

Joint Statement of the 2nd Annual ASEAN-Australia Summit on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific

WE, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Australia, on the occasion of the 2nd Annual ASEAN-Australia Summit in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 12 November 2022.

NOTING with satisfaction the significant achievements in enhancing Dialogue Relations between ASEAN and Australia, as ASEAN's first Dialogue Partner, over nearly five decades since 1974;

WELCOMING the establishment of an ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial at the 1st Annual ASEAN-Australia Summit in October 2021;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to implementing and enhancing the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, as outlined in the Annex to the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership (2020-2024);

BUILDING ON the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit: The Sydney Declaration jointly adopted by ASEAN and Australia at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Sydney, Australia in March 2018 and the Joint Statement of the Second ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit: A Strong Partnership for Recovery jointly adopted by ASEAN and Australia at the Second ASEAN-Australia Biennial Summit in November 2020;

RECALLING our shared view to promote a rules-based Indo-Pacific region that embraces key principles such as ASEAN Centrality, inclusiveness, openness and transparency, and complements the ASEAN community-building process;

ACKNOWLEDGING ASEAN's central and strategic role in developing and shaping an open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based regional architecture;

WELCOMING Australia's commitment to increasing cooperation with ASEAN in areas of shared interest such as combatting and adapting to climate change, disaster management and humanitarian assistance through ASEAN-led mechanisms, building health security and advancing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), and noting Australia's initiative to appoint a Special Envoy for Southeast Asia;

REAFFIRMING the objectives and principles of the AOIP, which provides a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean regions, while encouraging external partners to work together with ASEAN to undertake practical cooperation on the four key areas identified in the AOIP;

NOTING that both the AOIP and Australia's vision for the Indo-Pacific share relevant fundamental principles in promoting an open, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture, in which ASEAN is central, and where relations are based on partnership, mutual respect, respect for international law; and noting Australia's vision for an Indo-Pacific that is stable, peaceful, prosperous, secure, and resilient;

WELCOMING Australia's cooperation with ASEAN in support of the concrete implementation of the AOIP, with a view to contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

DO HEREBY COMMIT TO:

1. **Support** ASEAN Community building and enhance further the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, in support of the objectives and principles of the AOIP, by strengthening and optimising relevant existing ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora, including the annual ASEAN-Australia Summit, the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference with Australia (PMC+1), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), the EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting, and the ASEAN Economic Ministers - Closer Economic Relations (CER) Consultations, and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF);
2. **Support** the principles of strengthening ASEAN Centrality, openness, transparency, inclusivity, a rules-based framework, good governance, respect for sovereignty, non-intervention, complementarity with existing cooperation frameworks, equality, mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit and respect for international law, such as the UN Charter, the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other relevant UN treaties and conventions, the ASEAN Charter and the EAS Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (2011), which form the basis of the AOIP;
3. **Strengthen** cooperation through the full and effective implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership (2020-2024), including its Annex to reflect our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, by utilising relevant existing ASEAN-Australia mechanisms and ASEAN-led mechanisms, and advancing ASEAN-Australia initiatives which practically contribute to the implementation of the AOIP, including the Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative, the Australia for ASEAN Scholarships, the Australia for ASEAN Digital Transformation and Futures Skills Initiative, the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Initiative, the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Fellowship Program, the ASEAN-Australia One Health Fellowship Program, the ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards Initiative, Australia's Regional Trade for Development Initiative which supports the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free-Trade Area (AANZFTA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, and the ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities Initiative;
4. **Further reinforce** the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through enhanced concrete cooperation in the four areas as outlined in the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and economic and other possible areas of cooperation, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Maritime cooperation:
 - i. Deepen engagement on maritime safety and security, including through continued constructive dialogues on issues of common

interest and concern through relevant existing ASEAN-led mechanisms;

