

# **2022 ASEAN LEADERS' VISION STATEMENT ON "ASEAN A.C.T.: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES TOGETHER"**

*Adopted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 11 November 2022*

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## 2022 ASEAN LEADERS' VISION STATEMENT ON "ASEAN A.C.T.: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES TOGETHER"

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We, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely 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, on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 11 November 2022;

**RECALLING** the Bangkok Declaration of 1967 in which ASEAN declared to promote regional cooperation in the spirit of equality and partnership and to secure peace, freedom and prosperity for its peoples and region;

**REAFFIRMING** the importance of regional solidarity, continuity and sustainability in ASEAN's endeavor to realise an ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated, and socially responsible as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter;

**BEING COGNISANT** of the importance of building a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred, peaceful, stable and resilient ASEAN Community with enhanced capacity to seize opportunities, respond effectively to challenges and position ASEAN as an outward-looking region within a global community of nations, while maintaining ASEAN Centrality, as stated in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

**RECALLING** the Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) that demonstrated our collective will and shared commitment to strengthen solidarity, enhance cooperation and mutual support among ASEAN Member States, with our external partners and the international community in the fight against COVID-19;

**UNDERSTANDING** that togetherness emphasises an action-oriented approach that is based on openness, honesty, good faith, solidarity, and harmony within ASEAN in addressing common challenges facing the region timely and effectively to realise a harmonious ASEAN Community that is peaceful, stable, and prosperous;

**REITERATING** our commitment to ensure ASEAN's recovery and resilience to respond to current and future challenges, by advancing comprehensive efforts to address supply chain disruptions, safeguard food and energy security, ensure financial stability, accelerate inclusive digital transformation, transition to a green and circular economy, and cooperation in Blue Economy.

### **DO HEREBY AGREE TO:**

1. **PROMOTE** cooperation and partnerships within ASEAN and with external partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms based on the principles of consultation and consensus, equality, partnership, and mutual respect, while maintaining ASEAN Centrality, in order to achieve harmony and sustainability in all dimensions of ASEAN Community-building and in promoting regional and international peace, stability and prosperity;
2. **MAINTAIN** ASEAN as a region of peace, freedom, stability and security, where differences and disputes are resolved by peaceful means; and free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, including through the effective implementation of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty and its Plan of Action;

3. **REINFORCE** our commitment to implement the ASEAN Political- Security Community Blueprint 2025; ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025; ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025; Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025); Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025; and other commitments in various ASEAN instruments;

## **POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION**

4. **STRENGTHEN** ASEAN Centrality in the regional architecture towards peace, stability, harmony and prosperity;
5. **UPHOLD** the core principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), and 2011 Declaration of The East Asia Summit On The Principles For Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles), upholding international law, and the settlement of disputes through peaceful means, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to threat or use of force, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), while continuing to enhance mutual trust and confidence;
6. **STRENGTHEN** ASEAN Centrality and unity in ASEAN's constructive engagement with its external partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms to ensure that they remain open, transparent, resilient, inclusive, and rules- based, consistent with the ASEAN Leaders Declaration on Upholding Multilateralism;
7. **STRENGTHEN** regional efforts to contain and mitigate existing and emerging threats posed by transnational crimes, such as terrorism and violent extremism, illicit drugs, people smuggling and trafficking in persons, cybercrimes and other non-traditional security issues, including through border management cooperation;
8. **REAFFIRM** our commitment in building an open, safe, secure, stable, accessible, interoperable, peaceful, and resilient cyberspace and enhance regional cooperation in cybersecurity including through awareness activities and capacity building programmes of the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE) in Singapore and the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC) in Bangkok;
9. **PROMOTE** ASEAN Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and ASEAN Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agendas to encourage women and youth's participation and leading roles in promoting peace and security in the region;
10. **ENHANCE** ASEAN's roles in addressing the issue of explosive remnants of war, including through the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC);

## **ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

11. **ACCELERATE** ASEAN's transformation into a highly integrated, competitive, sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous economic region by ensuring our regional economic integration agenda and priorities are relevant for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economic environment and enhancing ASEAN's resilience to respond to future economic challenges;
12. **FOSTER** innovation and creativity by accelerating inclusive digital transformation, creating a secure and an enabling environment to advance science and technology, promoting conducive regulatory environment, and advancing partnership in human capital development;

13. **ENHANCE** ASEAN's participation in the global economy by fully utilising ASEAN's existing FTAs, pursuing closer economic partnerships with economies that promise great potentials in contributing to the region's economic integration agenda, responding to emerging issues to ensure that ASEAN remains forward-looking and relevant to businesses and stakeholders, and demonstrating our firm and continuous commitment to upholding an open, inclusive, and rules-based multilateral trading system;
14. **REAFFIRM** ASEAN's commitment and reinforce efforts in accelerating clean energy transition and strengthening energy resilience through greater innovation and cooperation as well as enhancing regional integration following the successful commencement of the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS)-PIP;
15. **STRENGTHEN** food security particularly in the post-pandemic period, including through the full and effective utilization of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS);

