

2024 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 12TH ASEAN-US SUMMIT

Issued in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 11 October 2024

1. The 12th ASEAN-United States (U.S.) Summit was held on 11 October 2024, in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Summit was attended by ASEAN Member States, the Honourable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States of America, as well as the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as Observer. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We reiterated our support for the Lao PDR's priorities for its ASEAN Chairmanship 2024 under the theme "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience," which reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to strengthening ASEAN Community through intensifying ASEAN cooperation under the three Community pillars, promoting infrastructure connectivity, narrowing development gaps, enhancing economic integration and people-to-people exchanges, and further strengthening ASEAN's relations with external partners, while maintaining ASEAN's relevance and ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture. We congratulated the Lao PDR on the successful convening of the 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings, from 21 to 27 July 2024, in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
3. We reaffirmed our shared commitment to continuing to strengthen the ASEAN-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), which plays a significant role in maintaining peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region. We noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Plan of Action (2021-2025) and its Annex, with the fulfilment of 98.37 percent of our Plan of Action. We also reaffirmed our commitments and looked forward to its full implementation. We also reaffirmed our commitment to further enhance the ASEAN-U.S. CSP that is meaningful, substantive, and mutually beneficial, building on the sustained commitment, mutual interest and values and the enduring goodwill of both sides. In this regard, we looked forward to the development of a new ASEAN-U.S. Plan of Action (2026-2030) that will guide both sides in realising the full potential of the ASEAN-U.S. CSP for the next five years. We welcomed U.S.' continued commitment and support for ASEAN Community building efforts, ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its Strategic Plans, and ASEAN Centrality in a regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive, upholds international law, and reinforced through the ASEAN-led mechanisms.
4. We acknowledged both sides' continued effort to intensify cooperation in areas such as better access to education; the empowerment of youth, women, and persons with disabilities; clean energy transition; people to people exchanges; climate change and environment; sustainable development; public health; maritime cooperation; address transboundary haze; tourism; high standard and climate resilient infrastructure; transport and connectivity; and institutional capacity building.

5. We commended the U.S.' efforts to promote women's empowerment. To support the International Year of the Women Farmer, the United States hosted hybrid workshops in Hanoi and Jakarta in August for women farmers to highlight how to leverage digital technologies can be leveraged to help close the gender gap in agriculture and enhance production for food security. Further, to support female digital entrepreneurs and owners of MSMEs in ASEAN, the United States held a two-day hybrid workshop to discuss the use of digital tools to optimize women-owned businesses. Likewise, for its 10th annual YSEALI Women's Leadership Academy, the United States hosted young women leaders from across ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste to explore how women can remain an integral part of food security for the region.
6. We appreciated the U.S.' continued support for ASEAN Centrality, including the principles of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) through the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific with a view to enhancing our cooperation in the four priority areas under the AOIP within ASEAN-led mechanisms to promote cooperation, peace, security, stability, and robust, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development and growth in the region.
7. We also welcomed U.S.' efforts to expand and elevate collaboration in areas such as the digital economy, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI). In this spirit, we hereby adopted the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Promoting Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence, reaffirming the significant potential for AI to improve the lives of our respective peoples, including through the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
8. We welcomed the U.S.' continued constructive role in promoting dialogue for regional peace, security and stability through its participation in various ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). We also commended the U.S.' active contribution to the ARF, including through the co-chairmanship of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD) alongside Thailand and Sri Lanka for the Inter-Sessional Year 2022-2024; its rotational co-chairmanship of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) with Cambodia, Indonesia, China and India for the Inter-Sessional Year 2022-2026; and its co-chairmanship of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) for the Intersessional Year 2023-2026, along with the Philippines and Bangladesh. We commended the U.S.' active participation in the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs), including through its co-chairmanship with Thailand for the EWG on Maritime Security in the 2021-2023 cycle and looked forward to its co-chairmanship with Indonesia for the EWG on Military Medicine in the 2024-2027 cycle. We also welcomed the convening of the inaugural U.S.-ASEAN Emerging Defense Leaders' Program in May-June 2024.
9. We reaffirmed the continued commitment to strengthen ASEAN-U.S. cooperation in the law enforcement sector to combat various areas of transnational crime. We welcomed the convening of the 16th ASEAN Plus the United States Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + U.S.) Consultation in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 27 June 2024, and noted with satisfaction the progress of implementation of the SOMTC + U.S. Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2023-2026), which covers five priority areas, namely trafficking in persons (TIP), preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, terrorism, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber (ITWT), illicit drug trafficking and cybercrime.

