

## **ASEAN LEADERS' DECLARATION ON MAINSTREAMING FOUR PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ASEAN OUTLOOK ON THE INDO-PACIFIC WITHIN ASEAN-LED MECHANISMS**

**WE**, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely 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 occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh on 11 November 2022.

**REAFFIRMING** the objectives and principles of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which provides a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.

**RECOGNISING** the continuous need for ASEAN to consistently come up with its collective leadership in forging and shaping the vision for an open, transparent and inclusive regional architecture and closer cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and to continue to maintain its central role in the evolving regional architecture in Southeast Asia and its surrounding regions.

**AFFIRMING** the importance of upholding international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the 1982 UNCLOS, as well as ASEAN's shared values and norms as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), and in order to enhance mutual trust and confidence, promoting dialogue and cooperation in inter-state relations, and taking a multilateral approach in addressing emerging challenges to maintain and promote peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region.

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN Centrality and unity in the evolving regional architecture, and the need for ASEAN to take a proactive role to uphold development of regional and international norms, rules, principles, and values in effectively dealing with global and regional issues of common concern and interest, and in promoting dialogue, confidence building, and cooperation for peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond.

**REAFFIRMING** that the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific envisages ASEAN Centrality as the underlying principle for promoting cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region through ASEAN-led mechanisms.

### **HEREBY DECLARE TO:**

1. **CONTINUE** to encourage external partners to support and undertake substantive, practical and tangible cooperation on the agreed areas of cooperation with ASEAN, in accordance with the principles contained in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, on the four identified key areas, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, as well as economic and other possible areas of cooperation, through practical projects to promote mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual benefit through ASEAN-led mechanisms, thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

2. **WELCOME** the increasing engagement by external partners with a view to contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region through cooperating on the AOIP, as reflected in the various joint statements with ASEAN
3. **AGREE** that projects and activities initiated by ASEAN or jointly initiated by ASEAN and an external partner(s), including those with open and inclusive participation of interested parties in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, and approved by ASEAN, could be considered as AOIP-implementing projects.
4. **WELCOME** the continuing discussions in ASEAN on further mainstreaming cooperation under the AOIP, including through stock-taking exercise of programmes, projects and activities being undertaken within ASEAN and with external partners relative to the four priority areas of AOIP, and the agreed List of Criteria on Mainstreaming the AOIP.
5. **ENSURE** that the mainstreaming of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific through cooperation is based on 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 UN Charter, the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other relevant UN treaties and conventions, the ASEAN Charter and various ASEAN treaties and agreements and the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles).
6. **STRENGTHEN** ASEAN Centrality and unity in ASEAN's constructive engagement with its external partners, through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus-One, ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), in building mutual trust and confidence as well as reinforcing an open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based regional architecture with ASEAN at the centre.
7. **INVITE** cooperation with interested parties in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions on specific areas of common interests to implement the four priority areas of AOIP, where appropriate, while maintaining ASEAN Centrality and Unity without creating new mechanisms.
8. **CALL ON** ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to take steps and measures to strengthen coordination in the promotion and implementation of the principles and relevant priority areas of the AOIP, to develop cross-pillar and cross-sectoral synergies in ASEAN.
9. **TASK** the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to oversee the overall implementation of this Declaration with the support of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and ASEAN Secretariat including and to explore developing an ASEAN roadmap for promoting AOIP, which will provide a framework for external parties to collaborate on concrete projects/activities under the AOIP to promote mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual benefit through ASEAN-led mechanisms, as well as in accordance with the guidelines in each sectoral body, thereby contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and beyond.

**ADOPTED** on the Eleventh Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two in a single original copy in the English Language.