# 2025 ASEAN-NEW ZEALAND LEADERS' JOINT VISION STATEMENT ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASEAN-NEW ZEALAND DIALOGUE RELATIONS

*Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 28 October 2025*

1. We, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and New Zealand, met on 28 October 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, under Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations.

2. The ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders' Commemorative Summit marks an important milestone in the ASEAN-New Zealand partnership, as the two sides share a strong legacy and have achieved significant progress over the past 50 years across a wide range of areas, including political, security, trade and economic, people-to-people, and development cooperation.

3. We reiterate our strong commitment to upholding regionalism and multilateralism and emphasised the importance of adhering to key principles, shared values and norms enshrined in the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter, the Declaration on Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN), 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 Treaty), and promote the implementation of the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

4. We acknowledge the current environment of heightened regional and global instability and uncertainty in which the Leaders meet, amplified by complex environmental challenges, economic uncertainty and strategic competition, and we reiterate the critical importance of the ASEAN–New Zealand partnership and our commitment to promote and maintain a peaceful, prosperous and rules-based regional architecture that upholds international law, with ASEAN at its centre, underpinned by ASEAN-led mechanisms and key principles of ASEAN Centrality, inclusiveness, openness and transparency, and which complements the ASEAN community-building process in the Indo-Pacific region.

5. We acknowledge the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership (2021-2025), which has enhanced cooperation and contributed towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its Blueprints.

6. We commit to supporting ASEAN Community-building efforts and regional integration through the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future and its Strategic Plans as well as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan. We commit to promote equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development across the ASEAN Community, including through advancing sub-regional cooperation.

7. We acknowledge New Zealand's increased funding contribution to cooperation activities under the ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action 2026-2030 pillars of Peace, Prosperity, People and Planet. This includes flagship initiatives such as the establishment of the ASEAN-New

Zealand Vision Fund, expansion of the Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship Programme (MNZSP) for ASEAN and the ASEAN-New Zealand Trade Academy.

8. Consequently, to reflect the enduring partnership of 50 years and intention to strengthen and deepen our relations, we do hereby declare to:

   a. Establish the ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial at the 50th anniversary of Dialogue Relations Commemorative Summit to further advance our longstanding partnership;

   b. Establish biennial Summit between ASEAN and New Zealand; and

   c. Reaffirm our commitment to concretely implementing the ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action 2026-2030 with a view to supporting the advancement of the ASEAN-New Zealand Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

## PEACE

9. Our shared vision is for a peaceful, stable and secure region underpinned by the open, transparent, resilient, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture with ASEAN at the centre that upholds international law where ASEAN and New Zealand can mutually coordinate and share expertise.

10. We acknowledge and commit to the foundations of our relationship, and recognise the vital role of regional and multilateral institutions, and regular and comprehensive ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue and cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus).

11. We will continue to cooperate through ASEAN-led mechanisms to ensure transparent, predictable and responsible conduct, so as to reduce risks of misunderstanding and miscalculation, as well as prevent disputes from escalating into conflict. We reaffirm the role of ASEAN in promoting communication and dialogue, and stress the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance mutual trust and confidence among countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

12. We reaffirm mutual dedication to disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We will uphold our respective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations and commitments. We reiterate our commitment to strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, working to prevent any erosion of existing international norms, and taking all possible steps to realize the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

13. We reiterate the importance of promoting maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded commerce, mutual trust and confidence, the exercise of self-restraint, the non-use of force or of the threat to use force, and the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

14. We reiterate our commitment to advancing regional maritime cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms by, among others, promoting the sustainable use and management of marine resources and protection and conservation of marine environment, biodiversity, and ecosystems; increasing efforts to develop maritime connectivity in line with and in support of

the vision and goals of the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan, Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), ASEAN's development of the Blue Economy; addressing and combating threats to maritime security including the adverse impacts of pollution, ocean acidification, marine debris, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, threats to maritime security including piracy, armed robbery against ships and threats to offshore installations, submarine cables and pipelines and other critical infrastructure and maritime interests.

15. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen cooperation and capacity building to prevent and combat transnational crimes, such as terrorism, trafficking in persons cybercrime, drug trafficking, money laundering, international economic crime including online scams and further deepen non-traditional security cooperation, through ASEAN mechanisms.

16. We reiterate our strong commitment and underscore the importance of promoting cooperation to addressing the humanitarian and socio-economic challenges posed by landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) including unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the region, in accordance with relevant international treaties, conventions, and instruments, as well as our respective national laws and policies.

## PROSPERITY

17. Our shared vision is for more ambitious and prosperous economic integration across ASEAN and New Zealand markets.

18. We reaffirm our commitment to working together, especially amidst global economic challenges, to support economic resilience and the role it plays for the wider region's future prosperity and security.

