

2023 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 3RD ANNUAL ASEAN-AUSTRALIA SUMMIT

Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7 September 2023

1. The 3rd Annual ASEAN-Australia 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, the Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia, as well as the Prime Minister 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 aims to strengthen ASEAN as an organisation that is robust and agile, equipped with the strengthened capacity and institutional effectiveness to address today's challenges and to remain relevant for its people, the region, and the world while continuing to serve as the region's epicentre of growth and prosperity. We applauded Indonesia for successfully convening the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings in July 2023, which produced fruitful outcomes for ASEAN to further continue our efforts in enhancing our institutional capacity and effectiveness to better respond to changing circumstances.
3. We welcomed Australia's unwavering support to ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture, and we reiterated our commitment to support an ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, transparent, and upholds international law, which is built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms, including East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). We emphasised the importance of key principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN). We underscored the importance of multilateralism, regionalism, adherence to international law and respect for sovereignty in contributing to global and regional peace, stability and prosperity.
4. We looked forward to the convening of the Special Summit to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations to be held from 4-6 March 2024 in Melbourne, Australia, and tasked our officials to commence the necessary preparation of the outcome document of the Summit which should reflect the future direction of the partnership. In that regard, we adopted the Concept Paper of Special Summit to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations: 'A Partnership for the Future' as a guideline for preparations leading up to the Summit.
5. We noted with satisfaction the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership (2020-2024) and its Annex on the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, reflecting the active engagement of Australia with ASEAN. We looked forward to the continued cooperation under the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that is meaningful, substantive, and mutually beneficial, including the AUD 204 million through the Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative (Aus4ASEAN Futures) to address regional challenges across all three ASEAN pillars and to support the practical implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). In this regard, we welcomed the joint opening of the Aus4ASEAN Futures Office at the ASEAN Secretariat by the Honourable Penny Wong, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia and his Excellency Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN on 12 July 2023, and looked forward to the effective implementation of projects under this initiative.

We noted the projects already underway, including support for the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, the study on ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement which has been endorsed by the 55th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting, and updating of the Initial Pipeline of ASEAN Infrastructure Projects, as well as the progress in the implementation of the Aus4ASEAN Scholarship and Aus4ASEAN Digital Transformation and Future Skills Initiative.

6. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhancing cooperation for concrete implementation of the AOIP, in line with the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Mainstreaming Four Priority Areas of the AOIP within ASEAN-led Mechanisms and the Joint Statement of the 2nd Annual ASEAN-Australia Summit on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. In this regard, we welcomed Australia's support and active contribution to the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum: Implementation of the AOIP, held in Jakarta, 5-6 September 2023. We also looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-Australia Indo-Pacific Workshop on the Use of Technology for Sustainable Aquaculture in Bali, 30-31 October 2023, as has been endorsed by the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries on 3 August 2023.
7. We welcomed Australia's allocation of funds of AUD 8.6 million in support for Timor-Leste to prepare for membership of ASEAN and the World Trade Organisation, including through support for capacity-building workshops in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Member States, including the ASEAN Secretariat-led ASEAN Travelling Resource Persons Programme to support Timor-Leste's accession. These efforts reaffirm non-discriminatory, fair, open, inclusive, equitable, sustainable and transparent multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, and our commitment to strengthening it.
8. We reaffirmed our commitment to deepening political-security cooperation including on traditional and non-traditional security issues, such as countering terrorism and violent extremism, combating trafficking in persons, people smuggling, drug trafficking, cyber-attacks and cybercrime, promoting non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons, maritime security, and other transnational crimes, as well as on border management, through the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking program (ASEAN ACT) (2018-2028) and the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership. We also welcomed Australia's continued support to ASEAN in protecting and promoting the rights of migrant workers through the Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development in ASEAN (TRIANGLE in ASEAN) programme including to promote safe and fair migration within ASEAN.
9. We further highlighted the importance of advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in the region towards ensuring women's meaningful inclusion in the security sector for achieving and sustaining peace and expressed appreciation for Australia's support to the "ASEAN WPS Summit: High-Level Dialogue to Advance the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security", held on 5-7 July 2023 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. We also acknowledged with appreciation the support from Australia in progressing a baseline study on women in the security sector in ASEAN to enhance women's equitable engagement in the sector in close cooperation with the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW).

