

2014 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 25TH ASEAN SUMMIT

Issued in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 November 2014

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1. The 25th ASEAN Summit, under Myanmar's Chairmanship theme, "Moving forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community", was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, from 12 to 13 November 2014. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency U Thein Sein chaired the Summit. The Summit was attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
2. We, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States had productive discussions during the 25th ASEAN Summit, focusing on strengthening ASEAN institutions and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving regional architecture, maintaining and enhancing ASEAN centrality, developing the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision. We also exchanged views on regional and international issues and strengthening external relations and partnerships.

REALISATION OF THE ASEAN COMMUNITY

3. We welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and reiterated our commitment to expedite the implementation of the remaining action lines by 2015 with a view to creating a politically cohesive, an economically integrated and a socially responsible ASEAN Community that will effectively respond to current and future opportunities and challenges, in line with ASEAN's motto, "One Vision, One Identity, One Community". We looked forward to the celebration of the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 31 December 2015 through meaningful activities that will provide greater opportunities for ASEAN citizens from all sectors of society to understand ASEAN better and experience its community building endeavours and the benefits that it delivers.
4. We commended the successful development of the central elements of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision. We noted that these elements will be used as the basis for longer term vision of ASEAN Community. Development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision would further promote ASEAN as a region of peace, stability, and prosperity and to play a constructive role in the global community and make meaningful contributions to regional and international peace and security. In this regard, we are pleased to adopt the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision. We tasked the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to oversee the overall process of developing the Post-2015 Vision to be submitted to the 27th ASEAN Summit and to develop the attendant documents to implement the vision.
5. We welcomed the launching of the ASEAN Communication Master Plan (ACMP) which will provide the overall framework for all three community pillars to communicate ASEAN's Community building efforts to the people of ASEAN and encouraged its robust implementation. We also noted that the ACMP would facilitate communication of common messages about the character, deliverables and vision of the ASEAN Community to the public and key stakeholders in ASEAN, including local communities, youth, women, governments, businesses, Civil Society Organisations, think-tanks, opinion multipliers who are encouraged to engage constructively in the ASEAN Community Building process. We tasked the ASEAN Ministers Meeting responsible for Information (AMRI) in collaboration with three Community Councils and sectoral Ministerial bodies to implement effectively this ACMP.

MAINTAINING ASEAN CENTRALITY

6. Acknowledging the rapidly changing regional and international dynamics, we reiterated the importance of maintaining ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and in our engagement with external parties. We remained committed to identifying the best approaches to address emerging challenges, and respond effectively to the shifting regional geo-economics and geo-politics, especially in relation to peace, stability, security and prosperity in the region and beyond. We highlighted the need to further develop a rules-based and norms-based regional architecture, by promoting the norms and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, other instruments and declarations, such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ), the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles).

STRENGTHENING ASEAN INSTITUTIONS

7. We commended the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs (HLTF) for their Report and Recommendations which aims to improve coordination and work process among ASEAN Organs within and across the three Community Councils, and enhance the capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat as well as to streamline and enhance the conduct of ASEAN's external relations. We called upon relevant ASEAN Organs to ensure timely and effective implementation of the recommendations, in particular, the recommendations relating to the Strengthening of ASEAN Secretariat. In this regard, we are pleased to adopt the Declaration on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs and look forward to full implementation of the HLTF's Recommendations in due course. We tasked the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) and the ASEAN Community Councils, with the support of the relevant senior officials and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), to implement the HLTF Recommendations within time bound targets.

ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY (APSC)

8. We noted with satisfaction the achievements made by ASEAN over the past year to maintain and enhance peace, security, stability and further strengthen peace-oriented values in the region. In this respect, we welcomed the growing interest of non-ASEAN countries to accede to the TAC. Bearing in mind the current regional and global developments, we further underscored the need for synergy between the various initiatives proposed concerning the establishment of new regional security architecture. We affirmed the importance for ASEAN to be at the forefront of efforts to consider a legally binding treaty or agreement, enshrining those norms, values and principles, in particular the TAC and the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles) that will apply to the wider region, as well as complement and enhance existing regional security instruments and arrangements. In this connection, we encouraged our respective Ministers to make further deliberation on this issue.
9. Acknowledging the importance of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) as an instrument to ensure regional peace, security and stability, we reaffirmed our commitment to preserving Southeast Asia as a nuclear weapon-free zone and free from all other weapons of mass destruction, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. We encouraged the

full and effective implementation of the Plan of Action on Strengthening the Implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty (2013-2017). We welcomed the outcomes of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 25 to 27 August 2014 and its decision on the ASEANTOM as an ASEAN body under the APSC Pillar in the Annex 1 of the ASEAN Charter.