- ii. Cooperate on combatting illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;
- iii. Cooperate on combatting marine plastic debris and ocean habitat destruction from both sea-based and land-based activities, and promoting healthy oceans;
- iv. Cooperate on upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS;
- v. Cooperate on sustainable management of marine resources, promoting maritime connectivity, protecting the livelihood of coastal communities, supporting small-scale fishing communities, and promoting maritime commerce;
- vi. Cooperate in marine science collaboration; research and development; sharing of experience and best practices, capacity-building, managing marine hazards, marine debris, raising awareness on marine and ocean-related issues;
- vii. Cooperate on addressing transnational crimes, including trafficking in persons or of illicit drugs, piracy and armed robbery against ships.

b. Connectivity:

- i. Enhance the adoption and use of secure and accessible digital technologies/innovations, including by Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups, to stimulate trade, investment, and inclusive economic growth via the promotion of digital integration and connectivity;
- ii. Support ASEAN's infrastructure and connectivity in line with the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, its successor document, and other relevant documents, including through the promotion of public and private infrastructure investment, evaluation and sharing of best practices on infrastructure development as well as through Australia's Partnerships for Infrastructure initiative;
- iii. Support safe labour migration in ASEAN, including through the TRIANGLE in ASEAN program;
- iv. Address challenges of rapid urbanisation through the ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities Initiative and ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities Trust Fund; and

- v. Enhance people-to-people links, including through youth volunteering and exchanges, tourism, and media exchanges, as well as education initiatives such as the *Australia for ASEAN Scholarships*.

c. Sustainable Development Goals 2030:

- i. Support regional energy security and transition to lower-emissions technologies and promote renewable energy for power generation and cross-border power trade, including exploring cooperation on relevant initiatives outlined in the Bandar Seri Begawan Joint Declaration of the 39th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting on Energy Security and Energy, and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 40th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting, such as the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP) which successfully commenced on 23 June 2022;
- ii. Support narrowing the development gap in ASEAN, including the emerging gap arising from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, and promote sustainable and equitable development and inclusive growth across the ASEAN Community, including through provision of capacity building programmes to support the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and its successor document, as well as through aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN, while recognising the relevance of sub-regional development to ASEAN's regional integration and community-building process;
- iii. Continue ASEAN-Australia cooperation on COVID-19 response and recovery as well as boost the health security of the region, including through support for the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED);
- iv. Enhance public health cooperation, particularly on jointly identified issues under the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda such as mental health and regional preparedness and response to public health emergencies;
- v. Enhance cooperation in animal health sectors, including but not limited to zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance;
- vi. Enhance cooperation on gender equality and women's empowerment, including the empowerment of women in digital economy and financial inclusion;
- vii. Cooperate on preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including through the Australia for ASEAN Digital Transformation and Future Skills Initiative;

- viii. Promote complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through exploring cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue and other relevant institutions in the region;
 - ix. Promote biodiversity conservation and management in the region, including through encouraging collaboration with and support for the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB);
 - x. Support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025 to alleviate poverty and eradicate hunger, ensure food security, food safety and better nutrition.
- d. Economic and other possible areas of cooperation:
- i. Support the implementation of ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Blue Economy, with ASEAN as the driving force;
 - ii. Cooperate on adapting to the effects of climate change on the oceans, including rising sea levels, and on climate change adaptation and mitigation in areas of mutual interest such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emission, coastal and marine ecosystems in the context of climate change, including through the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change once it is established, and support ASEAN's transition towards a circular and low-carbon economy;
 - iii. Support ASEAN's efforts to build back cleaner and achieve a green recovery after COVID-19, including through the ACRF, which facilitates ASEAN's priorities in advancing towards a more sustainable and resilient future;
 - iv. Support the effective implementation of the RCEP Agreement and AANZFTA through Australia's Regional Trade for Development initiative;
 - v. Explore cooperation in sustainable minerals mining, capacity building programmes and exchange of knowledge and experiences in minerals, and support the implementation of the ASEAN Mineral Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP) Phase 2 2021-2025;
 - vi. Promote regional and global value chains for future economic resilience;
 - vii. Continue support for the development of science, technology and innovation.

5. Seek to engage, where appropriate, other countries, regional and sub-regional mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions to work with ASEAN on specific areas of common interests to complement the relevant initiatives through innovative, inter-disciplinary and complementary approaches based on the relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the EAS.

Adopted in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, this twelfth of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty Two.