

2020 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 21ST ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA SUMMIT

Adopted on 12 November 2020

1. The 21st ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit was held via videoconference on 12 November 2020. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Nguyễn Xuân Phúc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and attended by Heads of State/Government and High Representatives of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Moon Jae-in, President of the ROK. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We noted with satisfaction the development of ASEAN-ROK friendship and cooperation over the last year and reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership, including through the effective implementation of the Leaders' Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership adopted at the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations on 26 November 2019 in Busan, the ROK. We welcomed the significant progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Security (2016-2020). We also welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership (2021-2025) and looked forward to the effective implementation of the new Plan of Action to foster closer cooperation in the next five (5) years. ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's New Southern Policy Plus (NSP Plus). The ROK emphasised the 'People First' principle of the NSP Plus which aims to build a stronger partnership in the region for the future, to further strengthen relations with ASEAN in line with the three pillars of the ASEAN Community and the ROK's continued contribution to regional development. The ROK welcomed active cooperation with ASEAN in the implementation of the NSP Plus Initiatives within the framework of ASEAN-ROK mechanisms to accomplish a people-centered community of peace and prosperity.
3. We supported the priorities of ASEAN in advancing a "Cohesive and Responsive" ASEAN under Viet Nam's Chairmanship this year and welcomed the ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN: Rising Above Challenges and Sustaining Growth, adopted at the 36th ASEAN Summit on 26 June 2020. We underlined the need to strengthen regional solidarity and maintain ASEAN Centrality to respond effectively to current and future challenges as well as to harness opportunities including those brought about by digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).
4. We recognised the unprecedented challenges posed by the Coronavirus Diseases 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and underscored the importance of enhanced international cooperation in addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies. We stressed the importance of ASEAN-ROK cooperation in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as in strengthening joint efforts in promoting robust recovery, as underlined at the Special ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit on COVID-19 on 14 April 2020 via video conference. ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK's assistance to support ASEAN's efforts on COVID-19 response, including contribution of medical supplies and equipment, as well as the conduct of in-country training for laboratory officers under the USD 5 million project on Enhancing the Detection Capacity for COVID-19 in ASEAN Member States funded by the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) which was launched on 16 June 2020 and the COVID-19 Comprehensive Rapid Response Program. ASEAN Leaders also welcomed the ROK's contribution of USD 1 million from the AKCF to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund. ASEAN Leaders looked forward to the ROK's continued support to ASEAN's efforts and initiatives in mitigating COVID-19, including the ASEAN Regional

Reserves of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework. We looked forward to enhancing collaboration in public health through the ASEAN-ROK Health Dialogue Channel and noted the ROK's proposal to establish an "ASEAN-ROK Health Ministers' Meeting". We also recognized the importance of cooperation in development, manufacturing and distribution of anti-viral medicines and vaccines, adhering to the objectives of efficiency, safety, equal accessibility and affordability and noted the role of the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) in developing and delivering vaccines.

5. We welcomed the adoption of the Joint Initiatives on Bolstering the Economic Connectivity between ASEAN-ROK in response to the COVID-19 Outbreak. We stressed the importance for ASEAN and the ROK to work together in mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19 and in efforts towards comprehensive recovery. We reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining trade and investment, ensuring the sustainability of regional supply chains and bolstering economic connectivity by facilitating the flow of essential goods, including food, medicines and medical and other essential supplies and services as well as essential movement of people, which could help alleviate the impact of COVID-19 in the region.
6. We underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN Centrality and unity in the evolving regional architecture and reiterated our commitment to support an ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based, strengthening the efficiency of and promoting mutually-reinforcing synergy among the ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, APT, East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). We underscored the importance of multilateralism, regionalism and international law in contributing to global and regional peace, security, stability and prosperity. We reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), as a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. ASEAN Member States encouraged the ROK to work with ASEAN in promoting the AOIP and undertaking cooperation on the key areas of cooperation identified in the Outlook to enhance mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual benefit through ASEAN-led mechanisms.
7. We reiterated our commitment to further strengthening cooperation to address terrorism and violent extremism, illicit drug trafficking and other forms of transnational crime, as well as cybersecurity, and maritime security, including under the frameworks of INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Plus Republic of Korea Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC + ROK) Consultation and the outcomes of the 1st AMMTC + ROK Consultation in Bangkok, Thailand on 28 November 2019. We also welcomed the adoption of the Transnational Crime (SOMTC)-ROK Work Plan for Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Transnational Crime (2019-2023) in November 2019 and looked forward to the effective implementation of this Work Plan. We encouraged the concerted efforts to promote cooperation among the police in the ROK and ASEAN Member States through capacity-building of police officers and operational coordination to counter transnational crimes. ASEAN congratulated the ROK for its co-chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Maritime Security with Singapore for the 2017-2020 cycle and looked forward to the successful co-chairmanship of Malaysia and the ROK in the ADMM-Plus EWG on Cyber Security for the 2020-2023 cycle.
8. We reaffirmed our support for ASEAN's efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms including the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). ASEAN appreciated ROK's support to the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) in building capacity for peace and reconciliation through trainings and workshops to counter violent extremism amongst the youth, and looked forward to further cooperation in strengthening peace, security and stability in the region and beyond.