10. We recognised the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of the citizens of ASEAN. We commended the ongoing efforts of the AICHR to increase public awareness of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), particularly through the conduct of the region-wide ASEAN Youth Competition on Arts and Human Rights. We welcomed the AICHR's assessment of its work over past five years and recommendation submitted to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the review of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the AICHR. We noted the forthcoming AICHR Workshop on the Development of Legal Instrument on Human Rights and Workshops on Mechanisms to Protect Women and Girls from Violence to be held in Manila, the Philippines, in early 2015.
11. We noted the AICHR Annual Report 2014 and welcomed the completion of the first thematic study on Corporate Social Responsibility and Human Rights in ASEAN. We noted the outcome of First Thematic Human Rights Dialogue between the Thai Government and the AICHR on Migrant Workers held in Bangkok this year which would help in strengthening AICHR's functions in the promotion and protection of human rights in advancing towards a people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community. We were satisfied with the progress made at the first coordinating meeting for the AICHR Thematic Study on Right to Peace and Workshop on Human Rights, Environment and Climate Change. Acknowledging that human rights is a cross-cutting issue, we encouraged enhanced coordination and consultation among AICHR, the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and other relevant sectoral bodies, to develop synergy among these bodies and mainstream human rights into the work of ASEAN across the three Community Pillars.
12. We recognised the significant role of the ASEAN Defence Ministers in the realisation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community and welcomed the Three-Year Work Programme (2014-2016) which was adopted at the 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 May 2014. We were also encouraged by their continuous efforts to promote practical cooperation among the ASEAN defence establishments, such as the setting up of a Direct Communications Link for the ASEAN Defence Ministers to communicate with each other in time of crisis and emergency.
13. We encouraged the strengthening of civil-military coordination in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief management and in addressing non-traditional security challenges. We also looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARP DiREx) in Kedah, Malaysia, in 2015.
14. We supported the ongoing confidence-building measures undertaken under the ARF framework. We further encouraged the development of an effective and applicable approach of preventive diplomacy and its utilization in the ARP process. We welcomed the outcomes of the ARF Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation Training in Bandar Seri Begawan from 7 to 10 October, in which practical efforts such as trainings, capacity-building activities and close collaboration with other regional and international organisations are identified as important in these endeavours.

15. We welcomed the success and fruitful outcomes of the 5th ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and the 3rd Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) on 27 and 28 August 2014 respectively in Da Nang, Viet Nam, which have contributed to the promotion of dialogue in confidence-building in maritime cooperation and maritime security for peace, stability, maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation in the region. We looked forward to convening the 6th AMF which will be held back-to-back with the 4th EAMF in 2015.
16. We recognised the importance of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), and we reiterated our commitment to exert greater efforts in countering terrorism as reflected in the ASEAN Comprehensive Action Plan on Counter Terrorism to fulfil the ACCT. We also welcomed the active engagement of external partners in fully supporting our goal to prevent, and suppress terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
17. We acknowledged the steady progress in the implementation of the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crimes (SOMTC) Work Programme 2013-2015 in addressing all priority areas under SOMTC. We also welcomed the establishment of the SOMTC Working Group on Cybercrime to address increasing threat of cybercrime and charting ASEAN's capabilities in fighting this threat. We welcomed the outcomes of the 14th ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) which was held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 22-27 June 2014. We reaffirmed our continued commitment to furthering the process of finalizing the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and the Regional Plan of Action (RPA) in early 2015 to combat trafficking in persons in the region.
18. We welcomed the operationalisation of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) as an ASEAN institution for research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution. We encouraged the AIPR's to continue its work in providing ASEAN, as well as regional and global partners, with research, analysis and recommendations in the area of peace, conflict management and conflict resolution in coordination with other regional mechanisms as well as think-tanks, the ASEAN Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP). We also encouraged the AIPR to take a proactive role in identifying area of work, in accordance with its Terms of Reference, which would complement and add value to the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint. We noted the forthcoming AIPR Symposium on the Role of Women and Children in Conflict Situation to be held in Manila, the Philippines in early 2015.
19. We welcomed the efforts towards the establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) which serves as a regional center of excellence in addressing the humanitarian aspects of the explosive remnants of war (ERW) for interested ASEAN Member States. In this regard, we encourage the ASEAN Member States to accelerate the process of nominating their representatives to the Steering Committee of ARMAC in accordance with the TOR of ARMAC which was adopted at the 23rd ASEAN Summit on 9 October 2013 in Brunei Darussalam.
20. We recognized the important role of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in contributing towards ASEAN Community building and integration efforts particularly on promoting the awareness of ASEAN and ASEAN Community. We welcomed the fruitful outcomes of the 35th General Assembly of AIPA, held from 15 to 19 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR as a continuous effort to strengthen cooperation as well as in contributing to the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision.

TIMOR-LESTE'S OFFICIAL APPLICATION FOR ASEAN MEMBERSHIP

21. We were encouraged by the progress of the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group (ACCWG) in the consideration of all relevant aspects to the application by Timor-Leste, as well as its possible implication on ASEAN, and agreed to explore the possibility of Timor-Leste's participation in ASEAN activities within the context of its need for capacity building.

ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC)

