

2025 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 28TH ASEAN-JAPAN SUMMIT

Issued in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26 October 2025

1. The 28th ASEAN-Japan Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26 October 2025. The Summit was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia and the Chair of ASEAN. The Summit was attended by ASEAN Member States and H.E. Takaichi Sanae, Prime Minister of Japan. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We reiterated our support for Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability," reaffirming our shared commitment towards strengthening regional peace, stability, and prosperity through inclusive, sustainable, and future-oriented ASEAN Community-building efforts.
3. We welcomed Japan's continued support for Timor-Leste and encouraged the continuation of capacity-building programmes and initiatives to assist Timor-Leste's post-admission efforts in implementing the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN.
4. We reaffirmed our commitments to strengthening the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) towards maintaining peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the region, in support of ASEAN Community building in alignment with the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future. We welcomed the significant progress in the Implementation Plan of the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation Trusted Partners.
5. We underscored the importance of upholding ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and reaffirmed our commitment to supporting an ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive, resilient, and rules-based, that upholds international law and built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms. We appreciated Japan's support for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and agreed to further promote the implementation of concrete projects and activities, including through workstreams under the four priority areas. In this regard, we adopted the Joint Statement on Further Promotion and Implementation of the AOIP, reaffirming that both the AOIP and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) share fundamental principles in promoting a peaceful, stable and rules-based regional order. We looked forward to the implementation of more concrete AOIP projects under the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 3.0.
6. We reaffirmed our commitment to continue enhancing cooperation on security issues of common interest, including transnational crime, cybersecurity, maritime security, and non-proliferation and disarmament, through ASEAN-led mechanisms. We acknowledged Japan's engagement through the ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+Japan) Consultation and welcomed Japan's initiative to support ASEAN's effort in addressing online scams including telecommunication fraud as part of the implementation of the ASEAN Plus Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC+Japan) Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2023-2027). We also encouraged Japan's support in combatting illicit drugs in the region, particularly under the framework of the ASEAN Plus Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD+Japan) Consultation. We welcomed Japan's continued support for cybersecurity

capacity building for ASEAN Member States through the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Policy Meeting and its Working Group, ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC), ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE) and ASEAN Regional Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT).

7. We welcomed progress in defence cooperation and encouraged Japan to strengthen security cooperation with ASEAN, including as co-chair of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security (ADMM-Plus EWG on MS) in the 2024-2027 cycle with the Philippines. We acknowledged Japan's efforts to enhance capacity-building of ASEAN Member States through the Japan-led Vientiane Vision 2.0: Japan's Defense Cooperation Initiative with ASEAN and Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Initiative for Enhanced Defense Cooperation (JASMINE). We also appreciate Japan's regular conducting of the Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum, which helps to facilitate strategic dialogue amongst ASEAN and Japan's Defence Senior Officials. We appreciated Japan's continued support in addressing the humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war through the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), as well as in enhancing ASEAN Member States' capacities in dealing with cyber and information threats, through contributions to the ADMM Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence's events e.g., the annual Digital Defence Symposium. We noted ongoing discussions for ASEAN-Japan chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) cooperation through the Network of ASEAN CBR Defence Experts.
8. We welcomed Japan's efforts to strengthen cooperation with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in promoting human rights and expressed appreciation for Japan's continued support for AICHR's programmes and activities. We appreciated Japan's support for the implementation of the AICHR Regional Workshop on Gender Lens Perspective on Business and Human Rights in ASEAN through JAIF.
9. We reaffirmed our shared commitment to enhancing cooperation in the field of law and justice, including through the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Law and Justice. In this regard, we welcomed the joint session by Malaysia and Japan on the Promotion of International Commercial Arbitration across ASEAN and Japan held during the ASEAN Law Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 19-21 August 2025. We looked forward to the 1st ASEAN Plus Japan Law Ministers' Meeting to be held alongside the 13th ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting in Manila, the Philippines in November 2025.
10. We welcomed the steady growth in ASEAN-Japan economic relations. Japan was ASEAN's fourth largest trading partner in 2024, with two-way merchandise trade amounting to USD236.6 billion¹. Japan was ASEAN's fifth largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2024, with total FDI inflows from Japan, amounting to USD17.5 billion last year.
11. We reaffirmed our support for the rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, ensuring a predictable, transparent, free, fair, inclusive, sustainable, non-discriminatory, and open trade and investment environment, and our commitment for necessary reform of the WTO including having a fully functioning dispute settlement system. We emphasised the importance of strengthening ASEAN-Japan trade and investment, particularly through the full, transparent and effective implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement. In this regard, ASEAN welcomed

