

# 2023 JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 56TH ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

*Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia on 11-12 July 2023*

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## 2023 JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 56TH ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

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1. The 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) was held on 11-12 July 2023 in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia. The Meeting was chaired by Indonesia under the theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth." We reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to strengthen ASEAN as an organisation that is robust and agile, and equipped with strengthened capacity and institutional effectiveness to address today's challenges and to remain credible and relevant for its people, the region, and the world while continuing to serve as the region's epicentre of growth and prosperity.

### ASEAN COMMUNITY BUILDING

2. We reaffirmed our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. We further reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the ASEAN Community, its unity and Centrality. We reiterated the importance of maintaining an ASEAN-centred, open, inclusive, transparent, resilient and rules-based regional architecture that upholds international law and of strengthening our engagement and cooperation with Dialogue Partners and external partners, including through existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, in promoting peace, stability, security, and development to enhance our regional resilience to respond to common and emerging challenges.
3. We reaffirmed our shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
4. We reaffirmed our belief that regionalism and multilateralism are important principles and frameworks of cooperation, and that their strength and value lie in their inclusivity, rules-based nature, and emphasis on mutual benefit and respect.
5. We reaffirmed our strong commitment to upholding regionalism and multilateralism and emphasised the importance of adhering to key principles, shared values, and norms enshrined in the United Nations (UN) Charter, the ASEAN Charter, the Declaration on Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN), the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the 1982 UNCLOS, the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), the 2011 Declaration on the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).
6. We committed to intensifying our work towards a people-oriented, people-centred, and rules-based ASEAN, and continued to encourage the meaningful participation of the people, societies and other stakeholders in the ASEAN Community-building process.
7. We emphasised our dedicated efforts to sustain the momentum of ASEAN Community-building, ensuring the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and reiterated the importance of cross-pillar, cross-sectoral coordination and the significance of a holistic, coordinated response and coherent approach in addressing the increasingly multidimensional character and complexities of issues facing ASEAN.

8. We noted with satisfaction the progress in implementing the recommendations of Mid-Term Reviews (MTRs) of the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. We commended the active efforts by ASEAN Member States and Sectoral Bodies across the three ASEAN Community pillars in ensuring the effective realisation of the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 in the face of global and regional challenges.
9. Recalling the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision, we reiterated the necessity for ASEAN to be adaptive, responsive and forward-looking, and able to anticipate opportunities and address emerging and future challenges. We welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with the High-Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) and were encouraged by the progress in the work of the HLTF-ACV. We further recalled the decision by the Leaders at the 42nd ASEAN Summit on the 20-year timeframe for the vision, and agreed with the HLTF-ACV for a mid-term review with the possibility of updates and changes as may be necessary in the periods in between. We emphasised the need for the HLTF-ACV to develop a visionary, inspirational, robust, comprehensive, inclusive, and forward-looking ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision in an effective, efficient, balanced, inclusive, participatory, and coordinated manner, guided by the Core Elements of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision endorsed by the ASEAN Leaders. We looked forward to the finalisation and submission of ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision to the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) for in-principle endorsement in September 2023.
10. We noted the commendable efforts of ASEAN to respond and recover swiftly from the COVID-19 pandemic, including the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, in particular to effectively mitigate the multidimensional impacts of the pandemic and equip the region's long-term resilience to face emerging challenges beyond the COVID-19 crisis. In this regard, we reiterated the importance to incorporate the lessons learned from the whole-of-ASEAN approach in responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences to the ASEAN's Community-building process.
11. We agreed to coordinate and provide mutual support for ASEAN Member States' candidacy in regional and international organisations, where possible. In this regard, we reaffirmed ASEAN's support for the Philippines to become Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the year 2027-2028 as well as Indonesia and Thailand to become the Members of the UN Human Rights Council for the year 2024-2026 and 2025-2027, respectively.

## **KEY DELIVERABLES**

### **ASEAN MATTERS: EPICENTRUM OF GROWTH**

12. We envisaged a strengthened ASEAN in accordance with the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter that is able to implement the ASEAN Charter in its entirety and navigate geopolitical dynamics in the region while maintaining its unity and Centrality. We were also determined to build a resilient economic architecture serving as the centre of regional economic growth and an engine for global growth through robust cooperation. In this regard, we supported Indonesia's Key Deliverables under the theme of "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth".

13. We looked forward to the effective implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness. In this regard, we encouraged the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting Working Group on Decision-Making Process (SOMWG-DMP) to work towards finalising the outcome document, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter, that will guide ASEAN and support ASEAN Leaders' decision and consideration on a particular issue to arrive at decisions in a timely manner for submission to the ACC prior to the 43rd ASEAN Summit. We also encouraged the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) to expedite their work on implementing the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness, in line with the decision of the 32nd ACC Meeting.
14. We commended the work being done by the CPR in undertaking their roles and functions in line with the ASEAN Charter. We underscored the importance and benefit of the CPR's presence in Jakarta as we commit to the strengthening of the CPR that would support ASEAN, the ASEAN Community-building efforts as well as ASEAN-led mechanisms, towards the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision.
15. We underscored the importance of fostering a culture of dialogue in advancing the promotion and protection of human rights in the region. In this regard, we also underscored the importance of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights' (AICHR) role as the overarching human rights institution in ASEAN to engage in dialogue and consultation in advancing the promotion and protection of human rights in the region through its meetings and activities, including the ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue. In this regard, we looked forward to further discussions on Indonesia's initiative on the ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue and the ASEAN Leader's Declaration on the ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue for its adoption at the 43rd ASEAN Summit.
16. We reiterated our commitment to developing an enabling environment for a robust ASEAN digital economy and strengthening regional digital integration and transformation. In this regard, we looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Statement to Develop the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement at the 43rd ASEAN Summit.
17. We reiterated our commitment to ensuring rapid action to food security and nutrition in response to crises and strengthening preparedness for long-term resilience and sustainability of agri-food systems. We expressed our appreciation to our Dialogue Partners for the growing interest in developing cooperation on food security and nutrition, including in times of crisis. We looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises at the 43rd ASEAN Summit.
18. We affirmed our commitment to strengthen the region's capacity as the epicentre of growth. In this regard, we supported Indonesia's initiative to develop the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN as an Epicentrum of Growth and looked forward to its adoption at the 43rd ASEAN Summit.
19. We reiterated our commitment to implement the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Blue Economy, acknowledging that the oceans and seas are key drivers of economic growth and innovation, while taking into account the need to ensure ocean sustainability and rules-based ocean governance. In this regard, we looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework at the 43rd ASEAN Summit.
20. We reiterated our commitment to global climate action at regional, national, and sub-national levels and welcomed the progress made towards the finalisation of the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 28th session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-28).

