

2023 JAKARTA DECLARATION ON ASEAN MATTERS: EPICENTRUM OF GROWTH

Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia on 5 September 2023

WE, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered in Jakarta, on the occasion of the 43rd ASEAN Summit;

RECALLING the Declarations of ASEAN Concord, I and II, and Bali Concord III, while expressing satisfaction with the overall progress achieved so far, and recognising the necessity of greater collective hard work to ensure the continued success of ASEAN Community building efforts;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

FURTHER REAFFIRMING our commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok, 1967), the Declaration on Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality (Kuala Lumpur, 1971), the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (Bali, 1976), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok, 1995), the ASEAN Charter (Singapore, 2007), the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali, 2011), and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (Bangkok, 2019);

EMPHASISING the need to maintain ASEAN Centrality and unity and to strengthen ASEAN cooperation in all three pillars of the ASEAN Community as well as with its external partners through the ASEAN-led mechanisms;

FURTHER EMPHASISING our commitment to strengthen ASEAN as an organisation that is robust, innovative, resilient and agile, equipped with strengthened capacity and institutional effectiveness to address current and future challenges and to seize future opportunities in order to remain credible and relevant for its peoples, the region, and the world while continuing to serve as the region's epicentre of growth and prosperity;

RECOGNISING the importance of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 that is relevant, beneficial, and meets the expectations of the peoples; and

NOTING the progress towards the full membership of Timor-Leste in ASEAN while looking forward to the full and effective fulfilment of all the Roadmap criteria by Timor-Leste in line with Article 6 of the ASEAN Charter.

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT

The ASEAN Community matters to its people and is an epicentre of growth in ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, that:

1. Commits to fully implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 as well as work towards ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its attendant documents in order to build a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN that is able to anticipate opportunities and address emerging and future challenges.

2. Shares the primary responsibility to maintain peace, stability, and security; to promote economic growth, social progress, and prosperity of the region;
3. Commits to upholding multilateralism founded on the principles stipulated in the Charter of the UN and on the basis of international law;
4. Continues efforts to build strategic trust and mutual confidence among countries through continued dialogue, win-win cooperation and practical confidence building measures to create a peaceful environment conducive for sustainable growth;
5. Commits to build a future-ready ASEAN and an ASEAN-centred, open, transparent, resilient, inclusive and rules-based regional architecture through ensuring a culture of dialogue, collaboration, and cooperation in ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region;
6. Continues to strengthen ASEAN's capacity and institutional effectiveness in accordance with the ASEAN Charter in order to navigate geostrategic and geopolitical dynamics in the region while maintaining its unity and Centrality;
7. Commits to ensuring the peaceful and progressive national development of its member states in accordance with the aspirations of its peoples;
8. Strengthen our cooperation in promoting economic opportunities to reduce and eradicate poverty, narrow development gaps, and improve living standards for the people in the region where no one is left behind, in order to realise an inclusive, participatory and collaborative ASEAN Community that is no longer divided by its development gaps among its members;
9. Determines to build a resilient economic architecture serving as the centre of regional economic growth and an engine for global economic growth through robust cooperation;
10. Commits to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and protect the region from environmental degradation, climate change impacts, and biodiversity loss;
11. Strengthens its resilience in responding to global challenges and future shocks through cooperation in areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and management, health and pandemic preparedness, food and energy security, financial stability and digital transformation;
12. Strengthens the ASEAN identity to deepen a regional sense of belonging among its people, and promotes cultural heritages and values, arts and traditions of ASEAN Member States to achieve sustainable development;
13. Engages and empowers the peoples of ASEAN, including vulnerable groups, while remaining inclusive, sustainable, dynamic and resilient;
14. Committed to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN, with due regard to the rights and responsibilities of the Member States of ASEAN;
15. Maintains ASEAN Centrality and unity and ASEAN's key role in leading the regional economic and security architecture; and

16. Continues to develop friendly relations and mutually beneficial dialogue, cooperation and partnerships with countries and sub-regional, regional and international organisations and institutions.

DO HEREBY ADOPT:

The following programme of action to ensure that ASEAN matters to its people and remains an epicentre of growth in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond:

A. ASEAN MATTERS

1. Continue advancing the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN;
2. Noting the Rules of Procedure to Support Decision-Making Process at the ASEAN Summit;
3. Strengthening ASEAN institutions and organs including the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN;
4. Ensuring the sufficiency of resources to support the ASEAN Community building agenda, including the ASEAN Community Vision 2045;
5. Strengthening ASEAN unity and Centrality in its engagement with external partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms;
6. Strengthening ASEAN's resilience and capacity to combat transnational crimes; and responding effectively to transnational crimes in accordance with the principles of comprehensive security;
7. Strengthening cooperation to address illicit drugs challenges in the region in order to build a safe, secure, and drug-free environment for the peoples of ASEAN;
8. 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;
9. Maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS; and
10. Achieving an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

B. EPICENTRUM OF GROWTH

1. Strengthening the region's position as the epicentrum of growth and enhancing regional connectivity toward a sustainable and resilient future;
2. Strengthening rapid actions to food security and nutrition in response to crises;
3. Accelerating just and inclusive energy transition and enhancing interconnectivity to achieve sustainable energy security, while ensuring energy resilience and accessibility;

