

2026 ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' STATEMENT ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF AMITY AND COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Issued on 24 February 2026

1. On this day, we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), which was signed on 24 February 1976 in Bali, Indonesia during the first ASEAN Summit.
2. We reaffirm the importance and relevance of the TAC as a foundational code of conduct for interstate relations in the region and a cornerstone of regional peace and stability.
3. We recall that the purpose of the TAC is to promote perpetual peace, everlasting amity and cooperation amongst the peoples in Southeast Asia, in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.
4. We reaffirm the commitment to strengthen mutual trust and confidence, promote dialogue and cooperation in inter-state relations, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the TAC: mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all nations; the right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion; non-interference in the internal affairs of one another; settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful means; renunciation of the threat or use of force; and effective cooperation amongst themselves.
5. We underscore the continuing importance and relevance of the purposes and principles of the TAC, as well as its positive contributions in sustaining peace and stability in the Southeast Asian region over the past 50 years which is consistent with the key principles, shared values, and norms enshrined in the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty/Bangkok Treaty) and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).
6. We also underscore that the aspirations and commitments embodied in the TAC serve as a key foundation of ASEAN Centrality and contribute to strengthening the ASEAN-led regional architecture, anchored in dialogue, consultation, and cooperation. These principles will continue to guide ASEAN in building a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN, as envisioned in the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.
7. We appreciate the growing relevance of the Treaty, as reflected in its expansion from the original five (5) signatories in 1976 to fifty-eight (58) High Contracting Parties (HCPs) to date. We acknowledge that this remarkable growth underscores the Treaty's enduring appeal through the past five decades, as a foundation for peaceful relations, mutual respect, and cooperation in the region and beyond.
8. We call on all HCPs to the TAC to reaffirm their commitment to the purposes and principles of the TAC and to fulfill their obligations under the Treaty in its entirety. We also reiterate the importance of continuing to promote awareness, understanding and adherence to the underlying principles of the TAC among HCPs.

9. We further encourage the HCPs to the TAC to build on the momentum of the commemoration of its 50th anniversary to deepen engagement with ASEAN, including by promoting further cooperation, ensuring that such engagements are ASEAN-driven, strategic, relevant, mutually beneficial, and responsive to current and emerging challenges, in line with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Decision on Enhancing ASEAN Relations with External Parties.
10. We further underline that efforts to strengthen the TAC's relevance should complement ASEAN-led mechanisms and encourage the development of the ASEAN Paper outlining the Guidelines on the Modalities for High Contracting Parties' engagement with ASEAN, aligned with ASEAN priorities, including the AOIP and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. We look forward to this TAC commemoration serving as a catalyst for deeper, more coherent, and more impactful ASEAN external engagements, particularly through strengthened engagement with TAC HCPs and in the pursuit of the AOIP.
11. We welcome the growing interest of countries in acceding to the TAC, on the basis of respect for and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the TAC, and encourage more countries and regional organisations to commit to its principles by becoming HCPs to the TAC. In this regard, we underscore that the accession to the TAC reflects a commitment to its purposes and principles and to continued engagement with ASEAN in promoting peace, stability and cooperation.
12. We are committed to enhance the Treaty's relevance and visibility in the region and beyond, including by strengthening ASEAN's research activities on peace, reconciliation, conflict management and conflict resolution.
13. We commit to uphold ASEAN Centrality in all ASEAN-led mechanisms and promote mutually beneficial cooperation in accordance with the purposes and principles of the TAC to ensure that the evolving regional architecture can better meet current and future challenges; and
14. We look forward to the hosting by the Philippines as the ASEAN Chair of the main commemorative activity for the 50th Anniversary of the TAC on 24 July 2026 in Manila, Philippines.