21. We also welcomed the progress towards the finalisation of the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Co-ordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC THPC) in Indonesia and resumption of discussion to finalise the Host Country Agreement of the ACC THPC given the urgency to accelerate the operationalisation of ACC THPC to facilitate faster and more effective implementation in all aspects of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution to address transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region.
22. We reaffirmed the importance of providing every young child in ASEAN with access to quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), as it lays the foundation to better fulfil their full developmental potential as adults and participate successfully in economic, social, and civic life. We noted the development of the Declaration on Early Childhood Care and Education in Southeast Asia as a commitment to strengthening and reforming ECCE in the region.
23. We reaffirmed the crucial role of the family as an institution and building block to stop all forms of violence, including violence against women and children, and promote the values of respect, equality, collectivism, and social harmony that will contribute to the inclusive growth and prosperity in the region. We looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders Declaration on Gender Equality and Family Development at the 43rd ASEAN Summit, which will among others, develop family-centred policies and strategies to strengthen family's resilience, in building universal and gender-responsive care systems and infrastructure, recognise and reduce the burden of women's unpaid carework in family; as well as strengthen coordination across sector and pillar to promote gender equality, women's empowerment, family development, and inclusive sustainable growth.
24. We reaffirmed the importance to continue enhancing regional health resilience through, improving regional self-reliance and capacities to develop vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics (VTD). We took note of the ongoing discussion in considering the proposal to strengthen collaboration including to facilitate joint research and development, capacity building and networking of ASEAN Member States with global partners on VTD.
25. We acknowledged the strategic position of regional cooperation to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their full participation in society to enable them to better contribute to the region's inclusive development and growth. We looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders Declaration on Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Development for a Resilient and Prosperous ASEAN Community at the 43rd ASEAN Summit.

### **ASEAN OUTLOOK ON THE INDO-PACIFIC**

26. We expressed concern on the intensifying geopolitical tensions in the region, and further underlined the value and relevance of the AOIP to ASEAN's peace, security, stability and prosperity. We were determined to further promote the AOIP in our interactions with partners and to mainstream and promote the implementation of the AOIP through concrete projects and activities in order to promote mutual trust, respect and benefit through ASEAN-led mechanisms. We welcomed the support of all our partners to the AOIP, among others, through the issuance of joint statements and other forms of collaboration and support. We continued to encourage our partners to support and undertake substantive, practical and tangible cooperation with ASEAN, in accordance with the objectives and principles contained in the AOIP, on the four identified key areas, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, economic and other possible areas of cooperation.

27. We committed to mainstreaming and promoting the implementation of the AOIP through concrete and practical projects and activities based on its objectives and principles and looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum: Implementation of AOIP this year with particular focus on infrastructure forum, creative economy forum, youth on digital development for SDGs, and ASEAN Business and Investment Summit. We encouraged the continuation of such platforms for dialogue and consultation on the four areas of cooperation under the AOIP.
28. We looked forward to exploring potential cooperation between the AOIP and the respective initiatives of Dialogue Partners on the Indo-Pacific through ASEAN-led mechanisms including, among others, the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Plus One mechanisms, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). In this regard, we looked forward to the adoption of Joint Statements between ASEAN and the United States, New Zealand, Republic of Korea (ROK) and China respectively on the AOIP.
29. We welcomed the convening of the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Workshop on Marine Plastic Debris co-hosted by Indonesia and New Zealand on 15-16 June 2023 in Bali, Indonesia and the EAS Workshop on Combating Marine Pollution, with a focus on marine plastic debris, co-hosted by Singapore, Australia and India on 14-15 February 2022 via videoconference. We looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Workshop on the Use of Technology for Sustainable Aquaculture, co-hosted by Indonesia and Australia on 5-6 October 2023 in Lombok, Indonesia and the EAS Workshop on Developing Coastal Economy as initial concrete implementations of the AOIP.
30. We committed to enhancing our engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. We looked forward to the establishment of cooperation between ASEAN and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and between ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), to be formalised on the sidelines of the 43rd ASEAN Summit. We also looked forward to the participation of the Chairs of PIF and IORA as Guests of the Chair at the 18th EAS. We also welcomed the potential to engage further with IORA and PIF in areas of common interest.

## **PROMOTING COMPLEMENTARITIES BETWEEN ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2025 AND THE UNITED NATIONS 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

31. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhancing sustainable development cooperation, including with partners, by promoting the Complementarities Initiative. We reiterated our continued support for the effective implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025) and for the work of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD). We took note of the outcomes of the 7th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue (HLBD) held on 31 March 2023 in Bangkok, which highlighted actions to accelerate the SDGs and explored ways forward to update the Complementarities Initiative in the context of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision. We encouraged further efforts to promote sustainable development cooperation between ASEAN and external partners to support the mainstreaming and implementation of the AOIP.

## **INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION**

32. We underscored the importance of narrowing the development gap within and among ASEAN Member States to enhance ASEAN's competitiveness as a region through among others, the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plans. We commended the work of the IAI Task Force and the concerted effort of all stakeholders and their contribution to the positive progress in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and to realise an inclusive, participatory and collaborative ASEAN Community that is no longer divided by the development gaps among its members.
33. We reaffirmed our commitment to develop the IAI Work Plan V which will guide our collective efforts to further narrow the development gap within ASEAN and realise the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision of an inclusive, participatory and collaborative Community.

## **SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION**

34. We underscored the importance of ASEAN unity and Centrality in promoting ASEAN's sub-regional development. We recognised the relevance of sub-regional development to ASEAN's regional integration and Community-building process, especially in narrowing the development gap, and encouraged closer coordination between ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN-approved sub-regional cooperation frameworks to facilitate the realisation of this endeavour.
35. We reiterated the commitment to further promote equitable and sustainable development across the ASEAN Community by aligning sub-regional growth, including in the Mekong area such as the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), as well as the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), and the Singapore-Johor-Riau (SIJORI) Growth Triangle, with the comprehensive development of ASEAN. We welcomed the continued support and assistance of external partners in the relevant processes.

## **ASEAN CONNECTIVITY**

36. We reaffirmed our commitment to developing the ASEAN Connectivity Post-2025 Agenda as part of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision. In this regard, the development of the ASEAN Connectivity Post-2025 Agenda shall be carried out with a whole-of-Community approach towards synergising and complementing connectivity efforts across sectors with the AOIP serving as a key reference.
37. We noted with appreciation the work of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC), Lead Implementing Bodies and relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, as well as the MPAC 2025 National Coordinators, National Focal Points and relevant national agencies in advancing the implementation of MPAC 2025 and the AOIP. In this regard, we welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Report in December 2022 as well as the endorsement of the Framework on ASEAN Supply Chain Efficiency and Resilience and the Report on Supply Chain Analysis on 10 Specific Product Groups in March 2023. We therefore looked forward to the follow-on development of the implementation plan for the Framework and the additional supply chain analysis covering food security and energy resilience. We also expressed our appreciation to our Dialogue Partners and other external partners for their continued support to the MPAC 2025 as well as the growing interest in developing stronger cooperation on connectivity through the Connecting the Connectivities Initiative.

38. We emphasised the need to approach ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region, through inclusive economic cooperation with a view to supporting the implementation of the MPAC 2025 and the AOIP. We welcomed Indonesia's initiative to convene the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum: Implementation of the AOIP which will be held on 5-6 September 2023 in Jakarta as a platform for dialogue and consultation between ASEAN Member States and external partners, including to explore smart infrastructure projects, to support the development of one of the most dynamic regions in the world while unlocking its potential economic growth.

### **ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK**

39. We commended the significant progress made by the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in implementing the smart city action plans and regional initiatives including the development of an ASCN Online Portal and the ASEAN Smart City Investment Toolkit. We also commended Indonesia for successfully convening the ASCN Discussion Series this year and looked forward to the outcomes of the 6th ASCN Annual Meeting. We appreciated our external partners' support and collaboration in implementing ASCN initiatives.

### **ASEAN JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME WITH THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT**

40. We commended the successful implementation of the Second ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme with the ASEAN Secretariat (AJFP) which took place on 4 June – 3 July 2023. The second batch comprised 13 Junior Fellows from 10 ASEAN Member States and one from Timor-Leste. The programme contributed to enriching the junior officials' knowledge on ASEAN, as well as expanded their network through engagements with various ASEAN stakeholders.