4. Working towards the upgrading of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and timely conclusion of the upgrades of ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) as well as the full and effective implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement;
5. Strengthening and improving the competitiveness of ASEAN services sectors;
6. Accelerating ASEAN industrial project based-initiatives in response to emerging development trends and rapid technological advancements;
7. Advancing regional payment connectivity and promoting local currency transaction in the region;
8. Maintaining financial stability and promoting deeper financial integration in ASEAN, while acknowledging the efforts to utilising digital financial services to increase Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' (MSMEs) access to finance;
9. Strengthening ASEAN macroeconomic policy mix and improving readiness of the regional response to shocks and macroeconomic risks;
10. Accelerating digital transformation and enhancing digital integration and connectivity, including through addressing the digital divide in ASEAN, and advancing the development of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA);
11. Realising the development of a regional electric vehicle ecosystem in ASEAN;
12. Finalising the development of a Roadmap for an ASEAN Harmonisation of Standards to Support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
13. Declaring and effectively implementing the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework;
14. Supporting the implementation of the Framework on Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC);
15. Strengthening regional health architecture as well as ensuring the highest attainable standard of health for the ASEAN peoples;
16. Accelerating human resource development to be competitive, agile and resilient, in adapting and responding to the Future of Work;
17. Strengthening efforts to promote the role and resiliency as well as promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of vulnerable groups including older persons, persons with disabilities, women and children in the region;
18. Strengthening the role of family as an institution to promote the values of respect, equality, collectivism and social harmony;
19. Protecting all migrant workers throughout the entire migration cycle;
20. Empowering and strengthening the capacity of ASEAN youths to be more competitive, resilient, and able to address emerging and future challenges;

21. Strengthening ASEAN's cooperation in addressing environmental challenges, including, among others, climate change, transboundary haze pollution, marine debris, biodiversity loss, and the sustainable use and management of water resources;
22. Enhancing cooperation to improve disaster and risk reduction management and preparedness capacities of ASEAN Member States, and strengthening the role and capacity of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre);
23. Promoting rural development and accelerating poverty eradication, through, inter alia, strengthening rural networking and empowerment, rural-urban connectivity, and social protection; as well as accelerating poverty eradication in urban settings;
24. Ensuring universal access to quality education in all stages of education, while reaffirming commitments to transform early childhood education to realise their full development potential;
25. Accelerating the digital transformation of education systems in ASEAN;
26. Achieving a green ASEAN by promoting sustainable economic growth, including through exploring an ASEAN agenda on green economy;
27. Promoting collaboration in ASEAN and with our external partners in developing smart and sustainable cities, including through the ASEAN Smart Cities Network;
28. Accelerating ASEAN's efforts in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC);
29. Promoting sustainable resilience as an enabling framework to enhance collaboration in strengthening climate and disaster resilience for sustainable development;
30. Strengthening efforts to advance regional integration and narrowing development gap among ASEAN Member States and enhance ASEAN's competitiveness as a region in line with the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI);
31. Further emphasising the importance of ASEAN unity and Centrality in promoting ASEAN's sub-regional development, as well as aligning ASEAN-approved sub-regional cooperation frameworks with the ASEAN Community building process which could contribute to enhanced regional connectivity, more sustainable and inclusive development in the region;

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEAN OUTLOOK ON THE INDO-PACIFIC

1. Underscoring ASEAN's determination to continue to lead the shaping of the economic and security architecture and ensure that geopolitical and geostrategic shifts will continue to bring about, and not disrupt, peace, security, stability and prosperity for the peoples in Southeast Asia as well as the Indo-Pacific region;
2. Mainstreaming and promoting the implementation of the AOIP through concrete and practical projects and activities based on its objectives and principles on four priority areas namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and economic and other possible areas of cooperation, such as the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum: Implementation of the AOIP and encouraging the continuation of such platforms for dialogue and consultation on the four areas of cooperation under the AOIP;

3. Emphasising the need to approach ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region, through inclusive economic cooperation with a view to supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the AOIP;
4. Maintaining an ASEAN-centred, open, inclusive, transparent, resilient and rules-based regional architecture that upholds international law and strengthening our engagement and cooperation with Dialogue Partners and external partners, including through existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, in promoting peace, stability, security, and development;
5. Committing to resolve disputes peacefully in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, and emphasising the importance of adhering to key principles, shared values, and norms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN), the 1982 UNCLOS, the ASEAN Charter, and the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC);
6. Considering the AOIP as a vehicle for substantive, practical, tangible and win-win cooperation with all our external partners, in accordance with the objectives and principles contained in the AOIP, on the four identified priority areas;
7. Reaffirming ASEAN Centrality as the underlying principle for promoting cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, with ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the EAS, and may also seek to develop, where appropriate, cooperation between ASEAN and other regional and sub-regional mechanisms in the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean regions on specific areas of common interests to complement the relevant initiatives; and
8. Building resilience against emerging challenges and future shocks through cooperation on the four priority areas of the AOIP.

Adopted on this Fifth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three in a single original copy in the English Language.