10. We commended Australia's support to countering trafficking-in-persons in ASEAN ensuring the promotion and protection of the rights of victims of trafficking, especially women and children through the implementation of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) Work Plan 2021-2025 and the ASEAN-ACT multi-year project on "Capacity Enhancement of Frontline Responders in Countering Trafficking Using Victim-Centred and GenderSensitive Approaches", which has achieved milestones in enhancing ASEAN's efforts in safeguarding the rights of victims of trafficking-in-persons. We appreciated Australia's cooperation in the establishment of the Counter Trafficking in Persons Centre of Excellence in Thailand, and we looked forward to the continued support from Australia in the implementation of these important initiatives at the national level, following the completion of the Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Gender-Sensitive and Victim-Centred Approaches for ASEAN Frontline Responders in July 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.
11. We welcomed the active and continued engagement of Australia to further enhance defence and security cooperation to address shared traditional and non-traditional challenges through ASEAN-led mechanisms, including through the ASEAN Plus Australia Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + Australia) Consultation, the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting Plus Australia (DGICM + Australia) Consultation, and the ADMM-Plus. We also welcomed Australia's co-chairing for the intersessional year of 2023-2024 in 5th ARF Workshop on Implementing UNCLOS and other International Instruments to Address Emerging Maritime Issues alongside Viet Nam, Canada, the EU, and New Zealand. We commended Australia's co-chairmanship with Indonesia in the ARF Workshop on Law of the Sea during the intersessional year of 2022 – 2023; and with Brunei Darussalam of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Military Medicine for the current 2021-2024 cycle of which the ADMM-Plus EWG on Military Medicine was successfully held on 3 – 6 September 2023 in Bandar Seri Begawan.
12. We welcomed the convening of the 17th SOMTC + Australia Consultation held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 22 June 2023 and noted the progress on the implementation of the SOMTC - Australia Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2022-2025), which included, among others, the convening of the 2nd ASEAN-Australia Counter-Terrorism (CT) Dialogue held in Bali, Indonesia and via videoconference on 19 May 2023. Noting the role cybersecurity plays in supporting the growth of region's digital economy and community, we welcomed stronger ASEAN-Australia cybersecurity cooperation, including the convening of the next ASEAN-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue as soon as possible. We welcomed the ASEAN-Australia Cybercrime Capacity Building Workshop co-hosted by Australia and Singapore in Singapore on 28 February-2 March 2023, and the Workshop to Exchange Practices on Community Resilience Programs to Counter-Radicalisation and Violent Extremism Activities in Australia and ASEAN co-hosted by Australia and Indonesia in Bali on 18-19 May 2023. We looked forward to the adoption of the renewed 2023-2024 ASEAN-Australia Programme of Work to enhance practical cooperation between ASEAN and Australia on border management. We further welcomed the establishment of ASEAN Plus Australia Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD + Australia) Consultation as agreed by the 43rd ASOD in 2022 and looked forward to the inaugural meeting in 2024.
13. We welcomed Australia's commitment to provide an additional AUD 800,000 to support engagement with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and implement and review the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