10. We expressed appreciation for recent completion of the ASEAN-United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Partnership for Regional Optimization within the Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Communities (PROSPECT) project, which has supported the implementation of various political-security cooperation activities, including the implementation of the cross-sectoral Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (Bali Work Plan) 2019-2025. In partnership with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), USAID supported the convening of the Consultation on Victims-Oriented Protection to prevent and Counter Radicalism and Violent Extremism in ASEAN, as well as the development of an ASEAN framework on environmental rights.
11. Acknowledging that the U.S. is ASEAN's largest source of foreign direct investment, we welcomed the advanced development of economic relations between ASEAN and the U.S. as the global economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, as we navigate through shared concerns about geopolitical tension risks to global food and energy security, supply chains, and price stability due to impact of the pandemic and ongoing military conflicts. We reiterated our commitment to deepening ASEAN-U.S. economic ties, including through the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) and the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiative Work Plans, the U.S.-ASEAN Connect, as well as through dialogue and engagement among the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the U.S. Trade Representative, and with the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC).
12. We welcomed the adoption of the 2024-2025 ASEAN-U.S. TIFA and E3 Work Plan, building upon the previous work plan, which will continue cooperation on digital economy, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) development, trade facilitation, intellectual property rights, sustainability, good regulatory practices, labour and agriculture, and include additional focused areas of cooperation on competition and consumer protection. We expressed appreciation for the recent completion of the ASEAN-USAID Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade and E-Commerce (IGNITE) in supporting the implementation of various economic cooperation activities under the ASEAN-U.S. TIFA and E3 Work Plan. These include the operation of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), review of the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (DIFAP), development of the ASEAN Digital Integration Index (ADII 2.0), support to a regional learning platform for ASEAN MSMEs through the online ASEAN SME Academy, among others.
13. We reiterated our shared commitment to further strengthening ASEAN-US economic partnership, including through upholding the multilateral trading system, enhancing regional economic integration, and underscoring the importance of multilateralism and free trade.
14. We welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN-U.S. 2024 Digital Priority Cooperation Areas at the Fourth ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting with the U.S. in February 2024, which cover the ASEAN-U.S. Digital Work Plan 2023-2025, the ASEAN Cybersecurity Assessment Model, artificial intelligence, undersea cables capacity building, cloud computing transformation principles, combating online scams capacity building, and the U.S. support for the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement Negotiations. We also welcomed the convening of the successful convening of the 4th ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue held in October 2023 and looked forward to the 5th ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue to be held in October 2024, reaffirming commitments to supporting and implementing the framework of responsible state behaviour in cyberspace, acknowledging the work that has been done in fostering greater regional cybersecurity cooperation and capacity building, including through the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE) and the ASEAN Regional Computer Emergency Response Team, and discussed ways to strengthen regional cooperation in these areas. We looked forward to the 5th ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue in October 2024. We commended U.S.' cybersecurity capacity building at the ASEAN Secretariat and support for ASEAN member states through workshops organized under

the U.S.-ASEAN Connect Digital Economy Series. We welcomed U.S.' support for ASEAN in developing an ASEAN Responsible Artificial Intelligence Roadmap to complement the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics.

15. We commended the U.S. for its continuous collaboration with ASEAN in science, technology and innovation (STI), including through the U.S.-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation (STIC) programme. This includes the ASEAN-U.S. Environmental Biotechnology Policy Study Tour in Washington D.C., Symposium on Accelerating Science, Technology and Circular Innovation in Southeast Asia: Smart Cities Innovation, Biotechnology and Circularity as well as the ASEAN Online Education Platform for Industry 4.0. The Platform, a 2024 Priority Economic Deliverable (PED), has been an effective tool for upskilling and reskilling, with approximately 11,500 applicants to receive licenses as of mid-August 2024. We also looked forward to the seamless transition of the existing Platform to ASEAN by the end of this year, as part of efforts to establish the ASEAN NEW Skills Portal.
16. We further expressed our appreciation for the U.S.' ongoing support in the field of STI, including developing the Discussion Paper on the Responsible Development and Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in ASEAN, the Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) ASEAN startup training and pitch competition, the Embassy Science Fellow's work of leveraging space technology data to address environmental concerns, and promoting women's participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Notable initiatives in this area also include the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Research Institutes-ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women which marks its 10th year anniversary this year, and the ASEAN Women in Science Hub. Additionally, we welcomed US-ABC engagement through the Genome Editing Workshop and innovation site visit.
17. We welcomed U.S.' support to the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) through signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the ASEAN Centre for Energy and USAID's Southeast Asia Smart Power Program. We looked forward to U.S.' support to strengthen and decarbonise of the region's power system by boosting regional energy trade and accelerating the deployment of clean energy technologies under the ASEAN-US Energy Cooperation Work Plan (2021-2025). We welcomed the establishment of the Ministerial-level Working Group between Viet Nam-Singapore-United States and the Singapore-United States Feasibility Study on Regional Energy Connectivity, to facilitate the transit of overland and subsea power cable interconnections in support of the ASEAN Power Grid. We further appreciated the United States Trade and Development Agency's support to the Feasibility Studies for the APG and looked forward to the inaugural Singapore-US Forum on Hydrogen and the launch of the establishment of the IEA Regional Cooperation Centre, at the Singapore International Energy Week 2024.
18. We appreciated U.S.' support for the implementation of initiatives under the ASEAN-U.S. Transport Cooperation Work Plan 2022-2025, particularly for the assistance in the ongoing development of an Electric Vehicles (EV) Implementation Roadmap to promote EV adoption and decarbonise the land transport sector in the region, as well as the capacity-building support in advancing cross-border transport facilitation and sustainable ports through policy, planning, partnerships, and innovation. We welcomed the U.S. plans to launch new transport cooperation initiatives, including on equity and access in transport planning, policy and technology.

19. We expressed appreciation to the U.S.' support in leading the development of the ASEAN Minerals Development Vision (AMDV) and its implementation plan. We noted that the vision would position ASEAN towards progressively developing the region as a regional investment destination, transforming the region into a reliable supplier of strategic minerals and metals that would help diversify global supply chains, particularly for low-carbon technologies, and to enhance intra- and extra-ASEAN minerals trade and investment.
20. We welcomed the continued progress on the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Environment and Climate Work Plan, which covered four areas of cooperation, namely enhancing climate ambition and regional mitigation and adaptation, innovation for a low carbon future, mobilising climate finance, and supporting environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, including exchanging best practices and sharing information including on technical support and expertise in climate policy. We appreciated the U.S.' continued support for ASEAN's efforts through the Climate Solutions Hub and encouraged cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC) to be hosted in Brunei Darussalam. We also encouraged cooperation on joint research, analysis and policy developments to achieve the regions' climate-resilient and low-carbon vision between relevant U.S. agencies and the (ACCC) once established as well as with other relevant ASEAN centres. We noted the convening of the Third ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue on Environment and Climate in Vientiane in July 2024 and noted the ASEAN region carbon trading workshop entitled "Building Better Markets Through Digitalization" held in August 2024 under the U.S.-ASEAN Connect Green Economy Series.
21. We also underscored the need to promote cooperation to address transboundary haze pollution, including through the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) and cooperation in the establishment and the operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution (ACCTHPC), in the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP). We acknowledged the ongoing work of SERVIR Southeast Asia, a collaboration between USAID and NASA launched in January 2023 and has scaled up the use of satellite data and geospatial technologies in climate change mitigation and adaptation across the ASEAN region.
22. We applauded the U.S.' continued cooperation in realising gender equality through gender mainstreaming efforts across ASEAN Community pillars, including in the implementation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (AGMSF). We commended the U.S.' strong support for the conduct of the ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit and Pre-Summit Events that were held on 21-24 August 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Guided by the theme, "Strengthening Care Economy and Resilience Towards ASEAN Community Post-2025," the Summit is one of the Lao PDR's priority deliverables during its term as ASEAN Chair. We likewise commended the U.S. for supporting the development of the Declaration on Strengthening Care Economy and Fostering Resilience in ASEAN Community Post-2025.
23. We welcomed the convening of the ASEAN-U.S. High-Level Dialogue on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in October 2023 and USAID's support in convening the ASEAN Disability Rights Workshop: Advancing Public-Private Sector Engagement in September 2024. These activities reinforced the shared commitment of ASEAN and the U.S. to deepen cooperation in promoting disability inclusion through the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as echoed at the 2022 Joint Vision Statement of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit.

