

## 2023 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 20TH ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT

*Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7 September 2023*

1. The 20th ASEAN-India Summit was held on 7 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia. The Summit was attended by ASEAN Member States, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, as well as the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as an Observer. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We reiterated our support for Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth," which 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. We congratulated Indonesia for the successful convening of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings from 8 July to 14 July 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia.
3. We noted with satisfaction the progress of ASEAN-India dialogue relations made in the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2021-2025). Pursuant to the establishment of ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial, we welcomed the adoption of the Annex to the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2021-2025). We encouraged ASEAN and India to further maximise efforts in implementing the activities under the Plan of Action, its Annex and other existing initiatives with ASEAN.
4. We appreciated India's long-standing partnership with ASEAN for peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and its strong commitment to upholding ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora. We welcomed opportunities to promote practical cooperation with India in the key priority areas identified in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) within ASEAN-led mechanisms, namely, maritime cooperation, connectivity, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, and economic and other possible priority areas of cooperation, in line with the objectives and principles of the AOIP. Towards this end, we welcomed India's support and active contribution to the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum: Implementation of the AOIP held in Jakarta, 5-6 September 2023. We also encouraged ASEAN and India to exert concrete efforts to materialise the implementation of the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for Peace, Stability and Prosperity in the Region, which is based on the shared principles between AOIP and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). We also welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Maritime Cooperation as a means to explore and promote maritime cooperation between ASEAN and India.
5. We welcomed the ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 22 November 2022. We also welcomed the successful conduct of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise held from 2-8 May 2023, which started from Singapore and culminated in international waters along the transit route to the Philippines. We noted India's active participation in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), including cochairing the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (EWG on HADR) with Indonesia in the current 2020-2023 cycle. We looked forward to the ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR Field Training Exercise, to be staged in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in October 2023.

6. We noted the enhanced ASEAN-India collaboration in countering transnational crime, including through the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016-2025). We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Plus India Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + India) Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2023-2027) by the 10th SOMTC + India Consultation held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 23 June 2023. We looked forward to the effective implementation of the Work Plan, which covered five priority areas of terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons (TIP), cybercrime and international economic crime. We reiterated our commitment to support ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025 through the annual convening of the ASEAN Plus India Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD + India) Consultation.
7. We reiterated our shared commitment to further strengthening ASEAN-India economic partnership, including through upholding the multilateral trading system, enhancing regional economic integration, and underscoring the importance of multilateralism and free trade.
8. We highlighted the four key economic partnership priorities of ASEAN to be advanced further with External Partners, including India, namely (i) strengthening ASEAN market integration; (ii) sustainability and decarbonization; (iii) digital transformation; and (iv) inclusivity, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Public-Private sector engagement, women empowerment in particular decision making and entrepreneurship, and people-to-people contacts.
9. We welcomed the progress of the Review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), with the objective to make the AITIGA more user-friendly, simple, and trade facilitative for businesses in order to increase ASEAN-India trade as well as to support sustainable and inclusive growth. We encouraged the AITIGA Joint Committee to intensify their efforts in the Review of the AITIGA and tasked them to complete the revision in 2025, following the adoption of the Terms of Reference, Work Plan and Structure of the Negotiating Committee during the 20th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultation held on 21 August 2023 in Semarang, Indonesia. ASEAN reiterated its desire for India to reconsider its decision on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and emphasised that as an original participant of RCEP negotiations, the door remains open for India to join the RCEP whenever India is ready as it would immensely contribute to the prosperity of the region. We recognised India's role as an important player in the global and regional value chains and encouraged India's support to ASEAN's efforts in preventing disruptions in the supply chain in times of crises as well as simplifying the trade and investment procedures and other relevant initiatives to facilitate and enhance the economic activities between ASEAN and India.
10. We encouraged ASEAN and India to strengthen and deepen collaboration in the priority areas under the Medium-Term Plan of Action for ASEAN-India Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry (2021-2025), including on food security and resilience of agrifood systems. In this connection, we emphasised the need to promote sustainable agriculture through India's support in the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture, focusing on promoting the use of digital technology and reducing the use of harmful chemicals in agricultural production. We welcomed the convening of the ASEAN-India Millet Festival to raise awareness about millets among the ASEAN Member States.

11. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-India Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Cooperation on Food Security in Times of Crisis that will complement ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises, adopted by ASEAN Leaders during the 43rd ASEAN Summit, September 2023.
12. We welcome collaboration in the area of FinTech, in order to build financial connectivity between India and ASEAN through digital payment, with a view of inclusion of local communities and expansion of opportunities for businesses, in bridging the divide across these sectors. We note India's proposals on the establishment of an ASEAN-India Annual Financial Dialogue and a collaboration to facilitate digital payments connectivity within ASEAN and between ASEAN and India. In this context, ASEAN welcomed India's announcement of Fund for Digital Future.
13. We appreciated Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)'s ongoing research activities focussed on specific sectors of India's relevance to ASEAN. We welcomed ERIA's decision to act as a knowledge partner for ASEAN-India relations. In this context, ASEAN welcomed India's support to ERIA.
14. We encouraged ASEAN and India to strengthen the collaboration and cooperation in the areas of science, technology and innovation (STI), including through the effective utilisation of the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF). We also noted the implementation of several impactful initiatives in 2023, including the ASEAN-India Space Cooperation Programme, ASEAN-India Collaborative R&D (AICRD) Scheme, ASEAN-India Research Training Fellowship (AIRTF) Scheme, ASEAN-India Innovation Platform (AIIP), ASEAN-India Startup Festival, ASEAN-India Grassroot Innovation Forum 2023 and ASEAN-India Women Scientist Conclave Forum 2023. We further encouraged ASEAN-India Working Group on Science and Technology (AIWGST) to develop an ASEAN-India Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (AIPASTI) to bring ASEAN-India STI cooperation to new heights and unlock boundless possibilities for mutual progress and advancement. We support to further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in the space sector including through the establishment of a Tracking, Data Reception and Processing Stations in Viet Nam and Indonesia, and encourage cooperation between ASEAN and Indian space industry players, including in new areas of collaboration
15. We encouraged ASEAN and India to enhance cooperation in digital domain, including through the implementation of the ASEAN-India Digital Workplan in the forms of capacity building initiatives in Information Communication and Technology (ICT), networking technology, broadband access, digital management of telecom infrastructure, regulatory framework and emerging technology, to develop an open, secure, stable, accessible, interoperable, and peaceful cyberspace. We looked forward to greater cooperation with the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE) and a possible collaboration between Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) - India and the ASEAN Regional CERT in view of strengthening the capability to respond effectively to cybersecurity threats and building collective resilience towards digital challenges. We look forward to the establishment of the proposed Track 1 ASEAN-India Cyber Dialogue. We also looked forward to exploring cooperation on utilizing and harnessing science, technology and innovation with a view to building a sustainable and resilient community.

