

2025 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 20TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT ON INCLUSIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Issued in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27 October 2025

1. We, the participating countries of the East Asia Summit (EAS), met on 27 October 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship on the occasion of the 20th East Asia Summit;
2. We reaffirmed ASEAN's role as the driving force of the East Asia Summit and supporting ASEAN's unity and Centrality in enhancing peace and stability in the region through the various ASEAN-led mechanisms;
3. We further reaffirmed the purposes and principles, as outlined in the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit and the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (the Bali Principles) as well as upholding international law;
4. We reaffirmed our commitment to multilateralism based on international law, including the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
5. We acknowledged the global challenges of natural disasters, climate change, biodiversity loss, inequality, and resource scarcity, emphasising the need for inclusive and sustainable approaches to regional development that respect and address the specific needs, priorities, and challenges faced by developing countries in the region;
6. We, noted that inclusivity and sustainability, the theme of Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship, reinforces what is envisioned in ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future, which guides ASEAN Community-building and its cooperation with partners in the next 20 years;
7. We underscored inclusivity as participation and access for all and sustainability as fostering resilience through environmental stewardship, economic equity, and social development in the region;

INCLUSIVITY AND SOCIAL EQUITY

8. We encouraged initiatives that reduce socio-economic disparities by ensuring equitable access to opportunities for our peoples, especially those in vulnerable situations, including through the promotion of sustainable and inclusive livelihoods by ensuring equal access to opportunities, with a strong commitment to gender mainstreaming and the protection and promotion of human rights in accordance with relevant international law and respective national laws and regulations;
9. We committed to upholding and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment by integrating gender-responsive policies and practices as part of our efforts to full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action in the context of the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and its alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. We recognised the need to foster a more inclusive and equitable regional economy by expanding economic and social empowerment programmes that uplift people in vulnerable situations. We also recognised the need to improve access to quality education, vocational and technical training, and entrepreneurial support to enable our people to participate fully and meaningfully in the regional economy;
11. We highlighted the importance of prioritising digital inclusion by ensuring that our peoples, especially those in vulnerable situations, have equitable access to digital literacy programmes, e-commerce platforms, and financial technology tools to support their participation and competitiveness in the evolving digital economy;
12. We stressed the need to enhance human capital development through inclusive education, upskilling, reskilling, and workforce training to foster broad-based participation in a dynamic regional economy, including through enhancing collaboration between industry and academia by aligning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) curricula with market needs, improving mutual recognition of skills and encourage skills development and mobility, in accordance with national regulations and policies, and ensuring fair and equitable access to quality education and training to enhance employability and contribute to regional growth;
13. We encouraged the efforts to strengthen digital literacy training to upskill and reskill the workforce to ensure equitable access to digital learning resources, that aims to provide a merit-based approach to collaboration and support sustainable digital transformation and to promote public-private partnerships and education opportunities to build digital capacities and ensure job-readiness;
14. We supported the efforts to promote cultural and sports-based initiatives that contribute towards strengthening regional identity, social inclusion, and economic equity, as well as advance inclusive people-to-people connectivity and the creative industries through implementation of the ASEAN Creative Economy Sustainability Framework;
15. We underscored the importance of fostering digital inclusion by bridging the digital divide and ensuring inclusive, fair, safe and equitable access to digital infrastructure, services, and opportunities, as well as expanding digital infrastructure and connectivity through broadband development, 5G deployment, and strengthened telecommunications, particularly in remote and underserved areas, ensuring reliable and affordable internet access for all;
16. We supported the empowerment of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups, particularly those owned by women, youth and persons with disabilities, by equipping them with essential tools such as management and technical skills, enhancing their capabilities to engage in e-business, and ensuring better access to digital financing, fintech solutions, and emerging technologies to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth;
17. We sought to advance regional discussions on regional digital trade policies and enhance cross-border digital payment systems to build a resilient, seamless, and inclusive digital economy, as well as to create an enabling policy environment for digital inclusion through cooperation on digital governance that facilitates secure and trusted cross-border data flows, while respecting personal data protection, and cybersecurity, aligned with the ASEAN Economic Community Strategic Plan to ensure open, safe, transparent, and interoperable digital ecosystems that protect consumers and enhance innovation and business competitiveness. We also sought to explore cooperation to improve interlinkages among national QR and real-time payment networks to reduce costs for MSMEs and consumers;

SUSTAINABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT

18. We committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving its Sustainable Development Goals through environmentally responsible policies and initiatives, inclusive economic growth, and innovative approaches that promote long-term regional prosperity, as well as exploring support for the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD);
19. We recognised the importance of promoting low-carbon economic strategies, aligned with the participating countries' Nationally Determined Contribution, supportive, open and sustainable trade practices, climate change adaptation, and responsible investment frameworks that ensure that all segments of society benefit from inclusive and sustainable development;
20. We sought to accelerate cooperation in clean energy technologies, smart urban infrastructure, sustainable mobility, and nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approach through ASEAN-led mechanisms and collaborative initiatives;
21. We supported MSMEs and larger industries in adopting sustainable and responsible business practices to build a more resilient, inclusive, and low-emission regional economy;
22. We recognised the paramount role of the public finance provided by developed countries to developing countries, and encourage greater private sector participation to mobilise climate finance, including alternative and innovative sources such as blended financing, green bonds and impact investments to enable a just transition within the region;
23. We supported the development of industries and development-oriented regional cooperation in carbon pricing, resilient infrastructure development, sustainable supply chains, sustainable finance and integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards;
24. We encouraged regional collaboration on climate action by accelerating decarbonisation, including through the adoption and scaling-up of renewable energy, supporting just energy transitions, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, fostering low-carbon economic transitions, including by implementing capacity building programmes to enhance knowledge and skills on climate change, including through platforms such as the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in support of equitable, and inclusive energy transitions, and to ensure energy security while reducing dependence on fossil fuels;
25. We underlined the need to enhance regional energy interconnection through the promotion of cross-border energy connectivity, expansion of smart grids infrastructure, and the integration of green hydrogen to realise the ASEAN Power Grid by 2045 as part of efforts to advance a secure, resilient, and interconnected low-carbon regional energy future. We underscored the importance of technology transfer, standards, and concessional and sustainable financing to accelerate APG interconnections;
26. We stressed the importance of strengthening regional resilience in food and energy security by ensuring accessibility for all and addressing resource constraints through sustainable solutions and deepening regional cooperation to address food security challenges, focusing on sustainable natural resources management and climate-resilient agricultural practices. To this end, we encouraged the sharing of knowledge, experience, and demand-driven technical assistance and capacity building to support the development of smart agriculture, including through the use of digital and precision farming technologies;

27. We encouraged efforts to improve agricultural productivity, rural infrastructure, modernise food systems, and enhance regional trade frameworks and participation of smallholder farmers to ensure a stable, reliable, and affordable food supply across the region. We also encouraged cooperation to enhance the sustainability and resilience of the logistic network, storage and distribution of the supply chain of agricultural products;
28. We expressed support for diversification of energy sources and enhancement of regional energy collaboration by promoting cross-border electricity trade through sub-sea power cables, green energy investments, innovations in energy efficiency, and the development of smart grid systems to ensure energy security as well as reliable and affordable energy access for households, businesses, and industries. We acknowledge the important role that natural gas and scaling-up of bio-energy production can play in the transition to net zero, supported by regional knowledge sharing, technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, and collaborative investment in a more integrated and sustainable energy landscape;
29. We encouraged sustainable urbanisation by prioritising inclusivity, affordability, and environmental stewardship in urban planning and development. In this regard, we supported cooperation to strengthen road and transportation network connectivity to improve safety, accessibility, and mobility through the adoption of cutting-edge, climate-friendly and resilient technologies and public-private partnerships, and to promote environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient transport systems that reduce congestion and carbon emissions;
30. We also encouraged the development of smart, sustainable, and climate-resilient cities by integrating safe, secure, trustworthy, digital technologies to enhance disaster risk reduction, strengthen emergency response, improve the delivery of essential public services, and increase the adaptability of infrastructure. For this purpose, we encouraged knowledge-sharing platforms, cross-border research collaboration, and capacity-building initiatives, including through the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy and ASEAN Smart Cities Network, to advance best practices in urban sustainability;

DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE RESILIENCE

31. We encouraged coherence between the East Asia Summit and other ASEAN-led mechanisms to foster synergy in addressing shared regional challenges, particularly in climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction including through strengthening regional frameworks for risk assessment, multi-hazard early warning systems, and coordinated emergency response to address the impacts of disasters, including those exacerbated by climate change, natural hazards, pandemics, and compounding effects of economic disruptions;
32. We supported enhancing long-term strategies for disaster risk reduction, with a focus on effective preparedness and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts and to strengthen environmental governance and resilience to climate change and adaptation efforts by enhancing anticipatory actions through disaster risk reduction, multi-hazard early warning systems, sustainable infrastructure, and improved access to adaptation financing in response to climate-induced disasters;
33. We sought to promote collaborative initiatives on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and efforts to combat environmental degradation and climate change, as well as enhance cooperation in circular economy practices, resource-efficient and sustainable production and consumption patterns, and sustainable finance mechanisms that assist businesses in transitioning to low-carbon and environmentally sustainable operations;