9. We acknowledged the good economic relations between ASEAN and the ROK in the past year. Total bilateral merchandise trade reached USD 156.5 billion and the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows from the ROK to ASEAN recorded at USD 2.6 billion based on preliminary data for 2019, positioning the ROK as ASEAN's fifth largest trading partner and seventh largest source of FDI inflows. We were pleased to note the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreements (AKFTA) and reaffirmed our commitment to capitalizing on the AKFTA to further strengthen ASEAN-ROK trade and investment. We noted the decision to enhance the work on further liberalisation of products in the Sensitive Track (ST) List under the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement after the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement and looked forward to the full ratification and implementation of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-ROK Trade in Goods Agreement.

10. We agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation in areas such as digital economy, innovation, intellectual property, science and technology, capacity building and human resource development in the digital age and welcomed the progress of the establishment of the ASEAN-ROK Science and Technology Cooperation Centre. We noted the ongoing discussions for the establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Industrial Innovative Centre (AKIIC) in 2021. We welcomed the Technology Advice and Solutions from Korea (TASK) in strengthening technical capacity of ASEAN private sector and the business-to-business (B2B) partnership with Korean companies. We looked forward to the completion of the feasibility study by the end of the year to assess the necessity of the establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Standardization Joint Research Centre. We also looked forward to the establishment of the Financial Cooperation Center in the office of the ROK's Mission to ASEAN to further enhance cooperation in the area of finance. We appreciated the ROK's support in providing comprehensive training in the area of Intellectual Property, with the aim of improving the level of IP knowledge in the region. We welcomed the work of the ASEAN-Korean Business Council (AKBC) and the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) in increasing trade and investment flows, deepening B2B cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK as well as sharing best practices and providing capacity-building for MSMEs, including startups. We also welcomed the ROK's support through the ASEAN-ROK Startups Partnership, and looked forward to the completion of the joint study on the ASEAN-ROK Startups Ecosystem and the development of the ASEAN-ROK Start-ups Policy Roadmap.

11. We acknowledged the on-going discussion between ASEAN and the ROK on the future of tourism cooperation as part of the development of the APT Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2021-2025 and encouraged the Tourism Senior Officials to develop strategic cooperation programmes, including innovative measures to revitalise the tourism sector in the post COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with all stakeholders including the private sector.

12. We reaffirmed our commitment to support and maintain an open, inclusive, and rules-based multilateral trading system that promote regional economic cooperation. We welcomed the progress made towards the full conclusion of the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) and welcomed the signing of this modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial agreement at the 4th RCEP Summit on 15 November 2020, which demonstrated the firm commitment of ASEAN and its partners to upholding an open, inclusive, and rules-based multilateral trading system.

