

**ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement
on the Occasion of the 40th Anniversary
of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC)**

- **Recalling** the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 24 February 1976 in Bali, Indonesia and the subsequent Protocols amending the TAC;
- **Noting** that there are presently ten High Contracting Parties in Southeast Asia, and twenty-two High Contracting Parties from outside Southeast Asia;
- **Recognising** the positive contributions of the TAC to promoting peace and stability in the region over the past 40 years, and which continue to be an important foundation for the development of an inclusive, rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community and to the promotion of ASEAN centrality;
- **Recalling** the ASEAN Charter which urges State Parties to resolve disputes peacefully and in accordance with the rule of law;
- **Recalling also** the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) which states that the TAC is the key code of conduct governing relations between States and a diplomatic instrument for the promotion of peace and stability in the region;
- **Emphasising** that the aspirations of, and commitment to, the TAC serve as a foundation upon which is built an ASEAN vision of an integrated, peaceful and stable community with shared prosperity as envisaged in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;
- **Recognising** the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the region by resolving differences and disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter and principles of international law;

- **We, the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN, on this auspicious occasion of the 40th anniversary of the signing and the entry into force of the TAC,**
 - **Reaffirm** the importance of the TAC as a key instrument governing relations between States to maintain regional peace and stability;
 - **Underscore** the continuing importance and relevance of the purposes and principles of the TAC, encompassing peaceful settlement of disputes, renunciation of the threat or use of force and promotion of rule of law, as cardinal principles in the conduct of peaceful relations amongst States;
 - **Agree** to work together to strengthen respect for the purposes and principles of the TAC, and in this connection, to undertake the relevant action lines on this matter as agreed to in the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025;
 - **Call** on all High Contracting Parties, including High Contracting Parties from outside Southeast Asia, to continue to fully respect and promote the effective implementation of the TAC, especially the purposes and principles contained therein;
 - **Recognise** the growing interest of other non-ASEAN Member States to accede to the TAC, which reflects a positive signal of their commitment to the purposes and principles contained in the TAC, to strengthen cooperation with ASEAN and contribute to peace and security in the region;
 - **Agree** to consider new applications in accordance with the Revised Guidelines for Accession to the TAC;
 - **Appreciate** the importance of the TAC as one of the key codes of conduct in the ASEAN-centred regional architecture;
 - **Commit** to uphold ASEAN Centrality in all ASEAN-led mechanisms to ensure that the evolving regional architecture can better meet challenges from global developments; and
 - **Explore** a legally binding instrument building upon the TAC for the wider region.
