

**Joint Statement of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit  
on Advancing ASEAN-Republic of Korea Cooperation  
for People-centered Community of Peace and Prosperity**

**WE**, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Republic of Korea (ROK), held the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-ROK Summit on 26 October 2021 via video conference;

**NOTING** with satisfaction the positive development of ASEAN-ROK relations since the establishment of Dialogue Relations in 1989 and the significant progress made in ASEAN-ROK cooperation including through ROK's initiatives, which are aligned with relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms;

**APPRECIATING** the ROK's efforts to strengthen the ASEAN-ROK relations through its New Southern Policy (NSP) as well as its upgraded version, the NSP Plus, noting with appreciation the achievements thus far, as highlighted by the ROK on the occasion of this Summit;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to enhancing the ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership and cooperation for mutual benefits as stated in the Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership in 2019 and through the implementation of the ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership (2021-2025);

**RECOGNISING** the socio-economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the region and the need to undertake stronger regional cooperation to jointly address these challenges and establish a more resilient and sustainable future;

**HIGHLIGHTING** the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, which serves as a consolidated strategy for ASEAN to emerge stronger and more resilient from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to effectively implement the ACRF, including through strengthening cooperation with and support and contribution from various stakeholders and external partners of ASEAN;

**REAFFIRMING** the objectives and principles of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which provides a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean regions, while encouraging external partners to work with ASEAN to undertake practical cooperation on the four areas identified in the AOIP through existing ASEAN led-mechanisms;

**WELCOMING** the ROK's commitment to further deepen the ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership and jointly address common challenges by continuing to implement the NSP Plus, in line with ASEAN's strategies and initiatives;

**NOTING** that both the AOIP and the NSP Plus share relevant fundamental principles in promoting peace and cooperation;

**RECOGNISING** the potential of leveraging on enhanced cooperation under the ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership in support of the ASEAN Community-building process and ASEAN's response to current and emerging challenges, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic and promoting recovery, including through the ROK's NSP Plus;

DO HEREBY AGREE TO:

1. **ADVANCE** the ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership into a more substantial, dynamic, and mutually beneficial relationship to better respond to regional and global opportunities and challenges and contribute to enhancing peace, stability and prosperity in the region, including through the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership (2021-2025);
2. **COMMIT** to supporting ASEAN Community-building efforts through ASEAN's major strategies and initiatives, including the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, the AOIP, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025), the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025), the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025, the ACRF and its Implementation Plan, and the ASEAN-ROK Economic Ministers' Joint Initiatives on Bolstering the Economic Connectivity between ASEAN-ROK in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak;
3. **BUILD** a People-oriented, People-centered Community of Peace and Prosperity underpinned by shared principles and priorities through advancing practical cooperation and synergies among the four cooperation areas of the AOIP, the five broad strategies of the ACRF, and the seven initiatives of the NSP Plus, as follows:
  - (i) **People:** Enhancing ASEAN-ROK cooperation in line with the AOIP's focus on *Realising the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030*, the ACRF's Broad Strategies 1 and 2 on *Enhancing Health System and Strengthening Human Security*, the NSP Plus's Initiatives 1, 2 and 3 on *Public Health, Education and Cultural Exchanges*, which include but are not limited to the following areas:
    - COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergencies response;
    - Environment and climate change;
    - Biodiversity conservation;
    - Disaster management, disaster risk reduction, including the health aspects of disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian assistance;
    - Education;
    - Science and technology;
    - Human resources development in response to the future of work and digital transformation, including technical and vocational education and training (TVET);
    - Gender mainstreaming;
    - Good governance and civil service matters;
    - Cultural and people-to-people exchange; and
    - Sustainable development.
  - (ii) **Prosperity:** Enhancing ASEAN-ROK cooperation in line with the AOIP's focus on *Connectivity, Economic and Other Areas of Cooperation*, the ACRF's Broad Strategies 3, 4 and 5 on *Maximising the Potential of Intra-ASEAN Market and Broader Economic Integration, Accelerating Inclusive Digital Transformation and Advancing towards a More Sustainable and Resilient Future*, the NSP Plus's Initiatives 4, 5 and 6

on Trade & Investment, Infrastructure Development and Future Industries, which include but are not limited to the following areas:

- Strengthening economic resilience;
- Trade and investment;
- Financial cooperation;
- Support for businesses such as MSMEs and Startups including through digital upskilling;
- Energy resilience, energy transitions and green growth;
- Digital economy, digital innovation, digital connectivity, cybersecurity and the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution;
- Smart and sustainable cities;
- Sustainable infrastructure, including green infrastructure;
- Development of rural villages and urban infrastructure; and
- Narrowing the Development Gap and sub-regional cooperation.

(iii) **Peace:** Enhancing ASEAN-ROK cooperation in line with the AOIP's focus on *Maritime Cooperation, Connectivity and Other Areas of Cooperation*, the ACRF's Broad Strategy 5 on *Advancing towards a More Sustainable and Resilient Future*, the NSP Plus's Initiative 7 on Transnational Security Cooperation, which include but are not limited to the following areas:

- Maritime security and safety cooperation;
- Marine sustainability;
- Marine plastic debris; and
- Non-traditional security issues;

4. **ENCOURAGE** closer cooperation through programs conducted by ASEAN-ROK institutions, including the ASEAN-Korea Centre in Seoul, the ASEAN Culture House in Busan, and the ASEAN-ROK Financial Cooperation Centre in Jakarta; explore cooperation with ASEAN institutions including the ASEAN Cultural Center in Bangkok, promote the agreed institutionalisation of cooperation in areas such as science & technology and future industries, as well as explore new areas of cooperation including through track 2 collaboration such as the ASEAN-ROK Think Tank Strategic Dialogue;
5. **PROMOTE** and **UTILISE** the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund (AKCF) with a view to further advancing the practical cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK.