



**ASEAN  
CAMBODIA 2022**

**ASEAN A.C.T:  
Addressing Challenges Together**

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT  
OF THE 23<sup>RD</sup> ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA SUMMIT  
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 11 NOVEMBER 2022**

1. The 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit was held on 11 November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Meeting was chaired by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and attended by ASEAN Member States and H.E. Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the ROK. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We reiterated the support for Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme "ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together", which reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to facing our common challenges and to sustaining the dynamism of our collective efforts with a strong sense of togetherness to sustain the momentum of the ASEAN's Community-building efforts. We congratulated Cambodia for the successful convening of the 55<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings from 31 July to 06 August 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
3. We noted with satisfaction the good progress of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations over the past year and reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership. In this regard, we welcomed the good progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Vision on Peace, Prosperity and Partnership (2021-2025).
4. We underscored the importance of multilateralism, regionalism, and international law in contributing to global and regional peace, stability, and prosperity. We further affirmed enhancing ASEAN-ROK cooperation in realising the principles stated in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), including strengthening ASEAN Centrality, openness, transparency, inclusivity, a rules-based framework, good governance, respect for sovereignty, non-interference, complementarity with existing cooperation frameworks, equality, mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit, and respect for international law. ASEAN welcomed the ROK's renewed commitment to ASEAN and its unwavering support for ASEAN Centrality. ASEAN encouraged the ROK to support the AOIP and undertake substantive, practical and tangible cooperation with ASEAN, through practical projects to promote mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual benefit through ASEAN-led mechanisms, in accordance with the principles and key areas contained in the AOIP as well as the vision of a free, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific presented by the ROK, thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. ASEAN welcomed ROK's commitment to a free, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific, which enhances the complementarities with the

objectives and principles of the AOIP, including respect for ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms. ASEAN took note of the ROK's policy on the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative and looked forward to receiving more details of the initiative.

5. We recalled the Joint Statement of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit on Advancing ASEAN-ROK Cooperation for People-centred Community of Peace and Prosperity, which was adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-ROK Summit in October 2021. In this vein, ASEAN appreciated the ROK's renewed commitment in further expanding and deepening the strategic partnership with ASEAN through mutually beneficial and future-oriented and sustainable cooperation. ASEAN welcomed the ROK's announcement of its request for an ASEAN-ROK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) and looked forward to close cooperation based on more details of the said request.
6. We reiterated our commitment to further strengthening cooperation to address non-traditional security issues, including transnational crime, countering terrorism, violent extremism, cyber security and maritime security, through existing ASEAN-led mechanisms such as APT, the EAS, the ARF, and the ADMM-Plus. We agreed to continue implementing effectively the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)-ROK Work Plan (2019-2023) for Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Transnational Crime. We also noted the successful convening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Plus ROK Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation on 22 September 2022. We appreciated the ROK's active participation and contribution to a number of ARF activities. In promoting humanitarian assistance in mine action, we appreciated the ROK's support to the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) through its three-year project on Enhancing Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States. We welcomed the launching of Friends of ARMAC (FOA) on 23 September 2021 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to expand ARMAC's working relationship to deepen regional outreach and enable contributions from relevant stakeholders to humanitarian mine actions.
7. We welcomed enhanced defense cooperation between ASEAN and ROK through ROK's action plan for ASEAN-ROK Defence Cooperation as well as the ADMM-Plus including co-chairing with Malaysia the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus Experts' Working Group on Cybersecurity (ADMM-Plus EWG on CS) in the 2021-2023 cycle.
8. We congratulated Cambodia for successfully convening the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit in Phnom Penh on 12 October 2022 in a hybrid format.
9. We acknowledged with satisfaction the stable momentum of the ASEAN-ROK economic cooperation, with ROK remaining an important trade and investment partner for ASEAN, despite the COVID-19 disruptions. The ROK was ASEAN's fifth largest trading partner and fifth largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2021, with two-way trade volume reaching USD 189.5 billion, and FDI inflows from the ROK to ASEAN amounting to 7.1 billion. We agreed to facilitate trade and investment linkages and deepen business-to-business cooperation, including through the effective implementation of the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade

Agreement (AKFTA) and the RCEP Agreement, with a view to supporting regional recovery. We looked forward to the completion of the Joint Review Study of the AKFTA, which will serve as a reference for further deliberation on the possible upgrade of the AKFTA as well as to advance the discussion of further liberalisation of the Sensitive Track products under the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement (AKTIGA). In addition, we also looked forward to the full implementation of the Third Protocol to Amend the AKTIGA by all Parties. We also agreed to further promote the transfer of knowledge and advanced technologies to ASEAN businesses, including start-ups and MSMEs through the ASEAN-ROK Start-ups Partnership. We welcomed the activities of the ASEAN-Korea Business Council (AKBC) and ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) in supporting trade and investment flow, deepening business-to-business cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK, as well as contributing to comprehensive recovery in the region. We also welcomed the ROK's continued support in the areas of the ROK's expertise, particularly in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), such as digital transformation, e-commerce, science, technology and innovation, smart infrastructure, and future industries. We encouraged the ROK to explore potential areas of cooperation with ASEAN and appreciated ongoing cooperation in various projects and activities, particularly in emerging areas such as digital trade, sustainable economy, sustainable development and prosperity, supply chain resilience, human resource development, science and technology, amongst others.