14. We welcomed the signing ceremony of the 2nd Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) by Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand at the sidelines of the 28th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting – Closer Economic Relations (AEM-CER) Consultation on 22 August 2023, and by Malaysia and Singapore at the sidelines of the 55th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting, while other parties by ad-referendum this year. We reiterated the importance of ensuring that the Agreement remains of a high standard, is fit for purpose, future-proof against emerging challenges, forward looking, and relevant for business and people and responsive to economic recovery.
15. We welcomed the full ratification and implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, which reflects our strong commitment to reinforce regional economic recovery and integration as well as economic development across the region, with ASEAN at its core. The full implementation of the RCEP Agreement in a transparent manner will be a remarkable milestone and provide businesses in the region, especially micro, small, and medium businesses greater access to markets and more flexible rules of origin, incentivize new trade and investment opportunities, as well as contribute to stronger and more resilient supply chains.
16. We welcomed Australia's commitment of AUD 46 million under the Regional Trade for Development (RT4D) Initiative that will support ASEAN Member States to realise the full benefits of an upgraded AANZFTA and RCEP. In this aspect, we welcomed implementation of the 2023 Economic Cooperation Work Plan of the AANZFTA Implementation Support Programme, including its support for continued capacity building and technical assistance in areas such as international standards for renewable energy, digital trade and business engagement.
17. We appreciated Australia's commitment of an additional AUD 5 million to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to support ASEAN's regional economic integration and sustainable and inclusive economic growth and welcomed Australia's appointment of Mr. Nicholas Moore as Special Envoy for Southeast Asia and the release of Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040 to deepen engagement with the region.
18. We acknowledged Australia's commitment to supporting ASEAN's efforts to deepen regional economic integration through the Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative. We appreciated Australia's commitment to support the implementation of three highpriority initiatives under the Action Plan to Enhance Container Circulation in ASEAN Member States, which aims to promote regional maritime trade and support postpandemic economic recovery, through the Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) program. We welcomed P4I's support for progressing the ASEAN Port Digitalisation Study and the ASEAN PPP Best Practice Guidelines, and the recent Pilot Program on the Framework for Improving ASEAN Infrastructure Productivity held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 15-16 August 2023. Furthermore, we looked forward to further enhancing cooperation between ASEAN and Australia on connectivity and narrowing the development gap, including through support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025), the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS), as well as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN). We looked forward to continuing to maximise synergies between ASUS, ASCN and the work under the ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities Trust Fund.

19. We noted Australia's role as an important player in global and regional food security and the importance of supporting ASEAN's efforts in preventing disruptions in supply chain in times of crisis, including the existential crisis of climate change. We adopted the ASEAN-Australia Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises that will complement the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises, adopted by ASEAN Leaders during the 43rd ASEAN Summit, 5 September 2023. We further welcomed Australia's additional investment of AUD 1.4 million in the Bio-Protection Research Alliance. We welcomed the provision of an additional AUD 1 million to support the ASEAN-CGIAR Innovate for Food Regional Program which will enhance research and innovation for food security, bringing Australia's total contribution to AUD 3.2 million. We also noted with appreciation Australia's announcement of an additional AUD 1 million to expand the Meryl Williams Fellowships to build the capacity of women in ASEAN in agricultural science to enhance food security. We encouraged continued collaboration in areas such as digital entrepreneurship, e-commerce, Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSME) digitalisation, science, technologies and innovation.
20. We welcomed Australia's contribution to the region's inclusive growth and equitable, sustainable development by promoting sub-region development, including through effective implementation of the AUD232 million Mekong-Australia Partnership program.
21. We noted with satisfaction the strong ties between ASEAN and Australia on the socio-cultural spectrum, such as people-to-people connectivity, particularly through education, arts and cultural exchange programmes, including the New Colombo Plan, Australia Awards, the Australia for ASEAN Scholarships, programmes run by the Australia-ASEAN Council, which continue deepening socio and cultural linkages and strengthening people-to-people connectivity between ASEAN and Australia.
22. We recognised the provision of skill training programmes that have been contributing to ASEAN's human capital for development, including through Australia for ASEAN Digital Transformation and Future Skills Initiative, as well as Australia's cooperation on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), including through the ASEAN TVET Council. We looked forward to the continuation and enhancements of this socio-cultural cooperation, including exploring the utilisation of digital platforms and tools to promote arts, culture exchanges, digital education, capacity-building on ICT-related training and sharing best practices in this field. We appreciated the 100 Australia for ASEAN Scholarships to support emerging ASEAN Leaders to study in Australia in the four priority areas of the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, sustainable development, economic cooperation, and connectivity.
23. We appreciated Australia's support for the development and implementation, and review of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We also looked forward to Australia's continued support to ASEAN in protecting and promoting the rights of migrant workers through the Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development in ASEAN (TRIANGLE in ASEAN) programme, including the annual conduct of the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML) and development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers. We appreciated the support of the TRIANGLE in ASEAN and ASEAN-ACT Projects to the development of the ASEAN Declaration and Guidelines on Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members in Crisis Situations, and the ASEAN Declaration and Guidelines on Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers. We noted with appreciation Australia's collaboration with ASEAN in realising a future-ready, citizen-centric ASEAN civil service through the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) and looked forward to the continuation of the cooperation.