22. We are pleased to note that the economic performance of the ASEAN region remains robust in a global economic environment that continues to be challenging and uncertain. ASEAN's real GDP grew by 5.1% in 2013. Although regional economic growth is projected to soften to around 4.6% in 2014, this is seen to be caused by temporary domestic factors and regional growth is forecast to pick up to 5.3% in 2015.
23. Total trade of ASEAN economies reached USD 2.5 trillion in 2013, or an increase of 1.4% from 2012. The slower growth in 2013 was due to a slowdown in the growth of total merchandise imports from 6.6% to 1.5%, while growth of total merchandise exports slightly grew from 1% to 1.3%. Export growth in the region is expected to be higher but still modest in 2014, reflecting the projected broad-based but still modest upturn in the volume of world trade in 2014. Continued confidence in ASEAN was reflected in stronger FDI inflows of USD122.4 billion in 2013, compared with USD114.3 billion in 2012.
24. We recognised the downside risks that could adversely affect regional trade and investment activities, including the deepening geopolitical risks; subdued and uneven recovery in the advanced economies; sharper than expected moderation in China's economic growth; and potential adverse developments in global financial markets. Critical to managing these risks is to maintain ASEAN's resilient macroeconomic fundamentals and financial stability, address domestic weaknesses especially in infrastructure, and continue to implement the measures to deepen economic integration in order to sustain and improve the region's competitiveness for trade and investments.
25. We noted the continuing progress made in the implementation of the ABC Blueprint which has implemented 82.1 % of the 229 prioritised AEC deliverables identified for 2013, in line with the 2012 Phnom Penh Agenda for ASEAN Community Building that called for priority activities and key measures to address the challenges and obstacles in realizing the ABC. An additional 61 key deliverables for 2014-2015 have also been implemented as of October 2014. Realising the ASEAN is now at the tail-end of the implementation of the ABC Blueprint, we encouraged to speed up the priorities in 2015 will be to fast-track the implementation of the prioritised ABC deliverables, communicate the ABC to stakeholders, and finalise the AEC's post-2015 agenda for deeper regional economic integration. We committed to firmly address the remaining challenges and continue to pursue economic integration with urgency and resolution.
26. We noted the progress made in trade liberalisation and facilitation initiatives in the region, such as the on-going work to eliminate tariffs, address Non-Tariff Barrier (NTB) effects of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs), self-certification pilot projects, establishment of the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR), ASEAN Single Window (ASW), and the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS). We look forward to the signing of the Protocol on the Legal Framework to Implement the ASEAN Single Window (PLF) by the ASEAN Finance Ministers by the first half of 2015. We

look forward to the completion of the signing of the ASEAN Medical Device Directive (AMDD) as another milestone for integration of the Medical Device standards and technical requirements in the region.

27. As another step forward towards the realisation of free flow of services under the ASEAN Economic Community 2015, we look forward to the completion of the signing of the 9th Package of Services Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) and the Protocol to Implement the 6th Package of Financial Services Commitments under AFAS by the ASEAN Finance Ministers.
28. To facilitate ongoing effort of ASEAN Member States to improve their investment regime, we noted with satisfaction that our Economic Ministers have signed the Protocol to Amend ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) in August 2014. We looked forward to the full implementation of the Protocol that will enable each ASEAN Member State to improve their investment reservations expeditiously.
29. In facilitating the mobility of professionals and skilled labour, we look forward to the completion of the signing of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Accountancy Services by the Economic Ministers as well as the endorsement of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRFF) by Economic and Education Ministers. We encouraged the sectoral Ministries and agencies concerned to continue their collaboration in ensuring proper implementation of these agreements.
30. We recognised that the development of SMEs remains a key component of the work on the equitable economic development pillar. The establishment of the AEC Community by 2015 will provide more opportunities to SMEs in respect of market access and simplified rules. However, challenges remain in ensuring that SMEs will fully realise these benefits. We urged the mainstreaming of SME considerations particularly in their post-2015 work programmes, including in the areas of tariffs, NTBs, rules of origin and standards, so that SME interests are addressed across these sectoral bodies.
31. We welcomed the contribution of women and young entrepreneurs to the activities of ASEAN, particularly in enhancing their contribution to SME development. We welcomed efforts to look into more programmes that enhance their capacity to engage in the activities of the ASEAN Community. We also considered the need to work closely with ASEAN Young Entrepreneur Association (YEA) and the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurship Network (ASEAN WEN) to collaborate on these matters.
32. We thanked the World Bank for its technical assistance to ASEAN in drafting the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development (AFEED) Monitoring Report. We welcomed the Report which aims to provide a common basis for understanding progress in realising the principles of the AFEED and identifying areas for priority action and initiatives.
33. We reiterated the importance of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit this year in further engaging with our private sector partners and to promote ASEAN as a single investment destination. We also welcomed the convening of the 1st Japan Public-Private Sector Dialogue on New Industries on 26 August 2014, the ASEAN-US Business Summit on 28 August 2014, both held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and the 2nd AEC Symposium held on 13 October 2014 in Yangon, as outreach to the private sector.
34. We emphasised the importance of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) especially in supporting infrastructure development in ASEAN. We welcomed the ASEAN Principles for PPP

Frameworks to be adopted on a voluntary basis and thanked the OECD for its support which will help to create a predictable and efficient PPP environment and to address issues related to cross-border projects.