34. We encouraged research collaboration and inclusive knowledge-sharing on effective environmental management and best practices, including solid waste management, marine plastic debris and sustainable consumption and production. In this regard, we supported the establishment of regional biodiversity monitoring systems, disaster-resilient ecosystem restoration projects, and sustainable management of coastal, marine and forest ecosystems to enhance ecosystem resilience and conservation outcomes;
35. We supported efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction and resilience to climate change, including through collective preparedness, coordinated response, and inclusive recovery efforts that prioritise the protection of people in vulnerable situations. In this regard, we encouraged to strengthen coordination under existing ASEAN-led disaster response frameworks, including the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), in ensuring timely and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, logistics, medical support, and post-disaster health services to affected populations in ASEAN;
36. We stressed the need to promote collaboration on integrating protection-sensitive and gender-responsive, disaster risk management strategies, along with community-based preparedness programmes, as well as to prioritise sustainable recovery and reconstruction approaches that restore livelihoods, provide psychosocial support, and build community resilience through disaster risk reduction education;
37. We recognised the importance of health systems and equitable access to healthcare and services, pandemic preparedness, and sustainable vaccine distribution across the region. In this regard, we welcomed regional cooperation in disease surveillance, early detection, and emergency response mechanisms, through various initiatives such as the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), ASEAN Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Network and ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre (ABVC), among others, to better prevent and respond to public health threats. We supported the ASEAN Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Network in its efforts to coordinate crisis responses, conduct simulation exercises, and facilitate knowledge-sharing among national health agencies;
38. We looked forward to promoting the development, deployment, and accessibility of life-saving medical technologies and emergency care solutions across EAS participating countries. We are also encouraged to advance universal health coverage through the promotion of inclusive healthcare and services policies, equitable access to a comprehensive package of health services, including vaccines, enhanced primary healthcare, and strengthened regional cooperation in medicines security and public health supply chains. To this end, we committed to collaborating on building resilient health systems, advancing critical health infrastructure, cross-border emergency response mechanisms, and the development and equitable distribution of safe, affordable, and quality vaccines;

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY

39. We underscored the need to enhance regional cooperation in addressing shared security challenges, including through strengthening cybersecurity, promoting safe, secure, trustworthy, accountable and responsible AI, and combating transnational crime. We supported enhanced collaboration through the relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms on intelligence-sharing, joint investigations, and prioritised capacity-building efforts to effectively combat transnational crime,

- including trafficking in persons, cyber threats, and other cross-border criminal activities, in support of good governance and security;
40. We expressed support for regional mechanisms for countering money laundering and terrorism financing, including the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), Regional Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) Summit and Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG). We sought to promote closer collaboration in counterterrorism efforts, including joint counter-radicalisation strategies, preventive security measures, crisis response capabilities, and rehabilitation programmes;
 41. We reaffirmed the 2015 EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation and the 2020 EAS Leaders' Statement on Marine Sustainability, and enhanced complementarity between the EAS and other ASEAN-led processes, such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), with a view to promote inclusive and comprehensive approaches to maritime cooperation;
 42. We reaffirmed our support for ASEAN's commitment to implementing key regional instruments such as the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT), the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), and ASEAN Plan of Action in Combatting Transnational Crime (2026–2035). We also sought to strengthen regional cybersecurity cooperation by enhancing cyber-resilience frameworks and responsible state behaviour in cyberspace, including through cybersecurity capacity building initiatives at the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre for Excellence (ASCCE), to foster an open, safe, secure, stable, accessible, interoperable, peaceful, and resilient cyberspace and to further strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the United Nations Global Mechanism on developments in the field of ICTs, as well as enhancing cooperation on data protection and digital trust;
 43. We sought to promote cooperation and collaboration to foster inclusivity in the advancement of AI and progressively bridge the existing disparities divide in AI, such as through strengthening capacity building in the region, such as through knowledge-sharing and sustainable learning, technological transfer, technical assistance, and joint research;
 44. We valued the meaningful participation and leadership of women in peacebuilding and security efforts and also in disaster response, recognising their vital role in advancing gender-responsive, inclusive and sustainable peace, in line with Women, Peace and Security (WPS). We supported the active participation and leadership of women at all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict prevention and resolution, to enhance protection of women and girls from all forms of violence, discrimination, and social exclusion, in line with the 2022 ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security and 2020 EAS Leaders' Statement on Women, Peace and Security;
 45. We further supported and encouraged the role of women in promoting a culture of peace that educates and empowers all people; prevents armed conflicts; upholds the rule of law; and sustains peace through comprehensive, cross-sectoral, and integrated approaches, including by further promoting their participation in conflict prevention efforts at national and regional agendas, as appropriate;
 46. We sought to advance gender-inclusive security policies by encouraging effective, meaningful, and inclusive participation, representation, and leadership of women in diplomacy, negotiations, peacekeeping operations, peacebuilding efforts, military services, law enforcement, crisis response planning, and decision-making roles within defence and security institutions. We also

sought to enhance regional cooperation in women-led conflict prevention, community-based security initiatives, and counter-radicalisation efforts to address root causes of insecurity and foster community resilience.