

ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit 2022

Joint Leaders' Statement

WE, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU), gathered on 14 December 2022 in Brussels, Belgium, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations at the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit;

NOTING the decision of the 23rd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in 2020 to elevate the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations to a Strategic Partnership;

WELCOMING the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership (2023-2027) at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) +1 with the EU held on 4 August 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

REAFFIRMING that ASEAN and the EU are strategic partners with a shared interest in a peaceful, stable and prosperous region, where international law and the rules-based international order are respected and upheld, and where peace, security and stability are maintained, including through, among others, the promotion and protection of human rights such as gender equality and fundamental freedoms;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING our mutual respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, non-interference and political independence of all nations, as espoused in the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS), the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific;

SHARING a fundamental commitment to the rules-based international order. Respect for and promotion of international law, including the UN Charter, is crucial for maintaining peace, promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and advancing sustainable development. ASEAN and the EU both believe in the importance of strengthening the rules-based multilateral system, including through the promotion of effective multilateralism. We have a shared interest in promoting international law and international norms and standards, thereby contributing to a peaceful, fair and prosperous world. We reaffirm our commitment to regionalism and multilateralism, which are mutually reinforcing and which contribute to regional and global peace, security, stability and prosperity;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Indo-Pacific represents a dynamic area with numerous growth opportunities which can only be fully unlocked by respecting international law;

NOTING that both the AOIP and the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific share relevant fundamental principles in promoting an open, inclusive, transparent and rules-based regional architecture in the Indo-Pacific region, in which ASEAN is central;

RECOGNISING that global challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution require joint efforts, taking account of ASEAN's and the EU's relevant policies and international agreements;

RECOGNISING the common strategic interest of holding regular leaders level engagement between ASEAN and the EU, and looking forward to a decision on regular Summits in 2023;

WELCOMING the signing of the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (AE CATA), the first-ever region-to-region aviation agreement;

WELCOMING the EU's commitment to supporting sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, enhanced mobility and an enabling environment in the ASEAN region;

NOTING, in the context of the Global Gateway, the launch of the Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Connectivity of the EU, which aims to enhance ASEAN-EU cooperation and be complemented by concrete projects at both regional and national levels across South-East Asia, while welcoming the EU's expected contribution of around EUR 10 billion for the implementation of Global Gateway in the ASEAN region;

WELCOMING the ASEAN-EU Business Summit and the ASEAN-EU Youth Summit, both held in conjunction with the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit.

WE HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

As we commemorate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations, we commit to develop the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership that is based on international law, mutual interest and mutually beneficial cooperation on issues of common concern and the principle of equality.

We hold a shared view of the Indo-Pacific region as one of dynamic growth and opportunities, but also of security challenges. In this context, we are committed to strengthening our cooperation, based on the shared relevant fundamental principles of our respective Indo-Pacific approaches. We will explore potential collaboration in the four priority areas of the AOIP and the seven priority areas of the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, all in accordance with the principles of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Charter, and the AOIP. ASEAN

noted the EU's willingness to follow-up on the Indo-Pacific Forum held in February 2022 and the opportunities of cooperation highlighted in Paris.

Peace and Security

1. We welcome the growing engagement between ASEAN and the EU on a broad range of traditional and non-traditional security and defence-related issues, such as transnational crime, maritime security, Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), peacekeeping operations, military medicine, cybersecurity and counter-terrorism, as well as the EU's active engagement in the ASEAN Regional Forum, including as co-chair of the thematic work stream on counterterrorism and transnational crime for the period of 2020-2022.
2. We are committed to respect the exercise of the freedoms of navigation and overflight, the rights of passage, as well as unimpeded lawful commerce in our respective regions and beyond, in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.
3. We will jointly address common challenges on cyber-related issues, including cyber-security and cybercrime, notably to advance responsible state behaviour in the use of ICTs, in particular through the implementation of the agreed norms of responsible state behaviour, building on the consensus reports adopted by the relevant UN Group of Governmental Experts (UNGGE) and the Open-ended Working Group on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (OEWG), as well as to implement practical capacity and confidence building measures, including through relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms.
4. We note the EU's commitment to support the open, transparent and inclusive ASEAN-led regional architecture. In this context, we welcome the EU's support for ASEAN-led mechanisms and note with appreciation its interest in joining the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus and the observership programme of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups on Peacekeeping Operations, and on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, subject to these mechanisms' respective enlargement processes.

Economic Cooperation and Trade

5. We are resolved to continue our robust economic cooperation, with the EU as the third largest trading partner and second largest investor of ASEAN. We will promote sustainable and inclusive trade and investment. This will include important areas such as climate change, water security, marine debris, green

and circular economy, renewable energy and digital transitions. We aim to promote resilient, efficient, and environmentally, economically and socially sustainable global supply chains. ASEAN also encourages the EU's cooperation in programmes aimed at developing, empowering and supporting Micro Small and Medium Enterprises which are the backbone of the ASEAN economy.

6. We affirm our support for preserving and strengthening an open, free, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, and a more level playing field in global trade and investment, including promoting added value investments. We encourage exchanges on competition issues between ASEAN and the EU, including through the ASEAN Expert Group on Competition, with a view to promote a level playing field for all.
7. We welcome trade opportunities through EU bilateral free trade agreements with ASEAN Member States. We will intensify our engagement on trade and economic issues and to explore other avenues in the short and medium terms to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest such as digital economy, green technologies and green services and supply chain resilience, while reaffirming a future ASEAN-EU FTA as a common long-term objective.
8. We recognise the importance of key stakeholder engagement, and encourage continuing engagements and dialogue with stakeholders, including from the private sector, youth, women's organisations, civil society and the digital sector via existing mechanisms.

Connectivity, Digital Transition and Narrowing the Development Gap

9. We will continue to advance the implementation of the ASEAN-EU Joint Ministerial Statement on Connectivity adopted in 2020. We encourage the development of quality infrastructure investment and its contribution towards affordable, reliable and sustainable connectivity, with due consideration to the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment. We look forward to reinforcing sustainable and trusted connections to tackle the most pressing global challenges, from climate change and protecting the environment, to improving health security and boosting competitiveness and global supply chains.
10. We encourage further cooperation under relevant policy frameworks, including the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and the EU's Global Gateway strategy to develop quality infrastructure in line with international standards. We will also explore further possible cooperation on the European standards for the

construction sector (Eurocodes) with the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality's Building and Construction Working Group.

11. We affirm the importance of effective data protection rules as a key enabler for trust in the digital transformation and cross-border cooperation. We aim to continue working towards identifying commonalities and complementarities in our regulatory approaches, including to facilitate trustworthy data flows. In this context, we welcome the completion of part 1 of the ASEAN-EU Joint-Guide on Model Contractual Clauses for Data Transfers, as a practical tool showing the benefits of our cooperation, while noting the ongoing work on part 2 of the Guide.
12. We commend the work undertaken in existing sectoral dialogues, such as the ASEAN-EU Senior Transport Officials' Dialogue (ASEAN-EU STOD), the ASEAN Digital Senior Officials Meeting Plus EU Dialogue (ADGSOM+EU), as well as the supportive role of the Enhanced Regional ASEAN-EU Dialogue Instrument (E-READI).
13. We are committed to further developing mutually recognised standards and to supporting the development of peaceful, secure, open, interoperable, reliable, inclusive and resilient digital economies.
14. We welcome our people-to-people connectivity initiatives and we encourage stronger research and education links between ASEAN and the EU, including exchanges among researchers, students and youth. We commit to deepen our collaboration in science, technology and innovation, such as in the field of global space-based infrastructures, services, application and data, including through services provided by the EU's Galileo's satellite navigation system and the EU's Copernicus Earth observation system to help preserve a safe and secure space environment and the peaceful use of outer space on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis. We call on young people and educators to make use of available opportunities for educational exchanges and cooperation through Horizon Europe, the Erasmus+ programme, as well as national programmes in ASEAN and EU Member States. In this context, we note the contribution to intra-ASEAN mobility by the EU higher education programme EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE).
15. We endorse efforts towards a closer dialogue between the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) and the EU.
16. We will continue to promote and strengthen people mobility between ASEAN and the EU, including student, faculty and researcher mobility through

scholarships, internships and programmes, and support the development and voluntary implementation of regional and inter-regional frameworks, tools and mechanisms to strengthen capacity of ASEAN Member States.

17. We welcome the EU's contribution towards ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gaps among ASEAN Member States as well as between ASEAN and the rest of the world, including through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025) in order to realise the ASEAN Community and regional integration, as well as taking into account existing sub-regional cooperation frameworks.

Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Change and Energy

18. We reaffirm our shared commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We pledge to advance cooperation through the ASEAN-EU Sustainable Development Dialogue and the High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change. We look forward to the convening of the first ASEAN-EU Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change in 2023.
19. We appreciate the EU's continued strong support for the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management and we look forward to improved cooperation in the fields of environment, disaster management, sustainable development and climate change, including through the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change once it is established.
20. We emphasise the importance of the ASEAN-EU High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change as a platform to strengthen policy dialogue and advance ASEAN-EU cooperation on environmental, climate change, and sustainable development issues.
21. We are committed to pursuing our joint efforts for climate change and sustainable development and finding common policy and action areas based on mutual agreement between ASEAN's and the EU's relevant action plans and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework to ensure a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We further emphasise that measures taken to address climate change should be consistent with the relevant international rules and principles, including those under the WTO and the UNFCCC.

22. We will strengthen our shared endeavours regarding climate change by promoting enhanced collaboration between ASEAN and the EU for a green and inclusive transition, underpinned by cooperation in the areas of environment, climate change and green technologies.
23. We will advocate for a multilateral, rules-based approach, informed by the best available science, to addressing climate change, including by confirming the importance of swift implementation of the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, while committing to the global ambition and translating it into concrete policies and joint initiatives. We also agreed to work together closely towards a successful outcome of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in December, and note that the outcomes of COP27 and COP15 will allow the global community to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees and turn the tide of biodiversity loss.
24. We will implement and support our strong engagement on environment and climate change through concrete ASEAN-EU initiatives and programmes, including policy dialogue, financial support, as well as technical expertise.
25. We welcome the joint efforts to promote sustainable urbanisation, in line with relevant policy frameworks, and through the EU-funded Smart Green ASEAN Cities Projects and through the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility, which supports green infrastructure investments.
26. We look forward to the efforts to realise the energy transition towards climate neutrality, linked to ASEAN and EU goals to increase energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy, underpinned by cooperation and investment projects in renewable energy in ASEAN Member States, as well as the ASEAN-EU Energy Dialogue.
27. We look forward to regularly conducting the ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development as a platform to discuss and promote cooperation on sustainable development; enhancing complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as supporting the work of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) to promote sustainable development cooperation in ASEAN.
28. In the spirit of mutual cooperation, we welcome the convening of the 2nd Joint Working Group (JWG) on Palm Oil between relevant ASEAN Member States

and the EU as per the agreed Terms of Reference and the relevant parties' continued constructive discussion pertaining to sustainable vegetable oil production in the said JWG.

29. We will encourage cooperation to spur sustainable and green investments, including via exploring cooperation on sustainable finance taxonomies.
30. We commit to work towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to protect biodiversity, particularly on sustainable management and utilisation of water and natural resources; access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy; and sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, fisheries and forestry, as well as to continue the cooperation, including on capacity building and technical assistance, against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
31. We look forward to continuing cooperation on circular economy, including by building on the recommendations from the gap analysis study on circular economy for plastics, and we welcome the establishment of the ASEAN Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform as part of a joint initiative between ASEAN and the EU.
32. We seek a closer partnership on green and sustainable development between ASEAN and the EU, building upon the Green Team Europe Initiative that was launched during the 3rd ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development in November 2021, where applicable, and noting the EU's EUR 30 M Green Initiative Programme to support ASEAN-EU cooperation on climate action, circular economy, environmental and biodiversity protection, clean energy transition, disaster resilience, prevention of illegal logging, wildlife trafficking and air pollution.
33. We will explore further cooperation to reduce deforestation and enhance sustainable forest and land use, including through partnerships and other cooperation to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as sustainable agricultural supply chains between ASEAN and EU Member States.
34. We will explore further cooperation on the implementation of the "One health approach", recognising the interdependence of human, animal and ecosystem health. We will also promote tighter connections between regional health capacities, including through the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED).

35. We will continue supporting efforts to fight the current global food crisis and cooperate closely on this issue.
36. We will promote decent work and labour rights for every person, paying special attention to vulnerable groups and those most severely impacted by the pandemic.

COVID-19 Pandemic

37. We recognise the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our societies and economies and the need for a sustainable and inclusive recovery. We appreciate Team Europe's package of over EUR 800 million in the ASEAN region, including the EUR 20 million financial support for health resilience of the "South East Asia Health Pandemic Response and Preparedness" support programme, and acknowledge the EU's contributions in vaccine export and donations to Southeast Asia.
38. We support joint pandemic recovery and health security efforts, while emphasising the need for greater cooperation at the regional and global levels to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030 based on strong primary health care systems, bolster health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and enhance the capacity of ASEAN Member States to produce health technologies and innovations at the national and regional levels to effectively respond to health emergencies.
39. We reiterate our continued willingness and determination to take concrete actions towards strengthening prevention, detection, preparedness and response for future emergencies, crises or health threats at all levels, including through reinforcing primary healthcare and enhancing production capacities for healthcare products in ASEAN countries, and making full use of regional mechanisms such as the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED).
40. We envisage enhanced collaboration, coordination and sharing of information and experiences and expertise with a view to mitigating the profound and multidimensional impact of the pandemic, strengthening supply chain connectivity, supporting economic recovery and improving stability and resilience of the region, including through support in the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan.

Regional and International Issues

41. We reaffirm the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea, in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS. We reaffirm the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of all activities and avoid actions that could increase tensions and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings, and miscalculation, as well as to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, which is commemorating its 40th anniversary this year.
42. We note the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/76/72 emphasising in the Preamble, the universal and unified character of the 1982 UNCLOS, and reaffirming that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained.
43. We recognised the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability, and prosperity. We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. We encourage all countries to avoid any unilateral actions that endanger peace, security and stability in the region. We emphasise the need to maintain and promote an environment conducive to the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) negotiations. We welcome further progress towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC consistent with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.
44. We remain deeply concerned over the crisis situation in Myanmar. We recall Myanmar's commitment to the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus during the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on 24 April 2021 and urge the timely and complete implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, including the *ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus* adopted at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits on 11 November 2022. The EU will continue to support ASEAN's efforts to facilitate a peaceful solution in the interest of the people of Myanmar, including through the work of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, in building confidence and trust with full access to all parties concerned, and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar, including those who are the most in need, without discrimination. We reiterate our commitment to peace and stability in the region and continue to call for the immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar and for the release of all political detainees, including foreigners. We

denounce the executions of four opposition activists in July. We will redouble our collective efforts towards a peaceful solution in Myanmar that also reflects a continued commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, as outlined in the ASEAN Charter. We welcome close coordination between the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar and the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar to ensure synergy in this important endeavour. ASEAN welcomes and looks forward to the continued support from its external partners, such as the EU, for ASEAN's efforts to implement the Five-Point Consensus.

45. We stressed the importance of, and reiterated our continued support for, Myanmar's commitment to ensure safety and security for all communities in Rakhine State as effectively as possible and facilitate the voluntary return of displaced persons in a safe, secure, and dignified manner in accordance with the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh.
46. This year, we have also witnessed the war in Ukraine further adversely impact the global economy. There was a discussion on the issue. We reiterated our positions as expressed in other fora, including the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly, which, in Resolution No. ES-11/1 dated 2 March 2022, as adopted by majority vote (141 votes for, 5 against, 35 abstentions, 12 absent) deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and demands its complete and unconditional withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine. Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy – constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity, and elevating financial stability risks. There were other views and different assessments of the situation and sanctions. We continue to reaffirm, as for all nations, the need to respect the sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine.
47. In this context, the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible and we reaffirm our commitment to the objectives of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, including the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, and recall the importance of advancing discussions between the NWS and the ASEAN countries on the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. We take note of the Joint Statement of the Leaders of China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA, on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races on 3 January, 2022.
48. We acknowledge the importance of food security and nutrition. We express concern over the food crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the

ongoing war in Ukraine. We welcome the efforts by the UN that have led to the establishment of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and we call for an unrestricted export of Ukrainian grain. ASEAN leaders commend EU actions in support of food supply chains and all sides welcome G20 efforts in this regard under Indonesia's Presidency, as well as efforts by the UN Secretary General. We commit, and call on all countries, to maintain food and agricultural markets open to ensure the global flow of essential agricultural goods and inputs, including fertilizers.

49. We express grave concern over the surge in the DPRK's intercontinental ballistic missile testing and ballistic missile launches. We urge the DPRK to cease these launches and refrain from nuclear tests. In this regard, we stressed the importance of endeavours to de-escalate the situation and to resume peaceful dialogue amongst all parties concerned in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We called on the DPRK to fully comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions. ASEAN and the EU reiterate their commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and support international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Diplomatic efforts, including the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue amongst all concerned parties, should remain a priority. 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.

50. We express concern over the continuing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. We call for unhindered access to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all regions in the country. We stress the importance of an inclusive and fully representative government, based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons living in Afghanistan, particularly women, girls and children.

As we adopt this Joint Leaders' Statement, we task our relevant officials to implement the above initiatives to complement the programmes and goals identified in the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership (2023-2027), with a view to strengthen the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership.