

# 2023 ASEAN-CHINA JOINT STATEMENT ON COMMEMORATING AND REFLECTING ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHINA'S ACCESSION TO THE TREATY OF AMITY AND COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

*Issued in Jakarta, Indonesia on 13 July 2023*

**We**, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, gathered on the occasion of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) Plus One Session with China in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 13 July 2023;

**APPRECIATING** China being the first Dialogue Partner to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 8 October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that ASEAN-China relations over the past 30 years have grown and matured in tandem with both sides' development to become among the most dynamic, substantive, and mutually beneficial partnerships between ASEAN and its dialogue partners, and that ASEAN-China relationship and engagement to the region were strengthened over the past 20 years since China's accession to the TAC;

**AFFIRMING** that the purpose and principles enshrined in the TAC have contributed to provide a stable foundation, conducive environment, and served as a guide to relations between High Contracting Parties to the TAC, thereby facilitating their economic growth and development;

**REFLECTING** on the importance of the TAC in enhancing peace, friendship and mutual cooperation on matters affecting Southeast Asia consistent with the spirit and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Ten Principles adopted by the Asian-African Conference in Bandung on 25 April 1955, the Declaration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations signed in Bangkok on 8 August 1967, the Treaty on the Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality Declaration signed in Kuala Lumpur on 27 November 1971;

**REAFFIRMING** the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), as well as universally recognised principles of international law;

**REAFFIRMING** the commitment to advance ASEAN-China relations by forging closer cooperation in line with important documents, including the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-China Special Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030, the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Synergising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Joint Statement on the 20th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, as well as the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2021-2025) and its Annex to Advance the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** China's active efforts to promote closer ASEAN-China cooperation, including China's vision to build a closer ASEAN-China community with a shared future and taking note of China's initiative to build a peaceful, safe and secure, prosperous, beautiful and amicable home in the region;

**RECOGNISING** that amity and cooperation are crucial to achieving sustained peace, security, stability, and prosperity for the people in the region;

**WE HEREBY:**

1. Reaffirm the importance of the TAC to all High Contracting Parties as a key code of conduct to enhance cooperation between all peace-loving nations both within and outside Southeast Asia for maintaining regional peace and stability.
2. Emphasise the importance for High Contracting Parties to fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed under the TAC in promoting perpetual peace, everlasting amity and cooperation in the region and among their peoples.
3. Underscore our commitment to strengthen mutual trust and confidence, promote dialogue and cooperation in inter-state relations, guided by the following fundamental principles of the TAC: mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all nations; the right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion; non-interference in the internal affairs of one another; settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful means; renunciation of the threat or use of force; and effective cooperation among themselves.
4. Strengthen cooperation to maintain and enhance the relevance of the TAC, including through strengthening ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture.
5. Promote active cooperation in areas that are mutually beneficial as well as in matters of common ideals and aspirations of international peace and stability in the region and other matters of common interests, in accordance with the purpose and principles of the TAC.
6. Reaffirm the commitment to fully and effectively implement the DOC in its entirety and work toward the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
7. Continue to implement the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-China Special Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, as well as the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial to contribute to building an open, inclusive and sustainable region that enjoys peace, security, stability, and prosperity and sustainable development.
8. Advance cooperation in the four priority areas identified in the AOIP namely, maritime cooperation, connectivity, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as economic and other possible areas of cooperation, and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Belt and Road Initiative and the AOIP, to further promote trust and win-win cooperation among countries in the region, as guided by the purpose and principles of the TAC.
9. Strengthen our undertakings to maintain amity and cooperation among our peoples.