

2023 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 26TH ASEAN-CHINA SUMMIT

Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia on 6 September 2023

1. The 26th ASEAN-China Summit was held on 6 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. Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, 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 carrying the theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth". We were encouraged by progress made in the realization of ASEAN's priorities in 2023. We affirmed that ASEAN's unity and solidarity were strengthened, ASEAN Centrality consolidated, and ASEAN's active contribution to regional peace and stability duly recognised in accordance with ASEAN's values and principles. We also acknowledged the steady progress in ASEAN's economic integration and regional connectivity with the enhanced capacity of ASEAN to adapt to the changing regional and global dynamics. We congratulated Indonesia for the successful convening of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings on 10-14 July 2023 in Jakarta.
3. We were pleased with the long-standing ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations which have elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial, recognizing ASEAN-China relations are among the most dynamic, substantive, and mutually beneficial partnerships between ASEAN and its dialogue partners. We noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action (POA) to Implement the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2021-2025) and its Annex to advance the ASEAN-China CSP. We looked forward to continuing the substantive and effective implementation of the POA and its Annex. We welcomed the signing of ASEAN-China Technical Cooperation Agreement.
4. We were encouraged by ASEAN-China cooperation for mutual benefits for the people of both sides, enhancing regional peace, security and prosperity as well as promoting mutual confidence and trust through upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. We welcomed the adoption of ASEAN-China Joint Statement Commemorating and Reflecting on the 20th Anniversary of China's Accession to the TAC by the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Plus One Session with China on 13 July 2023.
5. We also acknowledged the efforts by China in building a closer ASEAN-China community with a shared future.
6. We reiterated our commitment to advancing cooperation in the priority areas identified in the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) to strengthen trust and cooperation among countries in the region, and mutually beneficial cooperation between the AOIP and the BRI as well as exploring development cooperation with the GDI to complement the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, support ASEAN community-building process, and further strengthen existing ASEAN led-mechanisms. In this regard, we adopted the Joint Statement on Mutually Beneficial Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

7. We also appreciated China's support and valuable contribution to the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum: Implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific held on 5-6 September 2023 in Jakarta.
8. We welcomed the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to be held in China this year, and looked forward to further promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.
9. We welcomed China's willingness to sign as early as possible the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty when it opens for signature.
10. We took note of China's proposed Global Security Initiative (GSI) with core elements consistent with the principles and spirit of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and looked forward to further details of the GSI.
11. We acknowledged China's active engagement with ASEAN in advancing collaboration and strengthening political and security cooperation through its participation in various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). We welcomed China's active participation in the ADMM-Plus framework, including co-chairing the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Humanitarian Mine Action with Cambodia in the current 2021-2023 cycle. We looked forward to the co-chairmanship of China and Brunei Darussalam in the ADMM-Plus EWG on Peacekeeping Operations in the upcoming 2024-2027 cycle. We appreciated China's active participation under the ambit of the ARF, including its co-chairmanship of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) in 2018–2023 and the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) in 2022–2023.
12. We reiterated the importance of cooperation in combating transnational crime, including illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons (TIPs) and addressing other non-traditional security issues through various mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation and ASEAN Plus China Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC + China and SOMTC + China) and the ASEAN Plus China Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD + China) Consultation. We reaffirmed our commitment to sustain the accomplishment of the ASEAN-China Work Plan on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues (2019-2023) and welcomed the adoption of the renewed draft SOMTC + China Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2024-2028). We also reiterated support to the ASEAN-China Cyber Dialogue to further deepen exchanges and cooperation on cybersecurity and digital governance.
13. We recognised that China has remained ASEAN's largest trading partner since 2009, and ASEAN has become China's largest trading partner for three consecutive years since 2020.
14. We reiterated commitment to further strengthening ASEAN-China economic partnership especially in the post-COVID-19 recovery, including through upholding the multilateral trading system, enhancing regional economic integration, and underscoring the importance of multilateralism and free trade. We emphasised the importance to further enhance the implementation of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA).