24. We acknowledged Australia's sustained commitment in supporting health-related recovery efforts from the impact of the pandemic; strengthening health systems; and, in promoting health security. ASEAN highly appreciates Australia's ongoing cooperation on public health, including through the provision of AUD 21 million to support the preparatory phase of the for the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) and the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Initiative (AAHSI). We also recognised the work of the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Fellowship programme. We appreciated collaboration to support the development and implementation of the ASEAN Leaders Declaration on One Health Initiatives through ASEAN-Australia health cooperation. We welcomed the successful commencement of the ASEAN-Australia Youth Mental Health Fellowships programme as well as other initiatives to promote awareness and knowledge on mental health, which are building capacity in the region. We also appreciated Australia's support for the digitalisation of the health sector through the development of the ASEAN Health Sector Knowledge Management Platform.
25. We appreciated Australia's support to the convening of the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Villages Network, back-to-back with ASEAN Collaborative Forum on Localisation UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at Village Level and Rural Culture Expo, 24-27 July 2023 in Yogyakarta. We look forward for continuous collaboration with Australia in promoting ASEAN rural development and poverty eradication, through the ASEAN Villages Network.
26. ASEAN Leaders appreciated Australia's cooperation with ASEAN in addressing environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, including the conservation of forests and sustainable land management practices, disaster management, coastal and marine habitats through promoting the interlinkages of ocean and climate nexus, and circular economy models such as BioCircular-Green economy. We welcomed Australia's support for the development of the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality and ongoing efforts to enhance ASEAN's capacity to respond to natural disasters through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). Leaders look forward to the convening of the inaugural ASEAN-Australia High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change and Energy Transition in September 2023 which will accelerate cooperation on practical solutions to climate change and clean energy transition, including through the Aus4ASEAN Futures Initiative. We remain committed to promoting regional resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts and looked forward to working together including through joint research and development of relevant policies to accelerate climate action, including through the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC) in Brunei Darussalam and the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD). This cooperation will build on support provided by P4I on energy planning, policy and connectivity as set out in the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy cooperation 2016-2025 (APAEC). We also looked forward to exploring cooperation with Australia in addressing transboundary haze pollution in the region, including Australia's support for the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.
27. We remained committed to building a resilient ASEAN Community with enhanced capacity to respond to natural disasters, including through support for the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025, and to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and continued practical cooperation on the ADMM-Plus EWG on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. We also welcomed Australia's support for the ASEAN Monitoring Team and the provision of personal protective equipment to the AHA Centre. We welcomed Australia's support including for food and technical assistance for the humanitarian response in Myanmar.

28. We expressed grave concern over the launch of ballistic missiles, and usage of ballistic missile technology, by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The recent surge in the DPRK's intercontinental ballistic missile testing and ballistic missile launches and tensions 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 realization of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. Efforts toward this end, including diplomatic efforts for the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties, remain our priority. We reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We emphasised the importance of addressing issues of human rights and humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions and detainees issues.
29. 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.
30. With regard to the war against Ukraine, we reiterated our national positions as expressed in other fora, including the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly, which, in Resolution No. ES-11/1 dated 2 March 2022 as adopted by majority vote deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and demands its complete and unconditional withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine. Most members strongly condemn the aggression against Ukraine and underscore the need to reach a just, and lasting peace based on the principles of the United Nations Charter, including the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence of Ukraine. The war in Ukraine has further aggravated the ongoing food security crisis around the world, especially in developing and least developed countries. We note with deep concern the adverse impact of the war in Ukraine and stress that it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy – constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity, and elevating financial stability risks. In this context, the use or threat of use of nuclear weapon is inadmissible. We underlined our shared interest to maintain and strengthen ASEAN as the epicentre of growth for the region and the world.
31. 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.

32. 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.

33. 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. 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.