### **TIMOR-LESTE'S FULL MEMBERSHIP IN ASEAN**

41. We welcomed the adoption of the objective and criteria-based Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN at the 42nd ASEAN Summit in May 2023. We looked forward to the full and effective fulfilment of all the Roadmap criteria by Timor-Leste, as well as the robust monitoring of the Roadmap's implementation, to be regularly reported to the ACC. We encouraged ASEAN Member States and external partners to fully support Timor-Leste to fulfil the criteria in the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's full membership in ASEAN, through the provision of capacity-building assistance and other necessary and relevant support.

### **ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY**

42. We reaffirmed the importance of the TAC as the key code of conduct in governing inter-state relations in the region and as a foundation for maintaining regional peace and stability. We remain committed to further promoting the principles embodied in the TAC. We emphasised the importance of all High Contracting Parties (HCPs) in fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty. We welcomed the growing interest of non-regional countries to accede to the TAC, on the basis of respect for and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the TAC. We welcomed the accession of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the TAC.



43. We expressed concern over the declining commitment and cooperation in global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament mechanisms, and called on countries, especially Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), to maintain and fully implement their commitments under these mechanisms, including in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We called on the NWS to fulfil their obligations in advancing nuclear disarmament in accordance with the Article VI of the NPT and to recognise the need to completely eliminate nuclear weapons, which remains the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances. We reiterated our commitment to preserving the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the SEANWFZ Treaty, and stressed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Treaty.
44. We noted that the Executive Committee of the SEANWFZ Commission is continuing to explore the possibility of allowing individual NWS which are willing to sign and ratify the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty without reservations and provide prior formal assurance of this commitment in writing to go ahead with the signing. We welcome any NWS that are ready to do so. We reaffirmed our commitment to continuously engage all the NWS, including those with reservations, and intensify efforts of all parties to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty. We encouraged our ASEAN experts to explore ways to bridge the differences, including the possibility of engaging with the NWS experts. We tasked the relevant officials to work towards the submission of the biennial SEANWFZ Resolution through the First Committee of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
45. We reiterated the importance of strengthening efforts to address common regional challenges in a strategic and holistic manner in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament. We noted the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and reaffirmed our commitment to this landmark treaty. We reaffirmed our full support to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to carry out its mandated work as the implementing body of the CWC in a comprehensive, objective, and impartial manner, in complementarity with the work of the UN. We also reaffirmed our commitment to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and, recognising the necessity of multilateral negotiations and noting the lack of a verification measure, the latter of which poses a challenge to the effectiveness of the BWC, welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on Strengthening the BWC. We also placed great importance on enhancing international cooperation, assistance, and exchanges in toxins, biological agents, equipment, and technology for peaceful purposes.
46. We noted ongoing multilateral discussions on emerging issues involving international peace and security, such as outer space. We reiterated that access to outer space is an inalienable right of all States and that the use of outer space should exclusively be for peaceful purposes only, and for the collective benefit of humanity.
47. We congratulated the AICHR on the progressive implementation of the AICHR's Five-Year Work Plan 2021-2025, and its annual Priority Programmes/Activities. We welcomed the successful convening of the 36th and 37th Meetings of AICHR in Jakarta and Bali, Indonesia, respectively, and the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD in November 2022 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and the AICHR's Country Learning Visit to Bogor, Indonesia to facilitate dialogues on human rights with stakeholders and commended the continuous efforts of the AICHR to work with ASEAN organs, sectoral bodies, entities, and other relevant stakeholders to mainstream human rights across all pillars of the ASEAN Community, including engaging all sectors of society in the people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community-building process, as well as to maintain its relations with Dialogue Partners in promoting and protecting human rights in the region. We

welcomed the successful convening of the ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue 2022 in Siem Reap, Cambodia and took note of the proposal to convene the 5th ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue in Indonesia. We tasked our Senior Officials to continue working on the implementation of the decision made by the 52nd AMM on the AICHR and looked forward to the establishment of the Panel of Experts.

48. We stressed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (Bali Work Plan) 2019-2025 to address radicalisation and violent extremism in the region in a holistic manner. We reaffirmed the importance of addressing the root causes of armed conflict and violent extremism as foundations for regional peace, security and development.
49. We noted the UNGA Resolution A/RES/77/248 emphasising in the Preamble, the universal and unified character of the 1982 UNCLOS, and reaffirming that the 1982 UNCLOS sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained.
50. We welcomed the successful convening of the ASEAN Regional Conference on the 40th Anniversary of the 1982 UNCLOS: Promoting Legal Order for the Seas and Oceans on 29 November 2022 at the ASEAN Secretariat during which the participants exchanged views on 1982 UNCLOS as a legal framework for ocean governance, new challenges for the effective implementation of the 1982 UNCLOS and promoting cooperation on peaceful settlement of conflict in the implementation of the 1982 UNCLOS.
51. We welcomed the adoption of the Concept Paper on the Development of an ASEAN Maritime Outlook (AMO) and looked forward to the issuance of its first edition at the 13th ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) in August 2023. The AMO would serve as a practical tool to understand regional maritime trends, strengthen synergies, and avoid duplication of work among maritime-relevant bodies, mechanisms, and processes in ASEAN. We welcomed the decision by the ASEAN SOM to convene the AMF and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) annually, with their hosting and chairing to follow ASEAN's chairmanship cycle. The Chair may also decide to co-chair and co-host the for a with another ASEAN Member State. We noted various initiatives to strengthen the EAMF while ensuring ASEAN Centrality.
52. We noted the convening of the Heads of ASEAN Coast Guard Meeting on 22-23 November 2022 in Bali, Indonesia and on 7-8 June 2023 in Jakarta, respectively. We noted the discussion on the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Concept Paper on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum (ACF) and encouraged further discussion to finalise the documents.
53. We reiterated the importance of cross-sectoral and cross-pillar coordination to combat illicit activities and transnational crime in the region under the frameworks of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD). In this regard, we looked forward to the convening of the 8th AMMD which will be held on 11 August 2023 in Vientiane. We underscored our continued serious concerns over global moves to reclassify certain types of illicit drugs to less restrictive schedules under the international drug conventions, and reaffirmed our commitment towards a drug-free region and a zero-tolerance approach towards illicit drugs.

54. We recalled the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Caused by the Abuse of Technology and committed to promoting a more robust and more effective regional and international cooperation against TIP. We reiterated the need to mobilise resources and develop strategies and modalities against criminal use of technology in TIP. In this regard, we noted the convening of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) High-Level Dialogue to Address Transnational Crime and Human Trafficking Associated with Casinos and Scam Operations in Southeast Asia on 28 June 2023 in Bangkok, which served as one of the platforms for participants from the region to share information and explore responses to these threats.
55. We acknowledged the importance of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus as the primary platforms for ASEAN defence establishments and their Plus Countries counterparts in promoting security and stability in the region. We welcomed the defence sector's commitment to advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. We commended the progress made in practical defence cooperation under the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) for 2021-2024 on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, maritime security, counter-terrorism, military medicine, humanitarian mine action and cybersecurity. We took note of the ongoing discussion on the Concept Paper on Harmonising ADMM and ADMM-Plus Initiatives and the Discussion Paper on the Use of Military Assets to Maintain Food Security in the Region. We further commended the commencement of the Observership Programme in the ADMM-Plus EWG activities this year and looked forward to deepening engagement with external partners in the area of defence.
56. We commended the ongoing work of the ADMM in developing the Concept Paper on the Implementation of the AOIP from a Defence Perspective, in line with the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Mainstreaming Four Priority Areas of ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific within ASEAN-led Mechanisms and the Concept Note on the ASEAN Roadmap for Promoting ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific adopted and noted respectively by the 40th ASEAN Summit. We looked forward to the adoption of the Concept Paper at the ADMM in November 2023.
57. We commended the work of the ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALAWMM) and the ASEAN Senior Law Officials' Meeting (ASLOM) on law and legal matters to support the ASEAN Community-building processes and enhance ASEAN as a rules-based organisation. We welcomed the progress in the negotiation of the ASEAN Extradition Treaty (AET) and looked forward to its conclusion, which will complement the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT).
58. We also commended the work of ALAWMM on strengthening cooperation between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners and External Parties in promoting the rule of law and enhancing the justice system. To this end, we noted with satisfaction the achievement of the collaborative work between ASEAN and Japan in the area of rule of law and justice and welcomed the convening of the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers as well as the ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers' Interface on 6-7 July 2023 in Tokyo.
59. We welcomed the progress of the work of the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (SOMMLAT) in formulating templates for Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) requests and also looked forward to the inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers/Attorneys General Meeting of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (AMAG-MLAT) which will be held in Brunei Darussalam in the last quarter of this year in furthering the effective implementation of the ASEAN MLAT to strengthen ASEAN's capacity and resilience to combat transnational crime.