15. We also welcomed the progress on the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) 3.0 upgrade negotiations and the implementation of the ACFTA. We also looked forward to continuing enhancing cooperation, including in the areas of trade in goods, investment, digital economy, green economy and supply chain connectivity, and to further develop micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the region. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-China Initiative on Enhancing Cooperation on E-Commerce. We appreciated the achievement made by the China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) over the past two decades and looked forward to the successful convening of the 20th CAEXPO in September 2023 in Nanning, China.
16. We welcomed the full ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement which entered into force for all Parties on 2 June 2023, as this reflects our strong commitment to reinforce regional economic recovery and affirm ASEAN's Centrality to the rules-based order, regional integration as well as economic development across the region. We also underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of RCEP, which would contribute to an inclusive and open trade and investment architecture in the region and to post-pandemic global economic recovery.
17. We welcomed the launch of this year's ASEAN-China cooperation theme, ASEAN-China Year of Agricultural Development and Food Security Cooperation on 25 April 2023. We looked forward to strengthening exchanges and cooperation in areas such as climate change, food security and nutrition, smart and digital agriculture, agricultural trade and investment, environment protection, biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management, marine debris, poverty elimination, rural development including through ASEAN Villages Network, and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources. We adopted the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Deepening Agricultural Cooperation and welcomed the ASEAN-China Action Plan on Green Agricultural Development to support the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture that emphasise the significance of reducing the use of harmful chemicals in agricultural production and promote the use of viable alternatives, which have been proven to be effective and pose less risk.
18. We recognised the need to maximize the potential of blue economy as the new engine of growth to promote economic growth, social inclusion and livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. We agreed to continue discussion on exploring a partnership on blue economy between ASEAN and China as envisaged in the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030 to promote marine sustainable development and create new highlights in ASEAN-China cooperation.
19. We reiterated commitment to further advancing cooperation in Digital and ICT cooperation to cope with the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR). We encouraged to continue collaboration to promote cooperation on ASEAN-China digital infrastructure connectivity, emerging technologies innovation, and development, emergency communication technologies, cyber and data security and industry development.
20. We commended China for the commitment to advance cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) through the effective implementation of ASEAN-China Plan of Action of a Closer Partnership in STI for Future (2021-2025). ASEAN-China STI flagship cooperation includes ASEAN-China Joint Research Project; China-ASEAN International Cooperation Seminar on Climate Change; and ASEAN-China Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition. We agreed to continue building closer cooperation in STI through mechanisms such as the ASEAN-China Joint Science Technology Committee and welcomed the Joint Initiative on Advancing the ASEAN-China Science, Technology, and Innovation Enhancing Program.

21. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen communication and cooperation on intellectual property under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property, and welcomed the implementation of the annual Work Program on ASEAN-China IP cooperation. We looked forward to further enhancing the ability of intellectual property creation, utilization, protection, management and service of both ASEAN Member States and China through policy dialogue, capacity building, experiences sharing and other cooperative activities, and working jointly to foster a favourable innovation and business environment for better supporting the friendly cooperation and communication in the various areas of economy, trade, science and technology and culture among ASEAN Member States and China.
22. We emphasised the importance of stepping up the implementation of the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Synergising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and working to enhance connectivity in the region including the full resumption of flights to facilitate a more conducive business environment. We welcomed the ongoing cooperation on enhancing ASEAN tourism digital platforms and looked forward to further cooperation in enhancing ASEAN travel including by improving information availability and accessibility. We looked forward to exploring the possibility of further liberalisation of traffic rights under the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (AC-ATA), which will enhance regional connectivity as well as the progressive resumption of more direct flights between ASEAN Member States and China.
23. We emphasised the importance of implementing the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Tourism Cooperation and looked forward to the development of new cooperation measures and the gradual resumption of travel. We also highlighted the need for innovative ways to revitalise the tourism industry and ensure safe international travel in line with public health measures of each country.
24. We also appreciated support from China for ASEAN's efforts to recover from the impact of COVID-19, and encouraged the implementation of the ASEAN-China Public Health Cooperation Initiative: Programme on Public Health Emergency Preparedness Capacity (PROMPT) and ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Cooperation in Support of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), to promote sustainable and comprehensive recovery and resilient and inclusive development in the region. We noted with appreciation project activities supported by PROMPT and encouraged more cooperation in vaccine, therapeutic and diagnostic research and development; public health capacity building; improvement of information and data exchange platforms on health-related matters; as well as health workforce capacity building programme.
25. We welcomed the implementation of the ASEAN-China Workplan on Disaster Management to enhance joint efforts in strengthening disaster management and humanitarian assistance capacities of ASEAN Member States, through capacity building, sharing of knowledge, good practices and experiences among ASEAN Member States and China. We noted with appreciation China's initiatives to establish the ASEAN-China Centre for Emergency Management Cooperation (ACC EMC) and support its complementarity with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).