¹ ASEAN Statistics, IMTS data as of 15 July 2025

Japan's proposal to establish a working group to exchange views on a wide range of measures to strengthen economic relations between ASEAN and Japan. We looked forward to reviewing the RCEP Agreement and discussing the expansion of the membership of RCEP, in a way that maintains the rules and standards of RCEP and further strengthen the RCEP's role in addressing the challenges that the members face as well as promoting open, inclusive, and mutually beneficial economic cooperation across the region. We also noted the ongoing initiatives and engagements led by the AEM-Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Consultation, AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC), Federation of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in ASEAN (FJCCIA), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), ASEAN-Japan Business Council (AJBC), and ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC), which have contributed to enhancing business-to-business cooperation and connectivity. We welcomed the further progress of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) efforts to support ASEAN Member States in attracting more, better and safe foreign direct investment (FDI).

12. We welcomed the progress made in the "Future Design and Action Plan of Innovative and Sustainable ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation 2023-2033" to realise the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision, including the ASEAN-Japan Master Plan Initiative for the Next-Generation Automotive Industry and the ASEAN-Japan Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation and Co-Creation Roadmap. We reaffirmed our commitment to advancing the ASEAN-Japan Economic Co-Creation Vision and looked forward to deeper collaboration, especially in the areas of digital transformation, innovation, green growth, inclusive and sustainable supply chains, and human capital development. We encouraged fostering innovation ecosystems, supporting decarbonization and energy transition efforts, promoting circular economy and sustainable finance, strengthening resilience and resource efficiency, and equipping our workforce with the skills needed for a resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready regional economic partnership.
13. We recognised the contribution of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to regional economic integration through its continued research and analysis of key regional economic issues in aid of evidence-based policy-making as well as its technical support particularly in current regional priorities, such as digital transformation, energy transition, and supply chain resilience. We also acknowledged Japan's continued contribution to ERIA, including its support under the ERIA Digital Innovation and Sustainable Economy Centre (E-DISC) and Asia Zero Emission Centre, which are emerging as important platforms for advancing regional cooperation.
14. We will continue to strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, and promote international talent mobility and circulation to drive innovation to solve global challenges and enable sustainable economic growth, including by supporting international joint research and networks of top-level and young scientists and researchers. We deeply appreciated Japan's commitment particularly through the Networked Exchange, United Strength for Stronger Partnerships between Japan and ASEAN (NEXUS), a USD100 million commitment by Japan which will significantly benefit the scientific and research community in ASEAN and Japan. We also welcomed other key initiatives, such as Human Capacity Building for STI Coordination and the use of Earth observation satellites to improve rice paddy area statistics and damage assessment in the region.
15. We affirmed the necessity of enhancing energy cooperation to accelerate energy transitions through practical pathways tailored to national circumstances in achieving sustainable economic growth, energy security and addressing climate change simultaneously. We looked forward to collaboration with Japan through initiatives such as the Asia Zero Emission

Community (AZEC) and Asia Energy Transition Initiative, and reaffirmed support for the expeditious establishment of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) by 2045.

16. We underscored the significance of the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan and welcomed its revision at the Second Meeting of ASEAN-Japan Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry in October 2025, in strengthening resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems to advance regional food security. We called on stakeholders to support ASEAN in implementing the Action Plan on Sustainable Agriculture, focusing on advancing decarbonisation, reducing the use of harmful agrochemicals, promoting digitalisation, enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation, and fostering public-private partnerships. These collective efforts aim to accelerate the widespread adoption of sustainable agricultural practices that improve resource efficiency, enhance climate resilience, ensure food security, uplift rural livelihoods, promote knowledge-sharing, and strengthen strategic partnerships. We further urged stakeholders to coordinate closely with the ASEAN Secretariat to identify and implement relevant projects and programmes aligned with these priorities.
17. We welcomed the initiative by ASEAN and Japan to strengthen cooperation in the tourism sector, aimed at promoting sustainable tourism and enhancing mutual exchanges and strengthening tourism resilience, including through marketing and promotion, capacity-building programmes and initiatives that foster sustainable tourism development. We acknowledged the vital role of the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC) in promoting joint tourism initiatives, fostering people-to-people exchanges, improving capacity of tourism professionals and the community, and enhancing regional connectivity. We looked forward to closer cooperation between ASEAN and Japan to build a more resilient, sustainable and competitive tourism industry for the future.
18. We welcomed the effective implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Digital Work Plan, as well as Japan's continued support for strengthening regional connectivity under the Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative including transportation infrastructure development, digital connectivity, maritime cooperation, supply chain resilience, electricity connectivity, as well as human and knowledge connectivity. We looked forward to further enhancing ASEAN-Japan cooperation on connectivity through the implementation of the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP). We looked forward to the successful conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement with a view to enhancing air connectivity between ASEAN Member States and Japan. We noted the progress of various projects and activities under the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership (AJTP), aimed at enhancing regional connectivity and cooperation in the transport sector.
19. We welcomed Japan's support for the region's digital transformation efforts, including through its advancement of Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN), and the promotion of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) within ASEAN, among other digital initiatives. We concurred on working together to develop and support governance policies and ecosystems for safe, secure, and trustworthy AI aimed at promoting innovation and harnessing its potential to achieve sustainable economic growth and to address social challenges, and to this end, we welcomed the launch of the ASEAN-Japan Co-creation Initiative for AI and instructed our Ministers and officials to further enhance ASEAN-Japan partnership on AI. We further welcomed Japan to engage the ASEAN Working Group on AI Governance, which oversees and coordinates all AI work in ASEAN, and to leverage the Hiroshima AI Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems to strengthen the region's capacity in AI governance. We also welcomed Japan's engagement in leveraging AI in Southeast Asia through initiatives such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD) Co-creation Workshop on AI Policy Toolkit held in Bangkok this August. We welcomed Japan's active and continued support for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) such as through the convening of the annual ASEAN-Japan Smart Cities Network High-Level Meeting that promotes dialogue and knowledge sharing between ASEAN and Japanese cities and private sector.

20. We appreciated Japan's continued support in narrowing the development gaps within the region, particularly through the effective and substantive implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025), and look forward to Japan's continued engagement with ASEAN under the IAI Work Plan V (2026-2030), which will incorporate elements of, and align with ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future. We also appreciated Japan's continued support for the IAI Attachment Programme, and Master's Degree Programme for the IAI Attachment Programme Graduates from CLMV Countries. We looked forward to Japan's further support for ASEAN's regional integration efforts through the IAI programmes.
21. We appreciated Japan's support for the development of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Strategic Plan which advances human and sustainable development to improve the well-being and quality of life of the ASEAN peoples. We further welcomed Japan's support in communicating the ASCC Strategic Plan to various stakeholders and the wider public to raise awareness and increase stakeholder support and ownership.
22. We welcomed closer cooperation with Japan in the health domain, including through the establishment of an ASEAN-Japan health dialogue and ASEAN-Japan Health Ministers' Meeting and the Senior Officials' Meeting. We appreciated Japan's support for the establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) in the three host ASEAN Member States. We reaffirmed the commitment to the completion of the negotiation of the Centre's establishment agreement at the earliest opportunity and to continuing to provide a conducive working environment for the Japanese experts in their efforts to support the operationalisation of ACPHEED. We looked forward to Japan's continued support to the ASEAN Regional Reserves of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies.
23. We reaffirmed commitment to strengthening healthcare and welfare systems through the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative and Japan's Global Health Strategy, with the goal of achieving more resilient, equitable, and sustainable universal health coverage (UHC) in the region. We welcomed the establishment of a UHC Knowledge Hub in the Tokyo area in 2025 in collaboration with the World Bank (WB) and the WHO. We also encouraged enhanced cooperation in improving health and welfare services for the elderly, including through the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) and annual ASEAN and Japan High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) on Caring Societies. We also appreciated the implementation of the Strengthening Institutional and Organizational Capacity for Promotion of Healthy Ageing Partnership of ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) through JAIF.
24. We welcomed the continued promotion of people-to-people exchanges, as well as cooperation in education, sports, culture, science and technology, and research through various programmes. These include the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS), MEXT Scholarship, the CAMPUS Asia Plus Program, the Working Group on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus Three Countries, ASEAN-Japan Exchange Programme for Secondary School Teachers, ASEAN Human Educational Development Scholarship Partners Program (AHEAD50), ASEAN University/Southeast Asia Engineering Development Network (SEED-Net),

Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0, including “NIHONGO Partners” and “Two-way Intellectual and Cultural Exchange”, Sakura Science Exchange Program, International Fellowships for Research in Japan, Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP), exchanges facilitated by the ASEAN Council of Japan Alumni (ASCOJA) and Asia Japan Alumni (ASJA) International. We encouraged enhanced cooperation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) particularly through industry-focused training and internship opportunities in fields such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and the creative economy, to drive inclusive and innovation-led growth across the region. We underscored the importance of enhancing cultural cooperation through the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and the Arts (2022-2025).

25. We appreciated Japan’s support for the ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme (AJFP), which provides a platform for junior officials to network, as well as gain further understanding on the work of ASEAN.
26. We welcomed the continued cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in advancing regional efforts on climate action and environmental sustainability. We also encouraged collaboration through ASEAN’s centres, including the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACCTHPC), the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDD), and the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), as well as the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD) at ERIA in supporting regional cooperation and promoting sustainable development.
27. We appreciated Japan’s support and the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Programme for ASEAN Climate and Environment (SPACE) in addressing the triple global crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss in the region. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Flyway Network (AFN) initiated by the project on Improving Biodiversity Conservation of Wetlands, and Migratory Waterbirds in the ASEAN Region funded by JAIF.
28. We noted the convening of the 19th ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation (AJDEC) on 30 July 2025, and the 3rd ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change (AJMDEC) held alongside the 18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) in Langkawi, Malaysia in September 2025, expressing commitment to continue convening AJMDEC and noting the updated SPACE 2025 including the ASEAN-Japan Resource Circulation Partnerships on E-Waste, ELV and Critical Minerals (ARCPEEC). We appreciated Japan’s support for the development of the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan 2025-2030 (ACCSAP) and welcomed continued support for its effective implementation to achieve the ASEAN Climate Vision 2050.
29. We also commended ERIA for its collaboration with Brunei Darussalam in organising the “Regional Workshop on Climate Change: ASEAN Centre for Climate Change Activities and Transition Finance Strategies”, in Brunei Darussalam on 21 April 2025, which among others, discussed the priorities and future strategies for the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change.
30. We acknowledged Japan as a strong and long-standing supporter of ASEAN in strengthening disaster management and risk reduction, and appreciated Japan’s continued collaboration in enhancing disaster resilience in the region through the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Disaster Management (AJWPDM) 2021-2025. We looked forward to further cooperation under its successor document, including co-creation of solutions to address

disaster risk reduction challenges and build a resilient region against natural disaster. We also appreciated Japan's support, through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA) Centre, for strengthening the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) and the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), which have significantly contributed to recent disaster responses, including earthquakes, typhoons and floods. We further recognised the AHA Centre Executive: Leadership in Emergency and Disaster Management Programme (ACE-LEDMP), which has greatly enhanced the capacity of disaster management and risk reduction personnel in the region. We welcomed Japan's support for the development of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2026-2030, funded by JAIF, and looked forward to strong collaboration in its implementation. We also appreciated Japan's continuous support in the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar, particularly through the AHA Centre, with a view to support ASEAN's efforts on the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus. We also invited Japan to explore cooperation on the implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Resilience to further enhance disaster and climate resilience across the region.

