

**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE SECOND ASEAN-MERCOSUR  
MINISTERIAL MEETING**

WE, the Ministers of External/Foreign Relations of the ASEAN Member States of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the one hand, and, on the other, the MERCOSUR Member States of the Republic of Argentina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, met in New York on the 22 day of September, 2017, at the margins of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

RECALLING the previous ASEAN-MERCOSUR Meetings, held in November 2008, in Brasilia, on the sidelines of the III Ministerial Meeting of the Forum for East Asia Latin-America Cooperation (FEALAC), and also in September 2009, in New York, at the margins of the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, we emphasize the importance of exploring ways to further strengthen inter-regional ties especially in the trade, investment and economic fields.

WE SHARE the view that strengthening cooperation on economic fields is essential for the sustainable development and inclusive prosperity of our nations, and the welfare of our peoples.

WE AGREE to further enhance economic relations between MERCOSUR and ASEAN Member States, including in sustainable development cooperation, tourism, connectivity, innovation and people-to-people links.

WE EXPRESS our support to facilitate the increased engagement with the private sector, in particular of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), in trade and commerce activities between our two regions as well as encouraging regular business interaction and participation in each other's trade and investment fairs.

WE LOOK FORWARD to promoting regular exchanges of information on opportunities for trade and investment.

WE EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE of exploring opportunities to strengthen mutual cooperation in other areas and activities as agreed by all Parties in the future.