## **SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION**

16. **RESOLVE** to promote a whole-of-society approach to further empower the peoples of ASEAN to participate in our Community-building efforts and foster ASEAN values and identity through inclusive, equitable and quality people-to-people exchange and dialogue platforms in the areas of education, and skills development, employment, youth and sports;
17. **COMMIT** to promote rural development and poverty eradication through rural area empowerment and interconnectivity of rural-urban communities;
18. **STRENGTHEN** social protection and resilience for ASEAN's peoples, particularly migrant workers, informal workers, children, youth, women, elderly persons and other vulnerable groups; and promote social work and wider social service workforce to strengthen social protection;
19. **STRENGTHEN** regional cooperation in scaling up actions using nature- based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches in support of global climate efforts under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement, including support for the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and look forward to the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, in order to provide a more resilient and sustainable future;
20. **COMMIT** to further promote and protect the rights of migrant workers, including their access to social security benefits as well as their health and safety during pandemics and other crises;
21. **PROMOTE** effectiveness of labour inspection to ensure decent work which is free from occupational hazards, for all in informal and hard-to- reach sectors as well as small- and medium-sized enterprises through establishment of the ASEAN Labour Inspection Committee (ALICOM);
22. **ENHANCE** institutional capacity to effectively develop our human resources by investing in well-functioning technical and vocational education and training (TVET) systems supported by labour market information systems and the private sector to solve challenges in this post COVID-19 pandemic era;
23. **CONTINUE** building Regional Health System resilience and accelerating COVID-19 recovery, including ASEAN capacity and institutional effectiveness to prevent, detect and respond to Public Health Emergencies and emerging diseases;

24. **COMMIT** to modernise civil service in ASEAN towards achieving agile and citizen-centric public services and the realisation of good governance;
25. **PROMOTE** greater awareness of ASEAN, nurture a sense of belonging and unity among ASEAN citizens, and help build a strong ASEAN Identity by increasing ASEAN Awareness, Relevance and Application, through outreach activities and effective communication strategies;
26. **STRENGTHEN** the end-term implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 through reinforcing data management and monitoring systems, and the generation of robust research and analysis through the ASCC Research and Development Platforms;
27. **ADVANCE** the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Framework on Care Economy (ACFCE) to guide ASEAN's response to complex crises and challenges, further sustainable development, and protect different segments of populations and sectors through care work and the care economy;
28. **ENHANCE** the contribution of culture and the arts to promoting sustainable development through support for cultural and creative industries, as well as cultural property protection and preservation against cultural losses due to illicit trade and trafficking, climate change, and human-induced and natural disasters;
29. **CONTINUE** to minimise the harmful effects of fake news and misinformation through ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ASEAN Task Force on Fake News, while maintaining upstream interventions including digital media literacy;
30. **PROMOTE** digital education through digital transformation of education system by fostering digital literacy and wellness, digital technologies and connectivity; access to safe digital learning opportunities; and the full implementation of the "Declaration on Digital Transformation of Education System throughout ASEAN";

## **CROSS PILLAR AND CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION**

31. **RESOLVE** to reinforce efforts to enhancing connectivity, promoting sustainable infrastructure and smart cities, deepening linkages to economic centres and narrowing the development gap;
32. **INTENSIFY** efforts to enhance complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to contribute to advancing the SDGs and realizing a more sustainable and resilient ASEAN Community;
33. **COMMITTED** to enhance ASEAN's capacity and institutional effectiveness to deal with the challenges of an increasingly integrated region as well as intense geopolitical and socio-economic dynamics which would be included in the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision;
34. **STRENGTHEN** regional cooperation to address transboundary maritime issues in a holistic, integrated, and comprehensive manner;
35. **ELEVATE** our collaboration to advance new engine of growth critical to the region's recovery and long-term resilience from the multidimensional crises through our joint efforts to promote inclusive digital transformation, food and energy security, financial stability, blue economy and sustainability;

36. **RESOLVE** to further reinforce efforts to advance regional integration and narrowing the development gap among ASEAN Member States and enhance ASEAN's competitiveness as a region in line with the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025; and to continue emphasising the importance of ASEAN unity and Centrality in promoting ASEAN's sub- regional development as well as aligning ASEAN-approved sub-regional cooperation frameworks with the ASEAN Community-building process which could contribute to enhanced regional connectivity, and more sustainable and inclusive development in the region;

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

37. **CONTINUE** to expand ASEAN's external relations based on shared interest, constructive engagement, and mutual benefit which could contribute to ASEAN's community-building, regional integration and development cooperation efforts, as well as strengthen and deepen cooperation with external partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms for comprehensive and sustainable recovery, and promote peace, stability and prosperity through mutually beneficial cooperation for ASEAN Community building efforts and socio-economic development through ASEAN-led mechanisms, while maintaining ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture;
38. **STRENGTHEN** ASEAN-led mechanisms, including ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus, which are significant multilateral platforms that enable countries in the region and beyond to engage in open, transparent, inclusive and constructive dialogue while remaining actively engaged and forward-looking;
39. **ENCOURAGE** constructive engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, and leverage the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo- Pacific (AOIP) as a guide and framework for mutually beneficial relations to promote mutual trust and respect and mutual benefit, thereby contributing to regional peace, stability, and long-term prosperity and sustainability;
40. **ADVANCE** ASEAN's effort in admitting Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN membership while encouraging the Timor-Leste government to intensify efforts towards the country's preparations for ASEAN membership;

**ADOPTED** on this Eleventh Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in a single original copy in the English Language.