35. We welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market, particularly the establishment of the ASEAN Aviation Regulatory Monitoring System and the development of a Database on Operation and Planning of Air Navigation Systems in ASEAN. On aviation co-operation with Dialogue Partners, we welcomed the convening of the 1st ASEAN-Japan Working Group Meeting on Regional Air Services Arrangement in October 2014 which initiated discussions on the ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement and its related instruments and looked forward to the convening of the 1st ASEAN-EU Aviation Working Group (AEAWG) Meeting in December 2014 to develop a concrete work plan for establishing a comprehensive air transport agreement between ASEAN and the EU. We also looked forward to the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response, and the Implementation Framework of the ASEAN Single Shipping Market at the forthcoming ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting in end of November 2014 in Mandalay, Myanmar.
36. We were pleased to note the ASEAN tourism performance for 2013 where there were 99.2 million international tourists visiting the region, posting excellent growth of 11.73% compared to 2012. To ensure the sustainability of this growth is in line with the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2011-2015, we commended efforts to maintain and further enhance ASEAN's appeal by ensuring outstanding quality of services are provided through the development of tourism standards for industries and human resource. In facilitating skilled tourism workers' mobility within the region through the implementation of MRA on Tourism Professionals, we looked forward to the establishment of ASEAN's registration system, training references, master trainers, master assessors and regional secretariat by 2015.
37. We welcomed the progress made in implementing the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2010-2015 including ASEAN Power Grid (APG) and Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP). We lauded the initiative by Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand to explore cross border power trade to enhance multilateral electricity trading beyond neighboring borders to support the realisation of APG. We also commended the timely completion of Zawtika (Block M-9, Myanmar) which serves as the 12th interconnection project in the TAGP Map and the ongoing efforts to complete the construction of Sarawak-West Kalimantan interconnection by 2015 as planned.
38. We noted with satisfaction the on-going progress and achievements made in ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry to move toward the realization of the ASEAN Community 2015. In particular, we were pleased with the endorsement of (i) ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the new Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in 2015-2020; (ii) ASEAN Guidelines on Good Aquaculture Practice; (iii) ASEAN Standard on Organic Agriculture; (iv) ASEAN Good Animal Husbandry; (v) ASEAN Good Agricultural Practice (GAP); and (vi) ASEAN Standards for agricultural commodities to ensure food safety and support the competitive position of ASEAN agricultural products on world markets. We reiterated the importance to develop a common and unified position to ensure sustainable food security and nutrition in ASEAN.
39. We welcomed the efforts undertaken to expedite the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II for the remaining period of the Work Plan. We recognized that the initiative for ASEAN integration is cross-cutting in nature and as such, efforts to narrow the development gap must be a shared responsibility among all ASEAN sectoral bodies in ensuring full participation and realization of

regional commitments and initiatives. Therefore, we encouraged all ASEAN sectoral bodies to include, where possible, additional components for CLMV countries in all regional programmes endorsed by the sectoral bodies, including those in collaboration with Dialogue Partners and External Parties.

40. We welcomed the initial discussions by the IAI Task Force on the post- 2015 agenda for the IAI and advised our officials to consider the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of the IAI Work Plan II in developing the subsequent Work Plan.
41. We welcomed closer collaboration between ASEAN and other Mekong sub-regional cooperation mechanisms to enhance the capacity of CLMV and address developmental issues effectively.
42. We welcomed the complete signing of the amended Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CNIIM) Agreement and efforts to further improve the readiness of the CMIM as a regional safety net, including the revision of the operational guidelines and the completion of the Economic Review and Policy Dialogue (ERPD) matrix for discussion on the macroeconomic development in the region.
43. We appreciated the progress of the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI) in contributing to the channelling of funds in the ASEAN+3 countries into more efficient utilization in the region. In this regard, we welcomed the scaling-up of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) capacity from USD 700 million to USD 1.75 billion to further promote the issuance of local currency bonds.
44. Recognising the benefits of sound and sustainable economic relations with partner countries, we reinforced our commitment to global and regional economic partnerships, and we are pleased to note the considerable progress in our various ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements, including the signing of the First Protocol to Amend the Agreement establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) and the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements. We also welcomed the progress of the work done under the on-going negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and commencement of the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA) negotiations. We urged all Parties to intensify efforts to advance the RCEP negotiations with a view to concluding the Agreement by end- 2015. We were confident that these efforts will further integrate ASEAN into the regional and global economy.

ASEAN SOCIO CULTURAL COMMUNITY

45. We acknowledged the report of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council to the 25th ASEAN Summit, and noted the progress of implementation of the ASCC Blueprint. We welcomed the meaningful deliberation and fruitful discussion at the 12th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (12th ASCC Council), which was held on 30 September 2014 in Bagan, Myanmar. We noted with appreciation the formulation of the ASCC Post-2015 Vision Statement and the Central Elements and encouraged the ASCC to further expedite their work in developing the Post 2015 Vision for the ASEAN Community as well as respective Plans of Action (PoA) to implement the Vision.
46. While acknowledging the challenges faced by ASEAN, which call for a more coordinated response and comprehensive solutions, we reiterated our commitment to build an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and people-centred and vibrant and socially responsible.

We urged all sectoral bodies, relevant stakeholders including the private sector, the academia, parliamentarians, women, youth and civil society groups to engage constructively to this end.

