

2012 PHNOM PENH DECLARATION ON ASEAN: ONE COMMUNITY, ONE DESTINY

Adopted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 3 April 2012

WE, the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), gathered in Phnom Penh, on 3-4 April 2012, at the 20th ASEAN Summit;

BEING COGNIZANT of the importance of building an ASEAN Community by 2015 respectful of the diversity of cultures, languages, and religions of the peoples of ASEAN, through the fostering of its cultures and heritage as an engine for economic growth, a building block for social cohesion and transformation, an asset for regional pride, and a vehicle for forging closer friendship and understanding;

RECOGNIZING the significance of ASEAN's key political documents and instruments such as, ASEAN Declaration, Bali Concord I, II and III, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ); Declaration on the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN);

ACKNOWLEDGING the significance of the ASEAN Charter and the progress in the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) comprising of three Community Blueprints, namely, the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015), toward realizing an ASEAN Community by 2015;

ACKNOWLEDGING also the progress made in narrowing the development gap under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015);

APPRECIATING the rapid progress of the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) which will substantially contribute to the realization of an ASEAN Community by 2015 and beyond;

RECOGNIZING ASEAN's deepened relations with Dialogue Partners and external parties in various areas such as political and security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation thus contributing to ASEAN Community building;

EXPRESSING our collective support to Cambodia as the Chair of ASEAN in 2012 for intensifying efforts aimed at building a rules-based, people-centred, people-oriented, and fully integrated ASEAN through the implementation of the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Community Blueprints and IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015), Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, and further deepening cooperation and partnership with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other external parties while maintaining ASEAN Centrality;

INSPIRED by the achievements of ASEAN in its 45 years of existence in striving towards a fully integrated, people-centred, people-oriented and rules-based organization;

ENDORISING the theme of ASEAN Chairmanship for 2012 "ASEAN: One Community, One Destiny" as the reflection of ASEAN's collective commitment to work together closely in the spirit of unity and solidarity to fully realize the ASEAN Community by 2015 and beyond;

DO HEREBY agree to:

1. Continue to maintain a united and prosperous Southeast Asia as a region of peace, security, stability and cooperation by implementing various ASEAN initiatives and agreements.
2. Actively promote friendly and peaceful inter-state relations within and beyond the region based on the principles and provisions of the ASEAN Charter, Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as well as the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations.
3. Continue our efforts to contribute to the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament by preserving Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon- Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction through, among others, the full implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), and the finalization of the accession of Nuclear Weapon States to the Protocol to the Treaty on SEANWFZ.
4. Develop a coordinated ASEAN approach that would contribute to global undertakings to improve nuclear safety, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other relevant partners, as well as promote and uphold IAEA standards of safety and security in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful use.
5. Continue to uphold the collective commitments reflected in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and to move for the eventual realization of a regional code of conduct (COC).
6. Reaffirm our commitment to enhance and expand the efforts in maritime cooperation and joint collaborative efforts in maritime related fields for common benefit, including through the framework of the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and other existing ASEAN mechanisms.
7. Strengthen close coordination and cooperation among ASEAN Member States and with Dialogue Partners in addressing the non-traditional challenges faced by the region as well as the international community, through the promotion of closer and more effective collaboration and cooperation in the relevant areas of cooperation, inter alia, disaster risk reduction and management, peace-keeping operations, counter-terrorism activities, combating transnational crimes, maritime security and cooperation, trafficking in persons and other regional challenges.
8. Continue to enhance effective coordination and cooperation among ASEAN Member States and between ASEAN and external parties to ensure that the region is free from all forms of threats, including terrorism and to eradicate transnational crimes.
9. Promote the work of ASEAN in Human Rights, including the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, and the contribution of AICHR to this effort.
10. Strengthen people to people connectivity by encouraging greater intra-ASEAN people mobility including through the full realisation of a visa exemption regime for ASEAN nationals as well as to undertake a study on progressive visa relaxation and an ASEAN common visa for non-ASEAN nationals.

11. Continue to consolidate our efforts to realize the establishment of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015 through effective implementation of measures in the AEC Blueprint, which consists of four important pillars such as Single Market and Production Base; Competitive Economic Region; Equitable Economic Development; Integration into the Global Economy.
12. Commit to implement AEC blueprint measures toward full economic integration under the ASEAN single market and production base, by deepening and broadening its internal economic opportunities, fostering effective cross-border facilitation to provide greater market size and bigger economies of scale, and by nurturing dynamic linkages with the global supply chain and the world economy by increasing competitiveness through both hard and soft connectivity, and by attaining regional integration through effective implementation of various ASEAN initiatives and Action Plans.
13. Maintain the momentum in ensuring ASEAN's competitiveness through trade facilitation measures, including non-tariff barriers, to realize effective free flow of goods, eliminating substantially all restrictions to trade in services and implementing existing ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements on professional services, and removing the impediments to achieving a free and open investment regime, while understanding that domestic adjustments may be required.
14. Further enhance ASEAN's relations with both FTA and Economic Partners and Dialogue Partners to deepen economic integration based on mutual interest, transparency and best practices. Recognizing the benefits of sound and sustainable economic relations, ASEAN will also engage its FTA Partners through new initiatives such as the ASEAN Framework for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and adhering to the work plan which will broaden and deepen ASEAN's economic relations with the global community.
15. Expedite the work on the realization of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) and the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP), with particular emphasis on harmonization of regulatory frameworks and standards as well as establishing appropriate energy trading arrangements.
16. Strengthen and enhance cooperation among ASEAN Member States and with external parties to ensure food security and reduce the impact of food price volatility for the most vulnerable people by increasing production and productivity, expanding cooperation in research and transfer of technology, promoting the exchange of market information and increasing investment in the agriculture sectors.
17. Strengthen cooperation among ASEAN Member States and external partners to ensure energy security and reduce the excessive volatility of energy prices by promoting the implementation of ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2011-2015 and promoting the conservation and efficient use of energy as well as the exploration of alternative and renewable sources of energy.
18. Continue to reinforce all efforts to promote sustainable management of water resources to ensure the interest of all the peoples of ASEAN, including those people along the Mekong river and riparian countries.
19. Support activities in promoting and developing social welfare and protection policies and programmes and the quality of life and well being of the elderly, persons with disabilities, youth, women and children living under poverty, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including exchanging best practices in all related fields such as accessibility to education, rehabilitation, protection and care including health care.

20. Promote regional cooperation in the development of programmes for skills development of women, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.
21. Commit to undertake, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, various programmes for raising domestic awareness on climate change adaptation and mitigation and inculcating habits towards a low emissions society, including through enhancement of public and private incorporation of climate change in educational curricula.
22. Promote education networking in various levels of educational institutions of ASEAN Member States and further enhance networking between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners to promote ASEAN identity, culture, values and a harmonious community.
23. Implement the Declaration on ASEAN Unity in Cultural Diversity: Towards Strengthening ASEAN Community in order to strengthen the ASEAN identity through better mutual awareness, solidarity and understanding among the ASEAN peoples by developing a plan of action to implement the Declaration.
24. Work to ensure that the ASEAN Member States are safe from disasters through enhancing cooperation and promote the use of technology in the area of disaster management at both regional and international levels in order to achieve a disaster resilient ASEAN Community. ASEAN will continue to utilize the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) to cope with disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.
25. Work to ensure that regional economic integration helps to alleviate poverty and narrow the development gaps within and between ASEAN Member States through mutual assistance and cooperation, as set out in the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Developments.
26. Support efforts to narrow the development gaps between Member States in order to accelerate ASEAN integration and enable CLMV countries to be fully integrated into the ASEAN Community by 2015 and beyond.
27. Continue to support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) as well as other sub-regional growth areas, such as Greater Mekong Sub-Region Economic Cooperation (GMS), Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Cambodia-Lao-Viet Nam (CLV) Development Triangle that would bridge the development gap within ASEAN.
28. Operationalize and utilize fully the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to further improve physical connectivity and narrow the infrastructure development gap in ASEAN.
29. Intensify our efforts to connect ASEAN through the effective and timely implementation of the MPAC to promote enhanced physical infrastructure development, effective institutional arrangements, and people empowerment. ASEAN will also continue to engage ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, regional fora such as the ASEAN Plus Three and the East Asia Summit, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the MPAC.
30. Continue to work closely and constructively based on the existing and mutually agreed new initiatives and agreements within the framework of ASEAN cooperation with Dialogue Partners, including ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum and ADMM Plus to contribute to our vision of the realization of an ASEAN Community.

31. Advance ASEAN's common interests and concerns at the global level and ensure ASEAN's increased role to contribute to the solution of common global challenges as well as establish ASEAN as a reliable regional player in the global community of nations through the implementation of the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III).
32. Reaffirm our support to the ASEAN Chairs to ensure the successful achievements of ASEAN Community by 2015 and to continue our work on mutually agreed new initiatives in order to make ASEAN as One Community, One Destiny.