31. We encouraged ASEAN and Japan to explore potential collaborations in rural development and poverty eradication guided by the ASEAN Framework Action Plan (FAP) on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE) 2021-2025 and its successor document including through practical initiatives under existing mechanisms such as the ASEAN Villages Network, to deliver tangible benefits for local communities.
32. We appreciated Japan's support for the policy review of the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Information and Media (2016-2025) and the development of a New Work Plan (2026-2035) that will guide the strategic cooperation in the information and media sector for the decade ahead. We further commended Japan's strong commitment to support the development of the ASEAN Communication Master Plan III (2026-2030) to amplify ASEAN awareness and foster a shared ASEAN Identity.
33. We looked forward to further strengthening cooperation on sports through the ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports mechanism, and events under the ASEAN Football4SDGs and ASEAN COE for Sports Coaching (ACSC) Roundtable, most recently in April and May 2025 in Malaysia, under the auspices of JAIF, respectively. We also welcomed the implementation of initiatives based on the Chiang Mai Declaration on Strengthening ASEAN-Japan Cooperation on Sports towards 2030. We also noted initiatives such as Sport for Tomorrow, and the ASEAN-Japan Actions on Sports, and the ASIA KAKEHASHI Project+.
34. We valued Japan's continued efforts in advancing collaboration on social welfare and development, and in promoting the rights and well-being of groups in vulnerable situations, particularly women and children, persons with disabilities and older persons. We applauded Japan's commitment to annually organizing the ASEAN and Japan High-Level Officials' Meeting (HLOM) on Caring Societies paving the way for the sharing of good practices in building a society where everyone is supported and cared for. We appreciated Japan's leadership in strengthening collaborative efforts of key sectors, particularly health, labour, and social welfare, to effectively deliver quality services to the people of ASEAN and ensure no one is left behind. In line with this, we commended the conduct of the 22nd ASEAN and Japan High-Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies in Kanagawa, Japan, in November 2024, which promoted cross-sectoral dialogue on the mutually reinforcing linkage between the creation of a healthy society and the achieving of UHC. We welcomed potential collaboration with Japan in achieving disability-inclusive development, especially for children with disabilities, including those with developmental disorders.

35. We looked forward to having more agile and active cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, particularly in the field of social welfare and development. A shared priority should be strengthening the social service workforce in the region to ensure the rights and welfare of persons in the most vulnerable situations and those at higher risks.
36. We reaffirmed our commitment to achieving gender equality, women empowerment, and social inclusion through the implementation of the ASEAN Gender-Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (AGMSF) across all three ASEAN Community pillars. ASEAN acknowledged Japan's technical assistance to support the ASEAN Secretariat to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in the region, and looked forward to further collaboration in implementing the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace, and Security (ASEAN RPA on WPS) and its related work plans and initiatives.
37. We congratulated Japan on successfully hosting Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, with the theme "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," and thanked Japan for its support of the ASEAN Pavilion, which showcased ASEAN's diversity, dynamism, and commitment to sustainability, and promoted the region as a single tourist, trade, and investment destination.
38. We appreciated and encouraged further implementation of the projects under the ASEAN-Japan Technical Cooperation Agreement (TCA) by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which would further contribute to the ASEAN Community building efforts across the pillars. ASEAN welcomed Japan's support to promote quality infrastructure projects through "Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund 2 (LEAP2)" with the Asian Development Bank as part of initiatives to expand and leverage Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s Private-Sector Investment Finance.
39. We welcomed the activities and contribution of the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC) to the promotion of trade, investment, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges between ASEAN and Japan.
40. We acknowledged the work of the ASEAN Committee in Tokyo that helps raise awareness of ASEAN and ASEAN-Japan relations, contributing to advancing the ASEAN-Japan CSP.
41. We expressed concern over the recent developments regarding the Korean Peninsula and stressed the importance of resuming peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We expressed grave concern over the recent surge in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) intercontinental testing and ballistic missile launches, which are worrisome developments that threaten peace and stability in the region. We called on the DPRK to comply fully with all relevant UNSC resolutions and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We also called for the full implementation of all relevant UNSC resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Diplomatic efforts, including the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties, should remain a priority. In this vein, we expressed support for the resumption of dialogue through proactive de-escalation and confidence-building measures, with the aim of achieving peaceful coexistence and shared growth on the Korean Peninsula through the expansion of inter-Korean exchanges, normalisation of relations, and advancing denuclearisation. We reiterated our readiness to play a constructive role, including through ASEAN-led platforms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), in promoting a conducive atmosphere for peaceful dialogue among the concerned parties. We emphasised the importance of