47. We noted the progress in the implementation of priority areas in the ASCC Pillar during Myanmar's 2014 Chairmanship which include; response to Climate Change, Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction, poverty reduction, the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. In this regard, we adopted the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change 2014 and encouraged to accelerate the finalisation of drafting process of Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in near future.
48. We reaffirmed our commitment to address climate change at the national, regional and global level. We also reiterated our commitment to biodiversity conservation by welcoming the Statement of the ASEAN Environment Ministers at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-12) held from 15 to 17 October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. We welcomed the successful outcomes of the 15th Informal Ministerial Meeting on Environment (15th IAMME), which was held on 30 October 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
49. We noted with satisfaction the outcomes of the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) convened in Bandar Seri Begawan on 16 October 2014, including the adoption of the strategy "One ASEAN, One Response 2020 and Beyond: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One". This Strategy, which will be launched in 2015, will ensure ASEAN to respond effectively and efficiently to regional disasters. We also recognised the importance of ASEAN rapid response capacity and looked forward to the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, which will adopt the post-2015 Hyogo Framework as a follow up to the 2005-2015 framework. We welcomed the adoption of the Statement of the 9th East Asia Summit on Rapid Disaster Response.
50. We encouraged the promotion of synergy and coordination among the relevant internal ASEAN mechanisms related to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, using AADMER as the regional policy backbone and common platform. In this regard, we welcomed the progress made by the Joint Task Force Meeting to Promote Synergy with Other Relevant ASEAN Bodies on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) which under the chairmanship of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) held two meetings in Bandar Seri Begawan from 20 to 22 may and 15 October 2014, with the participation of the representatives from the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM), ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) and other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies.
51. We expressed our commitment to redouble efforts on poverty reduction, strengthen social safety nets, promote inclusiveness and sustainability in sharing the region's wealth and development, and enhance the role of women, youth, community leaders, and other stakeholders in national development. We noted the convening of the Third ASEAN Forum on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication in Bohol, the Philippines, on 16 June 2014, as a platform of dialogue between the governments and non-governmental organisations on strategies to enable enterprises for economic inclusion of the poor. We encouraged that projects and activities under the endorsed ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015) had to be implemented to promote the involvement of communities and stakeholders in poverty reduction and rural development. Under this ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, we welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Forum on Social Entrepreneurship on 30 October 2014

in Singapore to discuss the role of social entrepreneurship and share good practices and views on developing social enterprises in ASEAN.

52. We committed to develop a competitive ASEAN labour force towards the ASEAN Community by 2015 and to strengthen labour market information exchange, to tackle the labour market issues such as skills mismatch, skills development, life-long learning, skills recognition and national qualifications as well as sound industrial relations. We welcomed the positive outcomes of the 23rd ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw held on 22 May 2014 under the theme "Enhancing Competitive Labour Force for Harmonious, Progressive and Prosperous Workplace" and looked forward to the "ASEAN Conference of Senior Officials on Strengthening the Protection and Empowerment of Women Migrant Workers" from 14 to 15 November 2014 in the Philippines. We were pleased with the result of the 10th ASEAN Skills Competition in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, from 19 to 28 October 2014 that brought together around 300 young skilled competitors from ASEAN Member States on 23 official and 2 demonstration areas of skills. We called the ASEAN Labour Ministers to accelerate the implementation of labour related strategic objectives of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint.
53. We noted the outcomes of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Workshop on Advancing and Monitoring Women's Political Participation in the ASEAN Region Project held in February 2014 in Cambodia, which included the sharing of best practices and a Synthesis Report of national studies on women's political participation. We recognised the efforts of the ACW to increase awareness and support in the implementation of gender-responsive planning and budgeting through the holding of the Regional Training on Social Protection and Gender Budget Analysis held from 27 to 29 August, 2014 in Jakarta. We also noted the successful convening of the 13th Meeting of the ACW, ACWC-ACW Consultation Meeting, and 6th ACW+3 Meeting in Yangon, Myanmar, from 15 to 17 October 2014. In addition, we welcomed the outcomes of the ASEAN-ROK project Development and Delivery of Livelihood-based e-Service for ASEAN Women held in October 2014 in the Republic of Korea (ROK) including a plan for the development and delivery of an e-Service toolkit tailored to the specific areas of ASEAN women's concerns to be disseminated across ASEAN Member States.
54. We welcomed the Declaration on Social Responsible Media for a Peaceful and Prosperous Community adopted at the 12th AMRI Meeting in June 2014. This Declaration will serve as a guiding document to further strengthen cooperation in the fields of information and media.
55. We welcomed the endorsement of the structure for the ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework (AQRF) by the Education and Economic Ministers. The AQRF, common reference framework, will enable comparisons of qualification of skilled labour across ASEAN Member States and increase mobility and quality assurance of higher education. To strengthen the quality of education in ASEAN, towards the establishment of ASEAN Community in 2015, we welcomed the launching of an ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook and ASEAN State of Education Report (ASOER). We welcomed the proposal to form a task force to develop a comprehensive ASEAN Five-Year Work Plan on Education (2016-2020).
56. We noted with appreciation the ongoing ASEAN Student Exchange Programme (ASEP) which started in July 2000. The ASEP is aimed at cultivating cooperation, networking, and promoting greater understanding and respect of the different cultures within ASEAN.
57. We called for the implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment adopted at the 23rd ASEAN Summit, and also encouraged the youth exchange activities that enhance cross-cultural understanding among ASEAN youths and ASEAN awareness, promote youth entrepreneurship and sustainable employment. We

noted with satisfaction the successful convening of the ASEAN-Japan Young Entrepreneurs Forum held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Assembly held from 18 to 20 September 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.