10. We appreciated the ROK's continued support and cooperation in enhancing regional connectivity and narrowing the development gap within ASEAN, including through the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025). We also appreciated the ROK's support for ASEAN's efforts in supporting sub-regional development cooperation, including through the Mekong-ROK and the BIMP-EAGA-ROK Cooperation framework. In this regard, we welcomed the ROK's contribution of USD 10 million to the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) as well as USD 6 million to the BIMP-EAGA-ROK Cooperation Fund (BKCF). We looked forward to the conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASEAN-ROK Air Services Agreement (AK-ASA) that would further enhance air transport connectivity between ASEAN and the ROK and facilitate tourism, and support trade of goods and services in the effort to boost economic recovery.
11. We welcomed the success of the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-ROK Health Ministers' Meeting, which was convened on 15 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. We also welcomed the ROK's close cooperation and support for ASEAN in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the ROK's contribution of USD 6 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and through the project on 'Enhancing the Detection Capacity for COVID-19 in ASEAN Member States, as well as its efforts to promote cooperation on the development, production and distribution of medicines and vaccines for COVID-19 and other diseases in future public health emergencies, in line with the focus of the first phase of the urgent implementation of the Regional Strategic and Action Plan on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance (AVSSR) 2021-2025. ASEAN looked forward to the ROK's continued support to ASEAN's Community-building efforts and initiatives to address the

- pandemic, including the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan and the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies.
12. We welcomed the launching of the ASEAN-ROK Financial Cooperation Centre at the Mission of the ROK to ASEAN in Jakarta on 13 April this year and looked forward to the signing MOU of the ASEAN-ROK Science and Technology Cooperation Centre (AKSTCC) as well as welcomed the progress in discussions on ASEAN-Korea Joint Standardization Research Centre and the ASEAN-Korea Industrial Innovation Centre (AKIIC). We appreciated the ROK for increasing its annual contribution to the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund (AKCF) from USD 14 million to USD 16 million starting this year and ASEAN appreciated ROK's commitment to expanding the volume of ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund significantly by 2027.
  13. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthening people-to-people and cultural exchanges through TVET, scholarships, workshops and activities through relevant sectoral bodies, including the ASEAN-Korea Centre and the cultural centres in Seoul, Busan, Gwangju, and Bangkok. We welcomed the successful convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-ROK Youth Dialogue on 18-20 July 2022 via videoconference and on 24-27 July 2022 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. We appreciated the ROK's support for the expansion of scholarship programmes through the ASEAN-ROK project on "Higher Education for ASEAN Talents: Scholarship Opportunity for ASEAN Faculty Members in the ROK (HEAT)."
  14. We welcomed the successful convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) Plus ROK held in Bangkok on October 2022 and the adoption of the Joint Statement for the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management. We also noted ROK's support for various environmental cooperation programmes through ASEAN-ROK Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change. We emphasised the importance of enhancing ASEAN's capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from future emergencies and disasters. In this regard, we encouraged both ASEAN and the ROK to share best practices and lessons learned to improve the coordination of existing ASEAN processes and mechanisms, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (ASEAN SHIELD).
  15. We looked forward to enhancing cooperation on environmental issues, including biodiversity conservation and climate change. We noted the ongoing development of a work plan for the ASEAN-ROK Carbon Dialogue and appreciated ROK's initiative for Partnership for the ASEAN-ROK Methane Action (PARMA). ASEAN welcomed ROK's proposal for the establishment of ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Centre for Carbon Neutrality and Green Transition. We agreed to cooperate on the establishment and operation of the ASEAN Centre on Climate Change in Brunei Darussalam. We noted the importance of working closely together to explore alternative approaches towards a more resilient and sustainable.

16. We took note of Cambodia's idea to establish an ASEAN Green Deal with the aim to gradually transform ASEAN region towards a green future, sustainability, effective use of resources, resilience, and economic competitiveness.
17. We supported the strengthened cooperation in labour, workforce and human resource development, as well as develop a regional workforce that is future-ready, competitive and resilient. In this vein, we took note of Viet Nam's plan to work with the ROK to develop a joint proposal on holding an ASEAN-ROK symposium on the resumption of labour supply and promoting decent labour work force.
18. We welcomed the proposal to hold an ASEAN-Korea Day scheduled to be held in the first half of 2023 in Viet Nam to better connecting peoples and businesses and further strengthening the ASEAN-ROK strategic partnership and comprehensive cooperation to a new height, leading up to the milestone of 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-ROK relations in 2024.
19. We underlined the importance of the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) in enhancing economic linkages, socio-cultural exchange and mutual understanding between countries and peoples of ASEAN and ROK, and looked forward to further details of Viet Nam's proposal on promoting the role of the AKC.
21. We reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability and pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. ASEAN remains committed to the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety and shall continue negotiations toward the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.
22. We emphasised the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, security, safety and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea, in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We noted that this year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and also the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the 1982 UNCLOS.
23. We expressed grave concerns over the recent surge in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s intercontinental ballistic missile testing and ballistic missile launches and its rhetoric on the possible use of nuclear weapons. We called on the DPRK to fully comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions and support for all efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We stressed the importance of endeavours to de-escalate the situation and continued peaceful dialogue amongst all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. To this end, ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's recently unveiled Audacious Initiative, which aims to achieve a denuclearised, peaceful and prosperous Korean Peninsula as well as contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. We reiterated our readiness to play a constructive role, including through utilising ASEAN-led

platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue amongst the concerned parties.

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