60. We noted the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation's (ASEAN-IPR) activities with relevant ASEAN bodies and external partners to promote the culture of peace and moderation in ASEAN. We encouraged the ASEAN-IPR to find innovative solutions to ensure its sustainability. We encouraged all ASEAN Member States to continue supporting the operations of the Institute, as reflected in the TOR of the ASEAN-IPR. We also noted ASEAN-IPR's continued support for the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) to implement the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in ASEAN. We encouraged the ASEAN-IPR to engage with other relevant stakeholders, including the AWPR and the Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators (SEANWPNM), to further implement the Joint Statement. We further encouraged the implementation of the WPS and Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agendas in ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms.
61. We commended the role of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) as a centre of excellence in promoting ASEAN's efforts to address the issue of explosive remnants of war (ERW) for interested ASEAN Member States and raise awareness of the danger of ERW among affected communities. We reiterated the importance of mine action in national rehabilitation and sustainable development and welcomed efforts to promote mine action at the regional and global level, including at the UN. We expressed appreciation to ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners, external partners and international organisations that have contributed to the undertaking of projects and operations of the ARMAC.

## **ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**

62. We were encouraged by the region's continued growth momentum despite being confronted with various challenges. We recognised that ASEAN remains a bright spot and a point of resilience in 2023, having a better prospect vis-à-vis the global outlook, and noted that the ASEAN economy is expected to achieve GDP growth of 4.7% in 2023 and 5.0% in 2024, driven by robust domestic consumption, positive export performance, and accelerated recovery in services. We reiterated our commitment to redouble our efforts to strengthen ASEAN's position as the epicentre of growth.
63. We expressed our commitment to support the timely realisation of Indonesia's Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) pillar, which is anchored on the three strategic thrusts of (i) Recovery and Rebuilding, (ii) Digital Economy, and (iii) Sustainability. These PEDs aim to address the immediate challenges in ensuring the region's post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery and rebuilding, and further the momentum for ASEAN as an epicentre of growth through inclusive digital economy integration, sustainable economic development, strengthening financial stability, energy security, and food security, as well as accelerating the implementation of the AOIP.
64. We acknowledged that sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices, including sustainable production of vegetable oils, are essential to the attainment of the SDGs by 2030 and will contribute to the regional and global efforts towards economic recovery, green growth, and food security. We welcomed the convening of the Third Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Palm Oil and Technical Webinar between the European Union and Relevant ASEAN Member States and took note of the increased voluntary participation of Member States to the Meeting, to continue promoting mutual understanding on the sustainable production of vegetable oils and addressing the challenges in this sector in a holistic, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner. We noted the agreement between relevant producing countries and the European Union (EU) to establish a Joint Task Force to strengthen the cooperation for the implementation of the EU's Deforestation Regulation. We reaffirmed our support for the relevant Member States to promote collaboration and sustainability efforts and practices in the vegetable oil sector and looked forward to the convening

of the Fourth Joint Working Group on Palm Oil between the European Union and Relevant ASEAN Member States.

65. We emphasised the importance of accelerating energy transition and enhancing interconnectivity to achieve sustainable energy security, while ensuring energy resilience and accessibility, through among others, initiatives such as the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP), and the implementation of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) and Trans ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP). We looked forward to the adoption of Joint Declaration on Sustainable Energy Security Through Interconnectivity and the initiation of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines Power Integration Project (BIMP-PIP) at the 41st ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and its Associated Meetings (AMEM-41) in August 2023 in Bali, Indonesia.
66. We recognised the continuing collaborative efforts in addressing volatilities caused by supply chain disruptions from the oil and gas market. We noted the discussion to renew the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement and the ASEAN Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline Project. We also noted the good progress in the development of new regasification terminals in the region, especially in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, that will allow ASEAN to continue expanding the region's gas distribution networks.
67. We noted the progress of the implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap: An ASEAN Digital Transformation Agenda to Accelerate ASEAN's Economic Recovery and Digital Economy Integration, including the development of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) and welcomed the convening of the consultative workshops on the Study of the DEFA on 13 February 2023 in Jakarta and on 18-19 May 2023 in Bangkok, respectively, as a good avenue for harnessing important information from across sectoral bodies, in order to build a solid landscape of ASEAN's digital economy. In this regard, we looked forward to the completion of the study and the launch of the DEFA negotiations this year, to transform ASEAN into a leading digitally connected Community and economic bloc powered by secure, transformative digital services, technologies and ecosystems.
68. We noted the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan III (Phase 2) and looked forward to addressing the remaining action lines of Phase 1 under Phase 2. We looked forward to the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals scheduled for November 2023 with a view to fostering the socio-economic development of the ASEAN region towards AEC integration.
69. We noted that the 26th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) held during the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2023 on 4 February 2023 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia has commended further relaxation and removal of travel restrictions by ASEAN Member States. In this connection, we supported the development of an Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Framework on Sustainable Tourism Development in the Post-COVID-19 Era, as well as the plan to have an interface meeting between the Tourism Ministers and Transport Ministers later this year to further revitalise the tourism and transport sectors in supporting post-pandemic economic recovery. We welcomed the new ASEAN tourism brand and tagline "A Destination for Every Dream" to strengthen the marketing efforts of the region as a single destination.
70. We recalled the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Developing Regional Electric Vehicle Ecosystem and looked forward to its implementation. In this connection, we appreciated the ASEAN-U.S. collaboration in developing Policy Recommendations to Improve Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Charging Stations in ASEAN and looked forward to its finalisation and adoption by ASEAN Transport Ministers in November 2023.

71. We recalled the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Advancing Regional Payment Connectivity and Promoting Local Currency Transaction that emphasised the importance of providing an enabling environment to strengthen regional linkages and payment systems to support cross-border payments to promote the development of local currency markets in the region. We supported and looked forward to the implementation of the Declaration by the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.
72. We noted the progress of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) upgrade negotiations which is targeted to be comprehensive in scope and cover not only traditional trade-in-goods elements but also emerging and future issues to ensure that the upgraded ATIGA will be a modern, comprehensive, forward-looking agreement relevant to business communities and more responsive to regional and global developments. We also noted the progress made in ASEAN's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with its external partners, in particular the finalisation of the 2nd Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), and the ongoing negotiations on ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) 3.0 Upgrade Negotiations, the Review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), and the ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement.
73. We welcomed the full ratification and progress in the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement that seeks to contribute to regional post-pandemic economic recovery, achieve inclusive, and rules-based trade and promote investment. We underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN Centrality and expressed our appreciation to the non-ASEAN Parties to the RCEP Agreement for recognising and respecting ASEAN Centrality. We reaffirmed our commitment to RCEP's full and effective implementation on all aspects, which will strengthen the regional supply chain and contribute to the ASEAN economic integration agenda. We also reaffirmed our commitment in the establishment of the RCEP Support Unit within the ASEAN Secretariat, which could gradually transition into a standalone RCEP Secretariat. We encouraged other economies to accede to the RCEP Agreement as we believe the full utilisation and expansion of the RCEP would open up more opportunities for businesses to grow and for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to internationalise and contribute to stronger supply chains.
74. We recognised the importance of promoting investment that contributes to sustainable development goals as mandated by the ACRF and the importance of enhancing ASEAN's attractiveness as a sustainable investment destination. Therefore, we looked forward to the development of the ASEAN Sustainable Investment Guidelines. We were also of the view that investment in higher added-value downstream industry is central to achieve ASEAN as an integrated, single market, and production base.
75. We recognised the important role of MSMEs and encouraged their greater participation in our economies. We emphasised the importance of providing support to MSMEs through access to financing, business coaching and mentoring and capacity-building programs, and the significance of digital transformation for MSMEs to expand their business internationally. We underscored the importance of inclusive growth in ensuring balanced socioeconomic development and looked forward to the convening of the Sixth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit on 23-25 August 2023 in Bali hosted by Indonesia.

76. We welcomed the significant contribution of the private sector in economic development and integration and stressed the importance of public-private sector collaboration. We reiterated the key role of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) in coordinating views and inputs of the ASEAN business community to contribute into the development of the AEC. We welcomed and commended ASEAN-BAC's initiatives in the implementation of eight legacy projects under the priority areas of trade and investment facilitation, food security, health resilience, digital transformation and sustainable development. We believe that the projects will create positive impact and look forward to the progress of its implementation.
77. We accentuated the role of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in achieving development gains in the region. We encouraged the synergy between the four major actors in the innovation system: science, policy, industry and society. We took note of the implementation review of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 and the ongoing drafting of APASTI 2026-2035.
78. We underscored the importance of the industrial sector as one of the main pillars of ASEAN's economy. Therefore, we reiterated our commitment to encouraging industrial cooperation by developing a framework for industrial project-based initiatives that focus on forward-looking sectors and specific areas, considering green technological advancements, private sector participation, intra-ASEAN complementarity, and collaboration with the relevant Dialogue Partners and external parties.
79. We noted the importance of the Creative Economy as one of the streams for competitiveness in ASEAN and looked forward to ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners' participation in the upcoming Creative Economy Forum, which will be held as part of the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum on 5-7 September 2023 in Jakarta. The forum will be an inclusive platform to discuss the mainstreaming of creative economy by addressing common challenges and building the creative economy ecosystem in the region.
80. We recognised the urgent need to strike a balance between economic growth and sustainable use of natural resources and protection of the environment. We recalled the initial idea on an ASEAN Green Deal put forward at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits and reaffirmed the importance for ASEAN to continue its sustainable development agenda in the region, as well as in achieving ASEAN Member States' commitments under the Paris Agreement. To this end, we welcomed the adoption of the Implementation Plan of the Framework on Circular Economy for AEC by the AEC Council in February 2023 which will complement the ASEAN Member States' climate action and decarbonisation efforts. We noted the ongoing development of the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality. We welcomed the issuance of Version 2 of the ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance in March 2023 by the ASEAN Taxonomy Board and looked forward to its further progress.

## **ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY**

81. We committed to realise our region as an epicentrum of growth, to be relevant and beneficial to its people, to ensure an ASEAN Community that promotes high quality of life and is adaptive and responsive to current and future challenges.
82. We committed to increasing investment in human resources development and strengthen regional health security architecture, scale-up cooperation and partnership in addressing climate change and other environmental issues, to develop a competitive, resilient and sustainable region.

83. We looked forward to the full implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative, adopted at the 42nd ASEAN Summit, to strengthen ASEAN's prevention, preparedness, detection and response mechanisms to deal effectively with potential public health threats in the future as well as the development of a joint action plan on One Health and the establishment of a One Health network to be noted at the 43rd ASEAN Summit.
84. We reaffirmed our commitment and sustained engagement in the negotiations of a World Health Organization Convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (WHO CA+), and the amendments of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR 2005), to ensure both instruments work in synergy and effectively operationalise equity to strengthen global pandemic prevention, preparedness and response capacities.
85. We looked forward to ASEAN's participation in the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the UN High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis and the UN High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response to be held during the UN High-Level Week in September 2023 in New York, U.S.
86. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening regional health architecture beyond the COVID-19 pandemic towards achieving resilience in the ASEAN Community. We looked forward to the signing of the Establishment Agreement and its operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED). We also reaffirmed our commitment to expand the utilisation of the existing COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund (now renamed as the ASEAN Response Fund for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases) to address other public health emergencies and emerging diseases and participate in global pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) efforts. We looked forward to the continued discussion to provide a report on modalities for a possible regional financial facility.
87. We recognised the increasing need of future healthcare and social support system in order to promote healthy, active, and productive ageing. In this regard, we acknowledged work undertaken by the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI), including the ACAI International Conference on Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology 2022 on 10-12 August 2022 in Bangkok.
88. We extended support to the continued engagement of governments with workers', employers' and relevant civil society organisations in the ongoing development of the Guidance Document to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Competitiveness, Resilience, and Agility of Workers for the Future of Work. We were pleased to note ASEAN Member States' continuous efforts in combating child labour through the ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025.
89. We commended the labour sector in their continued efforts to protect migrant workers throughout the entire migration cycle through the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers and the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members in Crisis Situations at the 42nd ASEAN Summit earlier this year. We expressed support to the ongoing development of the ASEAN Guidelines to implement both declarations. We were also pleased with the ongoing development of the Guidelines to operationalise the ASEAN Declaration on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers in ASEAN adopted at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits last year. We called on further exploration on potential strategic ASEAN cooperation in the protection of migrant workers.



90. We recalled the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Year of ASEAN Youth to Strengthen the Role of Youth in ASEAN Community-Building, adopted at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits. We recognised the significance of equipping youth with necessary skills to address present and future challenges in ASEAN. Therefore, we welcomed the recommendations put forward by the ASEAN Youth Dialogue 2023 to strengthen regional cooperation towards equitable access for digital infrastructure, education, resource mobilisation, and capacity building as conveyed at the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with the Representative of ASEAN Youth on the sidelines of the 42nd ASEAN Summit.
91. We commended the accelerated efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children as guided by ASEAN's commitments in the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (RPA on EVAW) and the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (RPA on EVAC) through relevant impactful initiatives.
92. We looked forward to the High-Level Forum on Disability Inclusive Development and Partnership beyond 2025 hosted by Indonesia back-to-back with ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue on Disability Rights, to further mainstream disability-inclusive development through partnership, not only to accelerate the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but also to explore future strategies beyond 2025.
93. We commended the successful convening of the High-Level Dialogue on Women Peace and Security (WPS) on 5-7 July 2023 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia for sharing best practices and promoting the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on WPS. We appreciated the support of partners in strengthening women's capacities as mediators in the region.
94. We reaffirmed our collective commitment towards fostering a more inclusive and equitable ASEAN Community by emphasising gender mainstreaming and acknowledged that achieving gender equality requires a holistic and harmonious approach through integrating gender perspective into all policies, programs, and decision-making processes and commended the convening of the 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) with the theme "Accelerating the Implementation of ASEAN Commitments for Gender Equality through Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion."
95. We also commended the successful convening of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Conference on 4-5 July 2023 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia to strengthen ASEAN's commitment to implement the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (AGMSF) in particular to promote gender mainstreaming in the work of each ASEAN Sectoral Body.
96. We reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to promote gender equality and women empowerment and commit to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as the principal covenant dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BpfA) as the key global policy document on gender equality, as well as to support the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).
97. We reaffirmed the importance of promoting rural development and poverty eradication in the region. We welcomed the adoption of ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement on the Establishment of an ASEAN Villages Network to fast-track rural development. We encouraged closer cross-pillar collaboration, including with ASCN to explore and promote rural-urban connectivity through collaboration between ASCN, the ASEAN Villages Network, as well as partners for the sustainable growth and welfare of the region.

98. We were encouraged by the implementation of the Roadmap to Implement the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community which recognises the critical role of social workers and the wider social service workforce in promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of vulnerable groups including older persons, persons with disabilities, women and children in the region. We commended the development of the regional guidelines to develop quality social work services for victims of violence particularly women and children.
99. We emphasised the importance of governments' role in dealing with and curbing the spread of fake news and disinformation in the media. We looked forward to the finalisation of the Guidelines on Management of Government Information in Combatting Fake News and Disinformation in the Media to support the work of the ASEAN Task Force on Fake News (TFFN) in tackling the proliferation and harmful effects of fake news.
100. We recognised the importance of the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts 2016-2025 and the Siem Reap Declaration on Promoting a Creative and Adaptive ASEAN Community to Support the Cultural and Creative Economy in 2022, which supported the vital role of cultural and creative industries in building a progressive, inclusive, dynamic, resilient, harmonious, and inclusive ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) that is aware and proud of its identity, culture, and heritage, and with the strengthened capacity to innovate and proactively contribute to the global community.
101. We supported the ongoing efforts in realising a sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and quality education system in ASEAN, particularly in the areas of early childhood care and education, lifelong learning, and education for sustainable development. We looked forward to the convening of the Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Early Childhood Care and Education in July 2023. We underscored the importance and benefits of people-to-people connectivity within ASEAN, and support to widen accessible and sustainable regional student mobility scholarships for higher education students in each ASEAN Member State through, among others, the ongoing implementation of Phase 1 of the Intra-ASEAN Scholarship Programme for ASEAN Nationals.
102. We committed to accelerating the digital transformation of education in ASEAN as an effort to advance the process of recovery from post-pandemic learning losses and increase access to and participation in education among marginalised populations. We appreciated the successful conduct of the ASEAN Regional Forum on the Future of Education on 24-26 May 2023 via videoconference, which discussed innovative solutions to support the transformative education agenda and explored forward looking strategies to support learning recovery and digital transformation of education systems in the post-pandemic era. We also looked forward to the finalisation of the Roadmap for Implementing the Declaration on Digital Transformation of Education Systems in ASEAN.
103. We welcomed the ASEAN TVET Conference: Collaborative Framework on TVET Reformation in Encouraging Innovation through Collaboration between TVET and Business Entity/Industry on 3-5 July 2023 in Batam, Indonesia to improve technical, vocational, and educational training (TVET) implementation and reformation in encouraging innovation between TVET institutes and private sectors within ASEAN. We recognise the importance of multi-stakeholders' engagement with the ongoing work of the ASEAN TVET Council (ATC) in expanding and improving the quality of TVET to increase the relevance and effective transfer of skills as well as industry cooperation.
104. We took note of the plan to convene the ASEAN Conference on Shared Civilisational Values in 2023 to facilitate and foster a greater understanding of shared civilisational values derived from the ASEAN region's culture and religions.

105. We reaffirmed our commitment to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances. We recognised the importance of enhancing cooperation in areas such as capacity-building and the provision of climate finance by developed countries, for the implementation of the commitments in the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact. We looked forward to the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-28) to the UNFCCC from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.
106. We noted that Southeast Asia is one of the regions highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. We reiterated our call for developed countries to fulfil their commitments under the Paris Agreement and to scale up their contributions to climate finance. We encouraged collaboration on climate change by sharing best practices, experience and knowledge, technology transfer, and capacity building on climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction.
107. We committed to scaling up efforts to tackle environmental challenges, among others, through halting and reversing biodiversity loss, preventing loss and damage from climate change impacts, enhancing climate mitigation and adaptation efforts including for coastal and marine ecosystem, ensuring the sustainable use and management of water resources and promoting sustainable development. In this regard, we welcomed the initiatives to develop an ASEAN Action Plan for Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Management and an ASEAN Community-based Climate Action.
108. We emphasised the importance of a strategic and coordinated regional response to climate change and welcomed the developments made on the finalisation of the Establishment Agreement of ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC) towards the formal establishment of the Centre in Brunei Darussalam this year. We looked forward to the Centre's work towards enhancing climate change cooperation among ASEAN Member States to realise a climate-resilient and low carbon ASEAN region.
109. We reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to promoting biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. We recognised the importance of promoting nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approach, in order to minimise the devastating consequences of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in line with post-pandemic recovery efforts. We continued to support the work of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in assisting ASEAN Member States in mainstreaming biodiversity into various development sectors, promoting nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approach to enhance the region's resilience against zoonotic diseases, addressing climate change, and facilitating ASEAN's contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
110. We acknowledged that transboundary haze pollution has adverse impacts on the public health, well-being and economies of ASEAN. We recognised that transboundary haze pollution arising from land and forest fires remains a major concern in the region. We stressed the importance of remaining vigilant and noted the ongoing preventive efforts to minimise transboundary haze pollution during periods of drier weather. We reaffirmed our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), including stepping up measures to mitigate land and forest fires and address transboundary haze pollution with a view to achieving a Haze-Free ASEAN.

111. We expressed our appreciation for the valuable support from partners in the ongoing implementation of projects in peatland and ecosystems management related to prevention of fire and haze and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. We therefore looked forward to the finalisation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2022-2030 and the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation (2022-2030). We also looked forward to the finalisation of the Investment Framework for Haze-Free, Sustainable Land Management in South East Asia (2022-2030) with a view to channelling multiple sources of finance in addressing haze challenges. We also noted increased ongoing regional efforts towards the implementation of the Chiang Rai 2017 Plan of Action for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control in the Mekong Sub-Region.
112. We reaffirmed the importance of implementing the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disaster (ASEAN SHIELD) to prepare for and manage climate-related and other disaster risks and their impacts in the region through a holistic, cross-pillar and cross-sectoral approach. In this regard, we welcomed the progress of reviewing the TOR of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC) and commend the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and the Conference of Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (ADMER) on the adoption of the revised Financial Rules of the ADMER Fund. We also looked forward to the operationalisation and socialisation of the ADMER Fund.
113. We reaffirmed the importance of promoting a whole-of-ASEAN approach in disaster management and emergency response and reaffirmed our commitment to continuously enhance ASEAN's capacity in implementing the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region including through support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).
114. We commended the AHA Centre's leading role in supporting and assisting Myanmar in the aftermath of the severe impact of Tropical Cyclone MOCHA through the mobilisation of relief items from the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) to the affected communities. We appreciated the support from the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat through the deployment of the ASEAN Emergency Response Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), including the completion of the Needs Assessment of the affected areas in Rakhine State.
115. We expressed appreciation to the SG-AHAC and looked forward to the effective operationalisation of the SG-AHAC, including in mobilising resources and promoting coordination on humanitarian assistance and recovery efforts to Myanmar in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone MOCHA. We also looked forward to strengthening collaboration with Dialogue Partners, UN agencies, and other relevant agencies, including in mobilising resources to the affected communities of Tropical Cyclone MOCHA in Myanmar.
116. We reaffirmed ASEAN's continued support for Myanmar's efforts to bring peace, stability, the rule of law, promote harmony and reconciliation among the various communities, as well as ensure sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State.