19. We reiterate our commitment to upholding a rules-based multilateral trading system with WTO at its core, including through addressing tariffs and working towards reducing non-tariff barriers to trade, promoting resilient supply chains, as well as narrowing the development gaps.

20. We continue to strengthen regional architecture through effective implementation of the regional free trade agreements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), advance efforts to achieve inclusive and sustainable regional and subregional economic growth, and promote development of an inclusive and resilient digital economy.

21. We commit to strengthen and enhance MSMEs' digital transformation capabilities towards an inclusive, resilient digital economy, including through supporting ASEAN's implementation of the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (DIFAP), and the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) with emphasis on digital integration, cross-border digital payment systems, and e-commerce proficiency.

22. We seek to strengthen collaboration to support regional economic integration through the AEM-Closer Economic Relations (CER) Consultations, as well as increase two-way trade and investment through the ASEAN-Business Advisory Council (ASEANBAC) and ASEAN-New Zealand Business Council (ANZBC).

23. We commit to promote cooperation in green and sustainable finance; science, technology and innovation; transport; renewable and clean energy; sustainable agriculture; and tourism.

# PEOPLE

24. Our shared vision is for an open and inclusive region where ASEAN and New Zealand can best learn and seek value from respective expertise and cultures.

25. We seek to strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN Member States and New Zealand through enhanced scholarships, capacity building, as well as encouraging greater skills mobility and local community exchanges, while fostering policy and expertise exchanges on cultural heritage preservation and the cultural and creative industry, with a focus on young leaders, entrepreneurs, traditional culture, customs, eco-tourism, and the appreciation and preservation of cultural heritage, arts, and sports.

26. We commit to strengthening the engagement of educational institutions, educators, and students in ASEAN and New Zealand in areas such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), creative education, quality early childhood care and education (ECCE), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), digital education, labour upskilling and reskilling, and English language learning, among others, to equip our people with the skills and adaptability required for the future of work.

27. We reaffirm our commitment to promote human rights and social protection including for people in vulnerable situations, such as youth and children, persons with disabilities, rural communities, and older persons, as well as gender equality, and the empowerment of women, children and youth.

28. We emphasise the importance of promoting cooperation in public health security, including but not limited to strengthening regional prevention, preparedness, detection, and response capabilities for health emergencies; exploring the application of a one-health approach; preparing for and responding to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, zoonotic diseases, communicable diseases; as well as promotion of active ageing, through leveraging digital technologies, shared platforms, as well as exchanges and capacity-building for healthcare practitioners.

29. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen capabilities in disaster risk management such as monitoring, analysis, reduction, prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, recovery, and sustainable resilience in line with the relevant ASEAN and global documents and mechanisms, such as the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Resilience as well as through co-chairing the 2024-2027 cycle of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

# PLANET

30. Our shared vision is to build on the region's sustainable development agenda with an emphasis on environmental resilience and green transition.

31. We recognise the need to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and support the global economic transition that is under way as part of the shared commitment to implement the Paris Agreement and seize growth opportunities in the green economy, including through cooperation on carbon markets.

32. We reaffirm our commitment to collaborate on adaptation to and mitigation of climate change with the aim of strengthening the resilience of ASEAN and New Zealand in the face of adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation that are related to natural disasters, deforestation, marine debris, and food, water and energy security, including to accelerate just and inclusive clean energy transition, low emissions and fast and fair climate action.

## CROSS-PILLAR COOPERATION

33. Our shared vision is for coordination across all pillars of ASEAN-New Zealand cooperation to maximise the value of our partnership.

34. We reaffirm our commitment to narrow the development gap within and among ASEAN Member States and continue to address the development disparities to achieve a more balanced and inclusive regional development through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) as well as aligning subregional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN.

35. We commit to strengthen cross-pillar coordination across the ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action 2026-2030 and to enhance engagement between ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in areas of mutual interests.

36. We reiterate the importance of promoting good governance and an agile, efficient, and people-centred civil service in the digital era through enhancement of capabilities and strategic partnership between ASEAN and New Zealand.

37. We reiterate efforts to enhance connectivity within ASEAN and with New Zealand, including through the implementation of tangible connectivity projects under the AOIP and the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan.

## LOOKING AHEAD

38. As we adopt this Joint Vision Statement, we reflect on the long history of genuine friendship between ASEAN and New Zealand, including New Zealand's contributions to the region in the last 50 years as ASEAN's second oldest dialogue partner. Further, we recognise that this next step in our partnership will shape the direction of the next 50 years. We are strongly committed to continuing to work together and harnessing new opportunities that would contribute to our continued prosperity.

39. We therefore task our relevant officials to bear this spirit of partnership in mind as we implement and realise our vision identified in this Joint Vision Statement and the Plan of Action 2026-2030, as well as other existing ASEAN-New Zealand frameworks for cooperation.

*Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 28th Day of October of the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, at the ASEAN-New Zealand Summit to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations.*