24. We also welcomed the adoption of the Concept Note of Deeper ASEAN-U.S. Relationship through Formalization of an ASEAN and U.S. Health Cooperation: Advancing ASEAN-U.S. Health Sector Engagement. In deepening ASEAN-U.S. health cooperation through the formalization of a standing ASEAN-U.S. Health Ministers Meeting, we looked forward to its effective implementation and to consider additional areas of health cooperation including One Health. We also looked forward to continued progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Health Cooperation Work Plan (2022-2025), particularly in three focus areas of cooperation namely health system strengthening for public health emergencies, health system strengthening through work-force development and capacity building, and information and data system strengthening. We further welcomed the establishment of an ASEAN-U.S. Infection Prevention and Control Task Force through cooperation between ASEAN Health Cluster on Responding to All Hazards and Emerging Threats with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.-CDC). We appreciated the enhancement of ASEAN members' laboratory readiness to diagnose COVID-19 through the ASEAN Emergency Operation Center Network and the Regional Public Health Laboratory network. We further appreciated the work of ASEAN-USAID PROSPECT in supporting the development of the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination Meeting (APHECS) Framework and the Terms of Reference for the ASEAN One Health Network, and looked forward to U.S.' collaboration in the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED). We welcomed USAID support in the implementation of the Airborne Infection Defence Platform (AIDP) 2024-2026 project and the inaugural cohort of the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Management – Emergency Leaders' Programme (PHEM-ELP) supported by U.S.-CDC.
25. We expressed appreciation to the U.S.' commitment and support for in building a more open and inclusive ASEAN Community through various capacity-building and development programmes, including a special International Visitors Leadership Program to provide capacity building for Secretariat staff in the areas of strategic planning, resource development, and communications. We highlighted the importance of initiatives such as the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) and the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women, both of which are celebrating their 10th anniversaries, the Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Visiting Scholar Program, the U.S.-ASEAN Institute for Rising Leaders Fellowship, the ASEAN Youth Video Contest and ASEAN Youth Social Journalism Competition by the ASEAN Foundation, and the Billion Futures Initiative for human capital development in the region and for enhancing people-to-people ties. We supported the enhancement of people-to-people exchanges in the creative economy and digital economy sectors. We welcomed the continued collaboration in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, and to explore further potential cooperation in technical assistance and exchange and to enable full and equal participation and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities under the framework of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan.
26. We looked forward to further engagement with the ASEAN-U.S. Center in Washington D.C., which will harness people-to-people and economic linkages, promote awareness of ASEAN and provide a platform to enhance partnership among all stakeholders from both sides. We noted that the Center has conducted a number of focus group discussions to gather inputs on its potential activities, including with the ASEAN Washington Committee, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, the ASEAN Secretariat, other stakeholders from the private sector, academia, as well as cultural and diaspora communities.

