent with international law and domestic laws.

#### Korean Peninsula

142. We expressed grave concerns over the recent provocative and threatening actions, including the nuclear test, by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 3 September 2017 and its ballistic missile tests over the past year, which are in contravention of UNSC resolutions. Noting that these developments seriously threaten peace and stability in the entire region and beyond, we strongly urged the DPRK to fully and immediately comply with its obligations arising from all the relevant U.N. Security Council Resolutions.

143. We reiterated our support for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and called for the exercise of self-restraint and the resumption of dialogue in order to de-escalate tensions and create conditions conducive to peace and stability.

#### Terrorism and Extremism

144. We reiterated our strong condemnation of violent extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We are committed to effectively implement the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT), while taking into account the international instruments and guidelines, including the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, and the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism through de-radicalization, preventive education, involvement of women and youth as well as the promotion of peace and moderation as a counter-narrative.

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