117. We emphasised the importance of and reiterated our continued support for Myanmar's commitment to ensuring safety and security for all communities in Rakhine State as effectively as possible and facilitating the voluntary return of displaced persons in a safe, secure, and dignified manner. We noted engagement and cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh for the pilot repatriation project, to facilitate 7,000 returnees by the end of 2023 and welcomed Myanmar's efforts to work towards the implementation of this project.
118. We looked forward to ASEAN's continued facilitation of the repatriation process through the implementation of the projects as the follow up to the recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment (PNA). We also looked forward to the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) when conditions allow and encouraged the Secretary-General of ASEAN to continue identifying possible areas for ASEAN to effectively facilitate the repatriation process.

## **ASEAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

119. We underscored the importance of strengthening ASEAN unity and Centrality in our engagement with external partners, including through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three (APT), EAS, ARF, and ADMM-Plus, in order to build mutual trust and confidence as well as reinforce an open, transparent, resilient, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture with ASEAN at the centre that upholds international law. We underscored the need to promote an enabling environment for peace, stability and prosperous development for all through ensuring a culture of dialogue and cooperation, instead of rivalry, enhancing mutual trust and confidence and respect for international law. We reaffirmed that ASEAN shall act in accordance with ASEAN Centrality in external political, economic, social and cultural relations while remaining actively engaged, outward-looking, inclusive and non-discriminatory, in line with the ASEAN Charter.
120. We noted with satisfaction the encouraging progress in ASEAN's relations with our Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, and Development Partners through the existing frameworks, Plans of Action, Practical Cooperation Areas and development cooperation programmes based on mutual interest and benefit in contribution to ASEAN Community-building and development cooperation efforts. We also welcomed the support of our partners for the priorities of ASEAN in 2023 under the theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth". We agreed to further strengthen partnerships and cooperation with our partners, including through sub-regional development cooperation and projects, thus contributing to the continued efforts towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, as well as our proactive response to regional and global challenges and opportunities.
121. We took note of the growing interest from countries and regional organisations outside of the region in developing stronger collaboration and substantial cooperation with ASEAN, including through applications for formal partnerships with ASEAN. We affirmed the importance of pursuing an outward-looking policy and agreed on the need to reach out to new potential external parties based on shared interest, constructive engagement, and mutual benefit which could contribute to ASEAN Community-building, regional integration and development cooperation efforts.
122. We welcomed the increased engagement between the CPR and ASEAN's partners, including through the 95 Non-ASEAN Ambassadors Accredited to ASEAN (NAAAs). We also welcomed the role of the 55 ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and International Organisations in promoting ASEAN's interest and forging partnerships in the respective host countries and international organisations.

## DIALOGUE PARTNERS

123. We looked forward to the 3rd ASEAN-Australia Summit, the 26th ASEAN-China Summit, the 26th ASEAN-Japan Summit, the 24th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit, the 11th ASEAN-U.S. Summit, the 20th ASEAN-India Summit, to be held during the 43rd ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in September 2023. We looked forward to the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of Friendship and Cooperation on 16-18 December 2023 in Tokyo, and the Special Summit to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations on 4-6 March 2024 in Melbourne, Australia. We looked forward to the ASEAN-Canada Summit that would launch the establishment of the ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership in September 2023.
124. We underscored that the establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) with ASEAN should be meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-U.S. and ASEAN-India CSP in November 2022 and reaffirmed our commitments to working closely with the US and India, respectively, in implementing these CSPs. We looked forward to the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan CSP at the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit in September 2023. ASEAN welcomed and looked forward to considering more details on the ROK's announcement of the request for an ASEAN-ROK CSP.
125. We looked forward to the adoption of the Annexes to the Plans of Action with the U.S. and India at the upcoming Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) Plus One Sessions with the U.S. and India, respectively, to guide the implementation of the respective CSPs. We also looked forward to the endorsement of the ASEAN-Russia Joint Statement on the Occasion of 5th Anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership at the upcoming PMC Plus One Session with Russia, the ASEAN Japan Vision Statement and its Implementation Plan with Japan at the upcoming ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of Friendship and Cooperation, as well as the Joint Statement to establish an ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership at the ASEAN-Canada Summit in September 2023 in Jakarta. We further looked forward to an in-principle endorsement for the establishment of the ASEAN-U.S. Centre to follow-up the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. CSP and work on the details for its establishment.

## ASEAN SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERS AND ASEAN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

126. We noted the good progress made in the ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partnerships with Norway, Switzerland, Türkiye, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, and Pakistan as well as Development Partnerships with Chile, France, Germany and Italy. We welcomed South Africa becoming Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN, and accept in-principle the application of Morocco, for a formal decision to be taken at the upcoming 43rd ASEAN Summit, while tasking the ASEAN Secretariat to further identify more focused and concrete areas of cooperation. We looked forward to the individual Trilateral Meetings between the ASEAN Chair, the Secretary-General of ASEAN and Norway and Türkiye, respectively, to explore opportunities for further cooperation and exchanges on issues of mutual interest.

## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

127. We reaffirmed the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation and underscored the importance of ASEAN's partnerships with other external partners such as regional and international organisations, including the UN to address global concerns, pursue shared goals and complementary initiatives, and promote sustainable development for the benefit of our people. In this regard, we looked forward to the continued high-level interactions between ASEAN and the UN, including the convening of ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the UN Secretary-General and the President of the 78th Session of the UNGA, as well as the 13th ASEAN-UN Summit at the 43rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits later this year.

128. We were pleased to note the positive progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN (2021-2025). We reaffirmed our commitment to intensifying cooperation in the implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap, effectively realising the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and continuing our close collaboration and cooperation at regional and international fora.
129. We looked forward to the convening of ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit in October 2023 in Riyadh which will further strengthen our future relations with the GCC. We also looked forward to the adoption of ASEAN-GCC Framework of Cooperation 2024-2028.
130. We are seriously disappointed over the failure of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to update paragraphs on the South China Sea in the Final Document of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on 5-6 July 2023 in Baku. We called on all NAM Members to respect ASEAN, and ASEAN's unity and Centrality, especially on issues which directly affect peace and prosperity in its own immediate region. We also called on all NAM Members to uphold their commitment to the main goals and objectives of NAM as enshrined in the Bandung Principles and to firmly uphold the principles of non-alignment while promoting peace, friendship, solidarity and cooperation among ourselves.

#### **ASEAN PLUS THREE**

131. We reaffirmed the important role of the APT cooperation framework in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the East Asian region with ASEAN as the driving force. We noted the substantive progress of the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2023-2027. We were committed to further strengthening APT mechanisms, including the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), and ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), exploring potential areas of cooperation which would contribute to greater regional resilience and preparedness against emerging challenges and future shocks as well as to promote recovery toward inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable growth. We also looked forward to the convening of the 21st East Asia Forum in China co-hosted by Indonesia and China as a platform to further promote APT cooperation.