27. We further welcomed the support of the USAID Mekong for the Future activity to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) for the implementation of the ACWC Work Plan 2021-2025, particularly on the project “Regional Dialogues Supporting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Climate Action Planning-Mekong for the Future: Phase 1 and Phase 2”. We appreciated the commitment of USAID in spurring ASEAN’s collective actions on climate change using gender lens which further galvanises greater participation of civil society organisations on natural resource governance and transformation in ASEAN.
28. We further appreciated the cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), through the Addressing Labor Exploitation in Fishing in ASEAN (ALFA) Project, in implementing ASEAN initiatives to ensure decent work in the fishing industry and relevant priority areas in ASEAN Labour Ministers’ (ALM) Work Programme (2021-2025) and the ASEAN Labour Inspection Committee (ALICOM) Work Plan (2022-2030). We also appreciated the support of ALFA Project to the development of the ASEAN Declaration and its Guidelines on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers and the ASEAN Declaration on the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour, including the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour, as well as support of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) Work Plan (2021-2025) regarding child labor. We also appreciated the support of ALFA Project to the Inter-Sectoral Workshop on the Implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap on the Worst Forms of Child Labor in 2024, Study on Labour Issues in the Fishing Sector, Study on the Implication of Inclusion of Labour Provisions in Free Trade Agreements, development of an ASEAN Guidelines on Strengthening Labour Inspection in the Fishing Sector, development of an ASEAN Guidelines on Safety and Health for the Informal Sector and its inventory of legal frameworks and standards, Workshop for AMS to Establish Labour Inspection Guidelines for Workplaces at Risk of Using Vulnerable Workers, and Comparative Study on Labour Inspectorate Competencies in AMS.
29. We commended the U.S.’ continuous collaboration with ASEAN in implementing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2021-2025). This includes through the ASEAN-USAID PROSPECT project, particularly by providing assistance in the development of the Report on Strengthening ASEAN Multi-hazard End to End Early Warning System for natural disasters – an Assessment of Current Capacity, and the ASEAN Humanitarian Logistics Training Curriculum for Officer Level.
30. We encouraged the U.S.’ support for enhanced regional connectivity through advancing the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and looked forward to exploring synergies between the MPAC 2025 and U.S. connectivity initiatives in line with the “Connecting the Connectivities” approach. We also appreciated the support of the U.S. in bridging the digital divide and ICT development gaps within ASEAN, and promoting the development of a secure, resilient and innovative 5G ecosystem and networks. We welcomed enhanced collaboration on digital infrastructures and e-commerce, particularly for our MSMEs. We appreciated the U.S.-organized hybrid workshop under the U.S.-ASEAN Connect Digital Economy Series held in Jakarta in March 2024 to promote an inclusive digital economy in ASEAN that included shared strategies to support the adoption of digital technologies by MSMEs.
31. We commended the U.S.’ continuous engagement with the ASEAN Smart Cities Network through activities under the U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership (USASCP) initiative as well as the convening of the ASEAN E-Waste Circularity Workshop in April 2024. We welcomed the establishment of the USASCP Business Innovation Fund which aims to address urban challenges by offering a climate finance mechanism and sustainable low carbon solutions targeted to sub-national and city stakeholders.

32. We reaffirmed the commitment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD). In this regard, we looked forward to exploring concrete ideas and alternative approaches, including the Bio-Circular-Green Economy and other sustainability models.
33. We further encouraged U.S. to work with ASEAN in supporting other ASEAN Centres, such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE), ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR), and the ADMM Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence (ACICE).
34. We welcomed ASEAN-U.S. development cooperation, particularly through the newly launched, demand driven, and flexible ASEAN-USAID Partnership Programme, the Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP), and the Regional Development Cooperation Agreement (RDCA) for further collaboration in new areas of cooperation. We also welcomed the extension of the RDCA between ASEAN and USAID to 2029 to accommodate new programmes for 2024-2029. We also expressed support for ASEAN's efforts in promoting equitable,