addressing issues of humanitarian concern to the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions and detainees issues.

42. We expressed our deep concern over the continued tensions in the Middle East and called on all parties involved to exercise utmost restraint, avoid actions which could aggravate the situation, and resolve differences through peaceful means, dialogue, and diplomacy in the interest of maintaining regional peace and stability.
43. We welcomed the agreement reached between the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and Israel on the first phase of the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, announced by United States President Donald J. Trump in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 8 October 2025, with a view to achieving a permanent cessation of hostilities. We commended the constructive efforts of the United States of America, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Qatar, and the Republic of Türkiye. We called upon all concerned parties to fully adhere to the agreed terms and urged for its comprehensive implementation. We acknowledged that this development marks a crucial step towards ending the conflict, including preventing further suffering, loss of lives, forced displacement of people, ensuring the release of all hostages and detainees, ensuring full withdrawal of the Israeli forces, supporting the reconstruction of Gaza and realisation of the rights to self-determination and statehood for the Palestinian people.
44. We reaffirmed our strong support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in carrying out its mandate. We called for the full resumption of rapid, safe, unimpeded, and sustained humanitarian access to all those in need, including through enhanced capacity at border crossings and sea routes. We urged all parties to the conflict to protect civilians and to abide by international humanitarian and human rights law. We emphasised the urgent need for a permanent ceasefire, the immediate, unimpeded, safe, and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected communities – including through the strengthening of UNRWA's role and mandate – and the immediate commencement of comprehensive reconstruction efforts in Gaza to rebuild lives and restore the dignity of the Palestinian people. We reiterated our commitment to assisting Palestine in areas, among others, humanitarian aid, reconstruction and state-building through capacity-building and technical cooperation based upon the Kuala Lumpur Action Plan 2025 adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Conference on Cooperation among the East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD IV) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 11 July 2025.
45. We reaffirmed our longstanding support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to their homeland. In this regard, we urged all parties concerned to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict, with a view to realising a two-State solution in accordance with international law and relevant UNSC and UNGA resolutions, including UNGA Resolution A/RES/ES-10/23 on the Admission of New Members to the United Nations (10 May 2024) and UNGA Decision A/DEC/80/506 on the Endorsement of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution (12 September 2025), both of which we supported. We also noted the Advisory Opinions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the question of Palestine, including on The Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organisations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, issued on 22 October 2025.
46. We expressed our deep concern over the escalation of conflicts and humanitarian situation in Myanmar and urged progress on the implementation of the ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus

(5PC). We denounced the continued acts of violence against civilians, public facilities, and civilian infrastructures, and urged all parties involved to take concrete action to immediately halt indiscriminate violence, exercise utmost restraint, ensure the protection and safety of all civilians and civilian infrastructures, and create a conducive environment for the delivery of non-discriminatory humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogue. We also welcomed the continued progress in the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar by the AHA Centre.

47. We commended the dedicated efforts of H.E. Tan Sri Othman Hashim as the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar. In carrying out his mandate, the Special Envoy has actively engaged a wide and diverse range of stakeholders through an inclusive approach, reflecting ASEAN's commitment to collective efforts in addressing the complex challenges in Myanmar.
48. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability in the region, safety and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety and welcomed the progress achieved so far in the ongoing negotiations on an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), notably the completion of the third reading and renaming of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text (SDNT) to Draft COC. We also emphasised the importance of continued positive momentum towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including 1982 UNCLOS.