16. We expressed appreciation for India's support for ASEAN's efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We agreed to cooperate in areas related to vaccines, such as development, technology transfer, including capacity building and exchange of expertise, production and distribution, research, development and innovation in generic medicines, cooperation on traditional and complementary medicines, strengthening public health infrastructure; and enhancing capacities for prevention, preparedness and response to the pandemic and public health emergencies. We welcomed the ASEAN-India Workshop on Cancer Grid and looked forward to explore relevant follow-up cooperation. We welcomed the ASEAN-India Conference on Traditional Medicine and looked forward to enhance cooperation in this sector.
17. We appreciated India's support to the ongoing substantive policy discussion on the feasibility study of the envisaged ASEAN Cultural Heritage List (ACHL) led by the Senior Officials Meeting on Culture and Arts (SOMCA). We also appreciated India's support in promoting ASEAN awareness both within the region and beyond through several initiatives, including the ASEAN magazine. Under people-to-people exchange, we took note of the successful implementation of the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme, the ASEAN-India Artists' Camp, the ASEAN-India Music Festival, as well as the 4th ASEAN-India Youth Summit in promoting mutual understanding in cultural and religious diversity.
18. We expressed appreciation for India's support in education exchanges through the 2-year Master Programme at Nalanda University which benefitted 132 ASEAN students since 2015. We appreciated the progress in looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN-India Network of Universities Faculty Exchange Programme and Doctoral Fellowship in India for ASEAN at various Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).
19. We reaffirmed the commitment to enhancing collaboration in promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in the areas of climate change, and clean and renewable energy, water management, forest and biodiversity conservation. In this connection, we welcomed India's interest in collaborating with the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogues (ACSDSD) and looked forward to exploring concrete ideas and alternative approaches.
20. We looked forward to India's support for capacity-building of Timor-Leste officials so that Timor-Leste can fulfil all the criteria and milestones in the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN.
21. We welcomed India's intention to strengthen its developmental partnership with ASEAN. As Timor-Leste moves forward on the roadmap of becoming a full member of ASEAN, we also welcomed India's offer for development partnership to Timor-Leste under the ASEAN-India framework. We appreciated India's support for ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap in ASEAN through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III, and we looked forward to India's continued support in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025), addressing the promotion of collaboration on the digital development, cybersecurity, fintech cooperation, smart agriculture, safe and sustainable tourism, climate change, sustainable development, education, promotion of public-private partnerships on TVET, civil service matters and people linkages, among others. We also noted India's continued support for ASEAN's efforts in strengthening sub-regional cooperation, including through the Mekong-Ganga cooperation frameworks.
22. With a view to accelerate tourism recovery in ASEAN and India, we appreciated India's continued support in implementing activities under the ASEAN-India Tourism Work Plan 2023-2027 that has been endorsed at the 10th Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers in 4 February 2023, which covers 17 activities aligned with the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2016-2025.

23. We emphasised the importance of strengthening ASEAN-India connectivity partnership, both physical and digital, including the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and exploring synergies between MPAC 2025 and India's Act East Policy in line with the "Connecting Connectivities" approach. We looked forward to enhancing co-operation in transport and connectivity in land, air, and maritime sectors, including the timely completion and operationalisation of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and its possible extension to Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam.
24. We reaffirmed the continued commitment of the ASEAN and India to work together under the three pillars as well as cross-pillar sectors to strengthen ASEAN Centrality in the ASEAN-led mechanisms in maintaining and upholding peace, security, and prosperity.
25. We recognized the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability, friendship, prosperity and cooperation. We reaffirmed our shared commitment to safeguarding and promoting peace, security, and stability in the South China Sea, particularly given the recent development, therefore reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would increase tension, complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability, and 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. We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety and committed to maintaining and promoting an environment conducive to the negotiation of the COC that is consistent with International Law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.
26. We discussed the development in Myanmar, particularly the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) and strongly condemned the continued escalation of violence, causing prolonged suffering for the people of Myanmar, humanitarian crisis, the destruction of houses and public facilities such as schools, hospitals, markets, churches and monasteries, and adverse impacts on regional stability, particularly along the border region.
27. We reiterated our position that the 5PC remains as ASEAN's main reference to address the political crisis in Myanmar, and in that regard, we were gravely concerned by the lack of substantial progress on its implementation by the Authority in Myanmar, despite their commitment to the 5PC in April 2021.
28. We appreciated the ASEAN Chair's efforts and the intensive and inclusive engagements by the Office of the Special Envoy in ensuring concrete progress on the implementation of the 5PC and welcomed the Chair's comprehensive report and assessment in that regard. We welcomed the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus. As Myanmar's immediate neighbour, India has an important role to play in working with ASEAN to address the crisis and facilitate reconciliation in Myanmar. We reaffirmed our commitment to continued and sustainable ASEAN's ongoing strategies and approach to help the people of Myanmar find peaceful, comprehensive and durable solutions.