58. We noted with satisfaction the actions taken by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to establish an ASEAN network of experts on inclusive entrepreneurship. We noted with satisfaction the successful convening of the ASEAN-Japan Young Entrepreneurs Forum and ASEAN-Japan Youth Leaders Forum held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 30 November-1 December 2013 and 25-28 February 2014, respectively. We were pleased with the implementation of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan (2011-2015) as the Priority Areas and Joint Actions for 2014-2020 of the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network (AWEN) under the Coordination of Viet Nam. We also looked forward to the ASEAN Conference of Senior Officials on Sharing of Good Practices in Social Protection for Women in Enterprise Development from 4 to 5 December 2014 in the Philippines. We noted the inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Business Coalition on HIV and AIDS in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 6 to 7 November 2014 which prepared for the First ASEAN Red Ribbon for Outstanding Workplace Awards next year.
59. We reaffirmed our commitment in reducing the development gap and promoting social justice in this region giving priority to the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection to further promote the welfare of the ASEAN citizens. We welcomed the activities in promoting opportunities for vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and older people, and the inclusion of Family Development in the priorities under the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015).
60. We welcomed the ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC) Work Plan (2014-2015) that was developed at the Third ASWC Conference held in Bangkok from 14 to 15 August 2014. We were also pleased with the efforts on building child-friendly ASEAN including through convening of the Third ASEAN Children's Forum in Bangkok from 2 to 5 June 2014 and also the on-going implementation of the Work Plan to Support the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (2014-2016).
61. We were pleased with the ongoing efforts to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN and the formulation of a holistic framework for its implementation. We welcomed the launching of campaign spot of 2014 which is part of the annual public campaign. We also welcomed the work towards the establishment of the Network of Social Service Agencies (NOSSA) and a regional review of the management and treatment of trafficked women and children by the ACWC. We noted the development of the Gender Sensitive Guidelines for Handling of Women Victims of Trafficking in Persons.
62. We noted the progress of the ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) through the successful convening of the 11th ACCSM and ASEAN+3 Heads of Civil Service Meetings from 24 to 26 September in Yangon, Myanmar. We noted that post-2015 priority areas of ASEAN cooperation on civil service include enhancing workforce competencies, building institutional capacity, strengthening leadership, reviewing the ASEAN Resource Centers, public sector reform and improving civil service competency standards. It has also been agreed that Malaysia hosts the inaugural ASEAN Chief Secretaries/ Head of Civil Service Retreat & ASEAN Public Service Games 2015.
63. We acknowledged the positive outcomes of the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting and its related meetings held from 15 to 19 September 2014, in Hanoi, Viet Nam under the theme

"Better-Health for ASEAN Community Beyond 2015". We were deeply concerned about the rising trend of Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) and their associated effects, the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and the Ebola Virus Disease, and their potential negative impacts on health as well as socio-economic development. In this connection, we highlighted the importance of Universal Health Coverage (URC) and the need for ASEAN Member States to develop and strengthen health care systems to better respond to EIDs and other diseases by providing our peoples with access to quality and affordable medical services. We supported joint efforts to promote multi-sectoral collaboration to enhance regional capability for disease prevention and control.

64. We commended the successful conclusion of the ASEAN Project on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in South East Asia (2009-2014) which contributed to the implementation of ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy . We welcomed the endorsement of successor ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (2014-2020) at the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution in 2013.
65. We noted that transboundary haze pollution remained a concern in the region. In this regard, we welcomed Indonesia's ratification of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), as part of the efforts among ASEAN Member States to ensure the full and effective implementation of the zero burning techniques in land clearing. We noted the initiatives by Sub-regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution (MSC) countries to take the necessary actions in order to operationalize the ASEAN Sub-regional Haze Monitoring System (HMS). In the meantime, we encouraged MSC countries to share hotspot areas that cause transboundary haze on Government-to-Government basis.
66. We welcomed the launching of the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy (AIGE) in Myanmar to spur collaboration in sustainable development and greening the regional economy. We looked forward to the AIGE to serve as a centre of excellence on Green Economy, being responsive to regional environmental, climate and economic issues, and contributing to building capacity, fostering research, catalysing and facilitating green technologies, improving management practices and promoting national and international cooperation.
67. We noted with appreciation the successful conduct of various events to celebrate the 9th ASEAN Science and Technology Week hosted in Bogor, Indonesia, from 18 to 27 August 2014. We also noted the 8th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology held on 25 August 2014 in Bogor, Indonesia, had adopted the vision and goals of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) (2015-2020). We looked forward to the completion and adoption of the APASTI (2015-2020) by December 2014.
68. We welcomed the appointment of the Philippines, through the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development-Department of Science and Technology (PCHRD-DOST), as official secretariat of the ASEAN Network for Drugs, Diagnostics, Vaccines, and Traditional Medicines Innovation (ASEAN-NDI) agreed during the 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We noted the importance of the role of ASEAN-NDI in facilitating the direction that would address the region's current and emerging public concerns through collaborative mechanisms and innovation-driven regional partnerships. We commended the on-going effort of the ASEAN-NDI to develop ASEAN Herbal Medicine database which would align research initiatives on plants used as traditional medicine. We encouraged the ASEAN-NDI to continue its work in convening experts in ASEAN to develop other collaborative projects on drugs, diagnostics and vaccine development.

69. We welcomed the Hue Declaration on Culture for ASEAN Community's Sustainable Development adopted at the 6th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) held in Hue City, Viet Nam, on 19 April 2014. We are confident that this Declaration will encourage ASEAN Member States in promoting culture as a pillar of sustainable development.