13. ASEAN appreciated the ROK's support and cooperation in enhancing regional connectivity and narrowing the development gap within ASEAN and ASEAN's competitiveness as a region, through the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III (2016-2020) as well as alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development in order to realise the ASEAN Community and regional integration. We were pleased to note the Launching of the ASEAN-ROK TVET Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for ASEAN Mobility (TEAM) on 28 September 2020 which underscored our joint commitment towards human resources and TVET development in ASEAN. We also looked forward to the ROK's support towards Development of an ASEAN Open Data Dictionary commencing early next year. We looked forward to the ROK's continued support for the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025). We acknowledged the commitment of the ASEAN and ROK Transport Ministers to further enhance air transport connectivity between ASEAN and the ROK and to work towards the conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASEAN-ROK Air Services Agreement (AK-ASA) that will facilitate tourism and support trade of goods and services. We further welcomed the ROK's contribution in the ASEAN-ROK Port Development Cooperation by transferring knowledge and skills on policies and technologies of port development and operation to ASEAN port experts.
14. ASEAN welcomed the ROK's continued support to promote sub-regional cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including the Mekong and BIMP-EAGA sub-regions, and noted with appreciation the ROK's proposal to establish a new cooperation fund to support new maritime cooperative projects. ASEAN encouraged the ROK to actively assist ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap, promoting sustainable and equitable development across the ASEAN Community including through aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN.
15. ASEAN welcomed the ROK's support for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in enhancing sustainable urban development and smart city infrastructure in ASEAN and looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meeting on Smart City and Infrastructure as proposed by the ROK.
16. We agreed to further strengthen cultural cooperation and promote closer people-to-people ties including through the expansion of scholarship programmes, youth exchange and leadership programmes as well as the activities of the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) in Seoul and the ASEAN Culture House in Busan. We looked forward to enhancing cooperation on digital education and human resource development and encouraged the ROK to support the strengthening of ICT programmes for schools in ASEAN Member States. We welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ASEAN Cultural Centre in Bangkok and the ASEAN Culture House in Busan in 2019, as well as noted the progress in advancing cooperation in film development and organisations between ASEAN and the ROK.
17. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhance cooperation on environment issues and climate change, including environmentally sustainable cities, combating plastic pollution and reducing marine debris. We noted the convening of the first ASEAN-ROK Carbon Dialogue Workshop via videoconference on 4 November 2020 to exchange experiences on carbon pricing policy implementation and discuss the draft work plan of the ASEAN-ROK Carbon Dialogue between the ROK and ASEAN Member States, in supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) Action Plan. We encouraged the ROK's enhanced support to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) to help conserve biodiversity and promote nature-based solutions to prevent future pandemics through cross-sectoral collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement, as part of ASEAN's agenda on mainstreaming biodiversity across relevant sectors.

18. We would continue active collaboration in disaster management, including through training of officials in the field of disaster management and the implementation of the framework of ASEAN Standardisation and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND) in the region. We also noted with appreciation the signing of Memorandum of Intent between ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and the National Fire Agency of the Republic of Korea, with the purpose of strengthening cooperation and seeking areas for further collaboration in the field of disaster management.
19. We looked forward to the ASEAN-ROK capacity building project that aims to share technologies and expertise to help enhance ASEAN's capacity in forestry. We acknowledged that ongoing projects and activities being implemented under the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) Agreement would further strengthen cooperation in promoting sustainable forest management, and welcomed the establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), which aims to strengthen regional forest cooperation and mitigate the impact of climate change. We looked forward to the establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Garden as a symbol of friendship and long-standing relationship between ASEAN and the ROK.
20. ASEAN Leaders appreciated the ROK's increased contribution to the AKCF to support ASEAN's development through the implementation of projects and activities under the new ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action (2021-2025). We encouraged more programmes and projects to be carried out under the new ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action (2021-2025).
21. We welcomed the efforts and achievements made by all the parties concerned for advancing the peace process on the Korean Peninsula over the last three years. We stressed the importance of resuming peaceful and sustainable dialogue amongst all concerned parties in order to realise complete denuclearisation and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the Joint Statement by the U.S. and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Leaders, the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration. ASEAN Leaders underscored the significance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. The ROK briefed the meeting on proposals to advance inter-Korean relations such as strengthening inter-Korean cooperation in fields of healthcare and epidemic prevention and control as well as declaring an end to the War and transforming the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) into an international peace zone. We reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the establishment of lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. We underscored the importance of ASEAN-led platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue amongst the parties concerned.
22. We discussed international and regional issues of common interest and concern, including situation in the South China Sea. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea. We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. We encouraged the substantive negotiations towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) consistent with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS within a mutually-agreed timeline. We discussed the situation in the South China Sea, and reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, the importance of non-militarisation, exercise of self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability and avoidance of actions that may further complicate the situation, as well as to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.