26. We reaffirmed our commitment to the implementation of the Framework of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025) to strengthen exchanges of experiences and best practices, dialogue and pragmatic cooperation on environment. We encouraged enhancing cooperation to address the impacts of climate change and welcomed China's support for the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change. We welcomed the successful conclusion of the Establishment Agreement of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution (ACCTHPC) and supported the full operationalisation of the Centre in Indonesia, which will facilitate faster and effective implementation of all aspects of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) to address transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region.
27. We reaffirmed the continued commitment of ASEAN and China to working 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, to sustain a positive momentum of the ASEAN's proactive contribution to UN peacekeeping operations and the incorporation of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, to strengthen the ASEAN's competitiveness and regional integration, and to ensure the health, well-being, and social protection, of our peoples.
28. We reaffirmed the commitment to foster closer people-to-people exchanges including through culture, education, technical and vocational education and training, tourism and media, with a view to promoting mutual trust and understanding between the people of ASEAN and China. We also welcomed China's continued support for human resources development and the promotion of the decent work agenda in ASEAN including social security and occupational safety and health for all workers, and China's strong commitment to increasing the number of scholarships and exchange programs for ASEAN students, including through the ASEAN-China Young Leaders Scholarship. In this regard, we welcomed China's proposal for designating 2024 as ASEAN-China Year of People-to-People Exchange to deepen cultural connections and promote greater interaction among the peoples, which play a crucial role in fostering mutual understanding and friendship. We also welcomed the convening of the 2023 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week in August which continues to serve as a platform for promoting high-quality educational exchanges and cooperation between China and ASEAN.
29. We commended China for the steadfast commitment in enhancing people-to-people exchange through the implementation of ASEAN-China Internship Programme and ASEAN-China Young Leaders Programme by the ASEAN Foundation. We also expressed our appreciation to China for supporting the implementation of ASEAN Talk project, towards building a creative community of inquisitive and informed youths with a keen appreciation of ASEAN and ASEAN-China developments and innovative ideas for a future-ready ASEAN. We noted with appreciation the convening of China-led youth exchange programmes, including China-ASEAN Youth Campus, China-ASEAN Youth Development Forum, and China-ASEAN Youth Voluntary Service Forum.
30. We encouraged further cooperation on clean energy, including through the early establishment of the ASEAN-China Clean Energy Cooperation Center.
31. We welcomed the convening of First ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Sports (1st AMMS + China) on 1 September 2023 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. We looked forward to strengthen cooperation in preserving and promoting Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) as an intangible cultural heritage and promotion of healthy and active ageing through sports. We noted with appreciation the progress of ASEAN Sports Zones establishment in ASEAN Member States through support from China in order to promote healthy lifestyle by enabling sports participation at the community level across different ages through the provision of outdoor sports facilities.

32. We appreciated China's continued support in narrowing development gap in the region through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025), particularly China's support in modernising training laboratories in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) to strengthen their TVET sector, and in fostering cooperation in the prevention and control of respiratory diseases for the CLMV countries.
33. We welcomed the strengthening of cooperation within the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC), the BIMP-EAGA-China Cooperation (BECC) and other relevant sub-regional frameworks and mechanisms to narrow the development gap in ASEAN.
34. We discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which concerns were expressed by some countries on the land reclamations, and serious incidents in the area, including damage to the marine environment which has 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 recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasized the importance of non-militarization and self-restraint in the conduct of activities all other states, including those mentioned in the 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.
35. 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 recognized 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 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety.
36. We were pleased with the continued positive momentum and 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). We welcomed the adoption of the Guidelines for Accelerating the Early Conclusion of an Effective and Substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. In this regard, we reaffirmed the aspiration to work towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.
37. We emphasised the need to maintain and promote an environment conducive to the COC negotiations. We welcomed practical measures and maritime cooperation initiatives which could promote trust and confidence, reduce tensions and the risk of accidents, and avoid misunderstandings, and miscalculation