ASEAN CONNECTIVITY

70. To establish a competitive and resilient ASEAN Community, we underscored the importance of implementing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). The MPAC will promote economic growth, narrow development gaps, and contribute to deeper social and cultural understanding and greater people mobility. We appreciated the continued efforts of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the MPAC. We tasked the ACCC to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the MPAC and formulate a Post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity.
71. We also welcomed the convening of the 5th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium on 10 September 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, which provided a useful platform for the participants to share their views on the implementation issues and financing options for MPAC such as especially ways of fostering private sector involvement, especially through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). We commended the ERIA for its support for the Symposium and its continued contribution towards implementation of MPAC to enhance connectivity in the region. We welcomed the launching of the ASEAN Connectivity video clips, on 9 August 2014 at the sideline of the 4th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, showcasing the vision, rationale and progress in advancing ASEAN Connectivity.
72. We welcomed that first phase of the ASEAN Virtual Learning Resource Centre (AVLRC) to be launched in April 2015, which is one of the 15 priorities of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and became a major reference toll for those studying and gathering information about ASEAN countries or ASEAN as Community.
73. We were pleased with the ACCC's engagement with Dialogue Partners, external parties as well as the private sector in the implementation of the MPAC. We welcomed the successful convening of the 1st ACCC-EU meeting on Connectivity on 11 September 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and noted the positive outcomes of the meeting, including efforts to support the implementation of the MPAC and enhance connectivity between the two regions. We looked forward to the outcomes of the ACCC PPP Networking Forum to be held from 16 to 17 December 2014 in Manila, the Philippines, supported by the ERIA and the European Union.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

74. We were committed to continue engagements with our Dialogue Partners. We expressed appreciation to our partners for their support on ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture. We agreed to focus our cooperation with external parties in priority areas of ASEAN such as enhanced connectivity, narrowing development gaps, and in addressing emerging challenges including climate change, disaster management, transnational crimes, and sustainable use of water resources. In this regard, we reaffirmed our commitment to work closely with all dialogue partners and other external parties through a proactive, outward-

looking, and synergised approach across all ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, ADMM-Plus, ARF and EAS.

75. We welcomed the commemorative activities to mark the anniversary of relations and partnerships with Dialogue Partners, including the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia dialogue relations and 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK relations. Agreeing to elevate ASEAN's relations with Australia to a strategic level, we renewed our commitment to enhance cooperation with Australia in order to realise the full potential of the Comprehensive Partnership. In this regard, we looked forward to the successful convening of the ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit to be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2014. We also expressed our commitment to further promote the ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership and looked forward to the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit to be held in Busan, ROK, from 11 to 12 December 2014 to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of dialogue relations.
76. We also looked forward to the successful convening of a Commemorative Summit to mark the 40th year of ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations in 2015. We welcomed New Zealand's commitment to deliver high-level initiatives and programmes as part of the Commemorative Summit. We noted Russia's proposal to convene an ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit in 2016 and welcomed its offer to establish an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to review the existing cooperation and recommend the future cooperation between ASEAN and Russia.
77. We acknowledged the progress of cooperation with our Dialogue Partners over the past year. In particular, we noted China's proposal and initiatives under the 2+7 Cooperation Framework and appreciated the many cultural events taking place during the ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year 2014. We welcomed the fruitful exchange of views at the Informal ASEAN-EU leaders' Meeting, the first informal meeting since 2007, held in October 2014 in Milan.
78. We expressed satisfaction with the progress of ASEAN-India strategic relations over the past year, particularly the ongoing implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity. We also agreed to further strengthen our cooperation with Japan and appreciated Japan's establishment of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 2.0, which would support the implementation of measures under the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action (2011- 2015) and the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.
79. We looked forward to the adoption of the "ASEAN-U.S. Joint Statement on Climate Change" at the 2nd ASEAN-U.S. Summit. This Statement reflected the firm commitment by ASEAN and the U.S. to jointly tackle the issues of climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to work towards a successful outcome of the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in 2015 in Paris.
80. We were pleased with the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017). We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education among APT member countries in order to further develop human resources and enhance people- to-people links and understanding. We noted with satisfaction the successful convening of the ASEAN Plus Three Forum on Good Governance as well as the ASEAN Plus Three Labor Ministers' Meeting in Myanmar. We looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation on ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation at the forthcoming 14th ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Ministers' Meeting, to be held in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, in January 2015.

81. We welcomed the significant progress made by the East Asia Summit including the adoption of the Plan of Action (PoA) to implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative. We reaffirmed our commitment to further promote the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political, and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia based on the principles, objectives and modalities of the EAS as reflected in the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the EAS, the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the EAS and Declaration of the EAS Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles). We further reaffirmed ASEAN's central role in the EAS, and ASEAN's commitment to work in close partnership with all EAS participating countries to ensure that the EAS would continue to be a component of the emerging regional architecture. We expressed our appreciation to the non-ASEAN EAS Participating Countries for their unwavering support for the realisation of the ASEAN Community and for broader and deeper regional integration. We welcomed efforts to review the EAS in order to further strengthen and consolidate the process and looked forward to the outcomes of the review at the 10th anniversary of the EAS in 2015. Further we highly valued the role the EAS in maintaining and promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia by addressing the issues of common concern and interests.
82. We noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (UN), and looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN-UN Work Plan 2015. We noted the regular ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting at the sideline of the annual UNGA meetings and encouraged both sides to continue to take advantage of these meetings to further ASEAN-UN interaction. We looked forward to working with the UN to develop the next phase of our cooperation, which will incorporate sustainable development objectives, in line with the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision and the UN's Post- 2015 Development Agenda. We welcomed the presence of a UN Liaison Officer in Jakarta to strengthen joint activities and to implement the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership.
83. We noted with satisfaction ASEAN's engagement with regional groupings such as the Pacific Alliance and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). We looked forward to strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation between ASEAN and these regional groupings as well as with other potential groups. We encouraged enhanced engagement between the CPR and Ambassadors of regional groupings to ASEAN in Jakarta. We welcomed increased cooperation between ASEAN and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and looked forward to the 4th ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting in Myanmar in 2015.
84. We welcomed the Guidelines for ASEAN's External Relations as a basis for developing and widening ASEAN's relations and cooperation with other potential countries and organisations. In this respect, we welcomed the adoption of the Joint Statement on ASEAN-Norway Partnership which would pave way for forging closer cooperation between ASEAN and Norway, issued in the sidelines of the 47th AMM in Nay Pyi Taw in August 2014.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

85. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability, ensuring maritime security and safety, and freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. We further underscored the principles as contained in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, the Joint

Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties (DOC) in the South China Sea, and the related ASEAN Statements adopted during the 24th ASEAN Summit. We welcomed the positive progress in the consultations for implementing the DOC and the agreement to work towards the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct (COC) based on consensus. In this regard, we agreed to intensify consultations with China on measures and mechanisms to ensure and further enhance the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety, and on the early conclusion of COC. In this respect, we looked forward to seeing more early harvest measures to promote and enhance trust and confidence in the region.

86. We remained concerned over the situation in the South China Sea. We reaffirmed the collective commitments to ensuring the resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, without resorting to the threat or use of force, while exercising self-restraint and avoiding activities that further complicate the situation or escalate tensions in the region. We further stressed the importance of the collective commitments of ASEAN Member States to peace, stability, maritime security and mutual trust in the region and the need to create conditions conducive for the peaceful settlement of disputes.
87. We were encouraged by recent high-level meeting between DPRK. and ROK officials. We underlined the importance of peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula and reiterated calls for full compliance with all obligations under relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We reiterated our support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearization of the Korea Peninsula in a peaceful manner.
88. We expressed concern over the rise of violence and brutality committed by terrorist/extremist organisations and radical groups in Iraq and Syria, noting that these groups not only pose a threat to the people of Iraq and Syria, but also to all countries in Middle East, and if left unchecked, to the rest of the world. We denounced all acts of destruction, violence, and terror in all its forms and manifestations and expressed our support for the UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). We reiterated our commitment to work with the international community to fight against extremism, radicalism and terrorism and address its root causes, including through the promotion of the Global Movement for Moderates (GMM), to prevent further violence and brutality, in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.
89. We recognised that moderation has a role in the pursuit of long lasting peace as a tool to counter extremism and terrorism, diffuse tensions and negate radicalisation. We further affirmed support for the Global Moment of Moderates in moving the moderation agenda forward to counter intolerant, violent and militant extremism; deliver economic, political and social justice; and call for greater cooperation and understanding among cultures, religions and civilisations aimed at drowning out the voices of extremists.
90. On the situation in the Middle East, we reaffirmed our support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for an independent state of Palestine and a two-state solution where both countries and peoples can live side by side in peace. We welcomed the Egypt brokered ceasefire agreement between Israel and Palestine and called on all parties to fully comply with the ceasefire, and urged both Israel and Palestine to resume peace talks.
91. We expressed grave concern about the current Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak, which constitutes a threat to international peace and security. We encouraged regional cooperation to response to the Ebola crisis. In this regard, we welcomed the Joint Statement of the 9th East

Asia Summit on Regional Response to the Outbreak of the Ebola. We welcomed the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2177 (2014), and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/1 calling for support to the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). We reaffirmed the importance of preparedness by all countries for early detection, prevention of spread and quick respond to suspect EVD. We called for countries to seek technical assistance from the World Health Organisation (WHO) to improve capacity and establish appropriate systems and processes where necessary. Underscoring the urgent need for a regional commitment to respond to the Ebola crisis, we looked forward to EAS Leader's adoption of the Joint Statement on Regional Response to the Outbreak/Spread of Ebola.

92. We welcomed the outcomes of the 10th Asia-Europe Summit, where Leaders of ASEM partners exchanged views on economic, financial, regional and global issues as well as traditional and non-traditional security challenges. Highlighting the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, they also discussed the way forward in creating an enabling environment for prosperity.
93. We welcomed the outcomes of the 2014 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and noted APEC's on-going contribution to the promotion of the open trade and investment, regional economic integration, sustainable economic development and prosperity in the Asia Pacific. We were pleased with the progress made towards achieving the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2020. We expressed our support for the APEC Blueprint on Connectivity, which takes into consideration the MPAC, and looked forward to it providing concrete outcomes to enhance connectivity in both Southeast Asia and the greater Asia Pacific region. We also expressed support for the chairmanship of the Philippines of APEC in 2015.
94. We reaffirmed our commitment to supporting the multilateral trading system. We underscored the importance of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in advancing initiatives to enhance the movement, release and clearance of goods. We expressed concern over the impasse in the adoption of the Protocol of Amendment of the Trade Facilitation Agreement at the WTO in July 2014. In this regard, we tasked our Economic Ministers to work closely with other WTO Members to expedite the adoption of the Protocol and enable the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, in accordance with the Ministerial decision in Bali 2014.
95. We appreciated the G20's commitment to developing ambitious but realistic policies aimed at increasing their collective GDP by more than two percent over the next five years. In the context of maintaining fiscal sustainability and financial sector stability, we supported the G20 to develop new measures to raise global growth. We were pleased with the continued opportunity for ASEAN to share its views on current issues affecting the global economy through the regular participation of the ASEAN Chair at G20 meetings. ASEAN continues to support the work of the G20 to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth. We expressed our support for Australia's hosting of the G20 Summit in 2014.