#### **EAST ASIA SUMMIT**

132. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthening the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political, and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region with ASEAN as the driving force. In this regard, we were committed to ensuring the effective follow-up on the Ha Noi Declaration on the 15th Anniversary of the EAS to further strengthen the EAS process, sustain its strategic value and relevance as well as enhance its responsiveness to fast-changing developments in the regional and global context. We looked forward to the adoption of the EAS Plan of Action (2024-2028) to further enhance EAS cooperation over the next five years.

133. We welcomed the continued discussions and efforts to strengthen the EAS, including through, among others, negotiating and concluding the Terms of Reference of the Group of the East Asia Summit Ambassadors in Jakarta which regularises the engagement between the CPR and the non-ASEAN Ambassadors of EAS Participating Countries in Jakarta to discuss the implementation of the EAS Leaders' decisions, strengthen EAS cooperation, as well as exchange information on regional development which may affect regional peace and stability, cooperation initiatives and security policies and initiatives, and discuss the evolving regional architecture as well as enhancing coordination with the support of the EAS Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat.
134. We underscored the importance of refraining from provocative actions and adhering to the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter, the TAC, and the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty, in light of regional volatilities in order to prevent miscalculation, serious confrontation, open conflicts, and unpredictable consequences. Therefore, we expressed our willingness to work together to promote the common goals and interests of the EAS Participating Countries and committed to a single EAS statement as the outcome document of the 18th EAS that emphasises the EAS Participating Countries' commitment to maintaining the region as an epicentrum of growth by building resilience against emerging challenges and future shocks through cooperation on maintaining financial stability, strengthening regional health architecture, building food security and resilience, and mitigating the impacts of geopolitical tensions on the economy.

#### **ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM**

135. We reiterated the importance of the ARF's role in promoting dialogue and cooperation among its Participants for the past 30 years and as a key platform for building mutual trust and confidence, as well as consultation on regional political and security issues of common interest and concern. We reaffirmed the need to further enhance its effectiveness and maintain its relevance in the evolving regional security architecture. We noted with satisfaction the progress of cooperation in the ARF and commended the provisional measures undertaken to ensure the continuity of cooperation and operations of the ARF in the post-pandemic recovery, as well as in enhancing the region's post-pandemic resilience. We noted the progress made in the implementation of the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025) and the need for further progress, as well as looked forward to further discussion on efforts and follow-up actions to streamline and enhance the efficiency of the ARF based on the agreed 2020 Guide to ARF Processes, Procedures, Practices and Protocol. We looked forward to the adoption of the ARF Statement on the Commemoration of 30 Years of the ARF at the 30th ARF on 14 July 2023.
136. We looked forward to continuing to work together towards revitalising the ARF, so that it continues to function as the leading regional security forum in the Asia-Pacific region and further promoting concrete cooperation and consultation to address political and security issues of common interest and concern, with a view to building capacity, developing expertise and enhancing coordination in areas that can contribute to the region's peace, security and stability.

#### **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

137. We recognised the strategic importance of our region for our peace, security, stability, and prosperity, as well as for those of our external partners. ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms remain inclusive, and open avenues that facilitate constructive dialogue and concrete cooperation, thereby contributing to the development of the evolving regional architecture in line with the ASEAN Charter and the AOIP.



### **SOUTH CHINA SEA**

138. We discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which concerns were expressed by some Ministers on the land reclamations, activities, serious incidents in the area, including actions that put the safety of all persons at risk, damage to the marine environment, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions, and may undermine peace, security, and stability in the region. We reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability, and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation. We further reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.
139. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea and recognised the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability, and prosperity. We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety. We welcomed the progress achieved so far in the ongoing negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), including the completion of the second reading of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text (SDNT) and encouraged continued positive momentum in this regard. We looked forward to the adoption of the Guidelines for Accelerating the Early Conclusion of an Effective and Substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea at the PMC Plus One Session with China on 13 July 2023 and encouraged efforts to make full use of the Guidelines. We further looked forward to the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the need to maintain and promote an environment conducive to the COC negotiations, and thus welcomed practical measures that could reduce tensions and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings, and miscalculation. We stressed the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence amongst parties, and we reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

### **MARITIME SITUATION IN THE REGION**

140. We recognised the need to maintain and further strengthen stability in the maritime sphere in our region, and underlined the importance of strengthening maritime cooperation, and exploring new initiatives towards this end.

### **DEVELOPMENTS IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA**

141. We stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. The recent surge in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) intercontinental ballistic missile testing and ballistic missile launches and the increased tension in the Korean Peninsula are a worrisome development that threatens peace and stability in the region. We urged all concerned parties to resume peaceful dialogue and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all relevant UNSC Resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Diplomatic efforts, including the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties should remain a priority. We reiterated our readiness to play a

constructive role, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere for peaceful dialogue amongst the concerned parties.

### **DEVELOPMENTS IN MYANMAR**

142. We discussed the developments in Myanmar and reaffirmed our united position that the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) remains our main reference to address the political crisis in Myanmar. We strongly condemned the continued acts of violence, including air strikes, artillery shelling, and destruction of public facilities and urged all parties involved to take concrete action to immediately halt indiscriminate violence, denounce any escalation, and create a conducive environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogue.
143. We commended the AHA Centre for its partial delivery of aid to 400 households of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Hsiseng Township, located in the Southern Shan State, on July 7, 2023. We appreciated the support of the relevant stakeholders in ensuring safe delivery. We called on further facilitation to ensure the humanitarian assistance can safely reach the 1,1 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) identified in the Joint Need Assessment (JNA) Report of the AHA Centre. We appreciated the support from all stakeholders in Myanmar for helping the completion of the JNA by the AHA Centre in an inclusive manner facilitated by the ASEAN Chair. We called for additional support from the international community for humanitarian assistance to implement the JNA Report.
144. We appreciated the Chair's efforts in intensifying engagement with all relevant stakeholders in Myanmar to build trust and confidence, create a conducive environment, and bridge gaps and differences leading toward an inclusive dialogue for a comprehensive political solution. We supported sustaining such engagements to push for the implementation of the 5PC in its entirety, in line with our Leaders' decision at the 42nd ASEAN Summit. We called for continued support of the External Partners, including the UN and neighbouring countries of Myanmar, to work with ASEAN for concrete implementation of the 5PC.
145. In line with paragraph 14 of the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of Five-Point Consensus, we were briefed by Thailand on its recent activities on Myanmar, which a number of ASEAN Member States viewed as a positive development. We reaffirmed ASEAN unity and reiterated that any effort should support, in line with 5PC and in coordination with the Chair of ASEAN.
146. We will conduct our comprehensive review of the 5PC implementation and submit our recommendation to the 43rd ASEAN Summit.

### **SITUATION IN UKRAINE**

147. With regard to Ukraine, as for all nations, we continued to reaffirm our respect for sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity. We reiterated our call for compliance with the UN Charter and international law. We underlined the importance of an immediate cessation of hostilities and the serious engagement in a genuine dialogue for the peaceful resolution of the conflict. We supported the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in the search for peaceful solution. We also called for the facilitation of rapid, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for those in need in Ukraine, and for the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel, and persons in vulnerable situations.

### **SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST**

148. We expressed concern over the developments in the Middle East region. We reiterated the need for a comprehensive, just, and sustainable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in order to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East region. We urged both sides to actively take positive steps to allow for negotiations to gain traction and work together towards the resumption of negotiations to achieve an enduring peace. We fully supported the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for an independent State of Palestine with the realisation of two states, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

### **THE 57TH ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING**

149. We looked forward to the convening of the 57th AMM, Post Ministerial Conferences, 25th APT Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 14th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and 31st ARF to be held in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2024.