

JOINT PRESS RELEASE
ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING WITH
THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL AND
THE PRESIDENT OF THE 70TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 29 September 2015

ASEAN and the United Nations today reaffirmed their partnership to work towards the realization of the ASEAN Community and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This commitment was made at the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting held at the UN Headquarters in New York, United States of America. Chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, the Meeting was attended by the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the President of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, and other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN. Also in attendance were the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, and senior officials of the UN System.

Noting that 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and a milestone in the establishment of an ASEAN Community, the Meeting welcomed the formal adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals at the Summit on 25-27 September. The two Organisations also looked forward to the Climate Change Summit in Paris in December. ASEAN welcomed various reviews by the UN in peace and security, including by the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, and the UN looked forward to the presentation of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision in the near future.

The Meeting welcomed the progress in the cooperation within the framework of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN and also endorsed the recommendations of the ASEAN-UN Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting held on 26 September 2015 as reflected in the 2013-2015 Joint Report submitted by the Secretariats of ASEAN and the UN.

Both sides agreed to redouble efforts to enhance the efficiency of ASEAN-UN cooperation through a more coordinated approach, strategic and long-term planning, and stable funding sources. They agreed to strengthen concrete cooperation in each pillar of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership, including Secretariat-to-Secretariat collaboration. They also agreed to work on a five-year plan of action to implement the Joint Declaration in the post-2015 period, to be finalised in the first quarter of 2016.

The Meeting further recognised the importance of considering the implementation of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision alongside the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to complement one another, particularly in reducing poverty and hunger, tackling inequalities and promoting women empowerment, fostering sustainable economic growth and equitable social development, protecting the environment, ensuring peoples' access to clean water and clean air, minimizing adverse impact of climate change and building effective institutions to achieve sustainable and inclusive development as well as in enhancing the collaboration between the UN and its specialised agencies with various ASEAN's mechanisms and institutions.

The United Nations reaffirmed its continued support to ASEAN's post-2015 community building and ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architectures. The Meeting also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concerns, such as peacekeeping and conflict prevention, combatting international terrorism and preventing violent extremism, addressing transnational crime including drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, the irregular movement of persons, disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, food and energy security, global health issues, and inclusive and sustainable development. The Meeting also affirmed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes, including in the South China Sea, through dialogue and in conformity with international law.

The Meeting looked forward to the upcoming Seventh ASEAN-United Nations Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where the Leaders will formally review the Comprehensive Partnership and chart its future course towards the common goals of peace, security, and sustainable development.

The Meeting welcomed ASEAN's continuing efforts to engage with the UN and, in this connection, noted that candidatures from ASEAN have been submitted to the UN bodies, reflecting ASEAN's continuing interest to contribute positively to the work of these bodies and to multilateralism in general.

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