

2015 JOINT STATEMENT FOR ASEAN-NEW ZEALAND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP 2016-2020

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015

Joint ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders' Statement on the 40th Anniversary Of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations: Advancing Our Strategic Partnership Towards Greater Mutual Benefit And Prosperity

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and New Zealand, gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 22 November 2015 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations.

ASEAN and New Zealand share a strong legacy, and have achieved much over the past 40 years across a wide range of areas, including political, security, trade and economic, people-to-people and development cooperation. The past five years in particular have been marked by stronger and more regular political engagement, increased two-way trade under the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA), and the expansion of education, tourism, and migration links.

Progress in our relations has been supported by New Zealand's four Flagship programmes of Agriculture, Scholarships, Disaster Risk Management, and the Young Business Leaders' Initiative, which have contributed to regional security and prosperity, and the objectives of the NZ Inc. ASEAN Strategy.

Looking ahead, ASEAN and New Zealand are committed to deeper regional integration and the realisation of a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, rules-based, and people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN, as reflected in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its Blueprints.

We recognised the importance of shared values and norms enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia, and ASEAN's centrality and leadership in the evolving regional architecture.

As we reaffirm our commitment to establish stronger, deeper, and mutually beneficial relations and build a peaceful, prosperous and integrated region, we agreed to elevate our relationship to a Strategic Partnership.

We look forward to the realization of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Statement for the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership 2016-2020, and welcome New Zealand's announcement of a significant increase in investment into the People Strategy and the Prosperity Strategy as a notable demonstration of New Zealand's firm commitment to the Strategic Partnership:

- The People Strategy will focus on the development of the region's people, particularly youth, including current and future leaders, and will foster greater flows of people in both directions. It includes the new New Zealand Prime Minister's Fellowship for ASEAN; expanded scholarships and English language training opportunities, new vocational training; and an expanded and reciprocal Young Business Leaders' Initiative.

- The Prosperity Strategy will focus on agriculture and trade initiatives to support ASEAN and New Zealand's economic growth, achieve common regional integration objectives, and narrow the development gap within and between ASEAN countries. It includes a new bilateral trade capacity-building programme; extended cooperation under AANZFTA; and increased development cooperation in the area of agriculture.

In order to further strengthen cooperation, ASEAN and New Zealand agreed to undertake the following for mutual benefit:

1. Strengthen cooperation in the promotion of regional peace, security and stability, including through more regular and comprehensive ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue and cooperative activities, and through ASEAN-led regional frameworks, especially the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus.
2. Foster greater cooperation to address security challenges, including traditional and non-traditional issues such as disarmament, arms control, nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), counter terrorism, cyber and other transnational organised crime issues, and to support the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ).
3. Further promote maritime cooperation, including maritime security and safety, search and rescue, freedom of navigation and overflight, exercise of self-restraint, unimpeded commerce, non-use of force or threat of use of force, and the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with the universally-recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and through the appropriate ASEAN mechanisms.
4. Enhance cooperation to promote good governance, human rights, democracy and rule of law, peace and reconciliation, and encourage the promotion of moderation.
5. Promote greater regional economic integration, development, and resilience, including through support for the ASEAN Economic Community post-2015 agenda, effective implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), and the conclusion of a modern, high quality and mutually beneficial Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement.
6. Enhance economic cooperation in fields such as agriculture, trade, investment, SME development, energy and tourism.
7. Promote stronger people-to-people connections and greater awareness of ASEAN-New Zealand relations in order to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship.
8. Strengthen cooperation in disaster management, environment, climate change, health, and to improve access to clean water and clean air.
9. Explore cooperation to promote social welfare and rights in the region, including on women, children, youth, the elderly/older persons, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, vulnerable and marginalized groups.

10. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States, including the delivery of Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) priorities, and promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
11. Strengthen cooperation on physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity within and between ASEAN and New Zealand, including the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity.
12. Support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat.

We adopt this Joint Statement and tasked our relevant officials to implement and to realise the goals identified in this Joint Statement and the Plan of Action 2016-2020 and other existing ASEAN-New Zealand frameworks for cooperation.