



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 5TH ASEAN - UNITED NATIONS (UN) SUMMIT

10 October 2013

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

1. The 5th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit was held on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, and was chaired by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the UN. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.

ASEAN-UN Cooperation and Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN

2. Recalling further that ASEAN and the UN have held four Summits in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2011, the Summits and their outcome documents have indeed laid a strong foundation for the strengthening of the partnership between the two organisations.

3. Sharing the view that ASEAN is striving to become a Community by 2015, the Summit welcomed the first formal review of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN and the Annex on 19 November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, which further advanced and intensified the level of cooperation, as well as strengthened the framework of cooperation between ASEAN and the UN. Furthermore, the Comprehensive Partnership has begun to establish a more coordinated, coherent and cohesive cooperation among ASEAN sectoral bodies in its relations with UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes which will allow an enhanced ASEAN capacity to contribute and respond to global challenges.

4. The ASEAN Leaders also encouraged the UN to support the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) and contribute to the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, as well as to the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III), to bring the ASEAN common platform on global issues into reality by 2022.

5. In this regard, the Summit expressed appreciation to the Secretariats of ASEAN and the UN for their 2011-2013 Joint Report on the Implementation of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN, as well as their recommendations to the ASEAN-UN Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting held on 23 September 2013 in New York, USA. The Summit also encouraged the two Secretariats to continue and coordinate its implementation of the Joint Declaration and the Annex, as well as to jointly report on the progress to the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM), and through it to the ASEAN-UN Summit.

Peace, Security and Conflict Resolution

6. The Summit noted the vital role of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security and reiterated its firm commitment to the peaceful resolution of differences in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter and international laws. ASEAN will continue to promote confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and peaceful approaches to conflict resolution and will continue to cooperate with the UN in the area of multi-dimensional peacekeeping.

7. In this regard, the Summit welcomed the Outcome Document of the ASEAN-UN Workshop on Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy that was held on 5-6 April 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia, where the participants examined various cases of conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy in the Southeast Asian region and beyond, as well as identified ways and means to strengthen the ASEAN-UN partnership in peace and security.

8. The Summit looked forward to the operationalisation of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) in Jakarta, Indonesia, as soon as possible, which would promote research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution in the region and, therefore, welcomed the UN's support towards its work.

9. The Summit also welcomed the Sub-Regional Seminar on International Joint Investigations for Southeast Asian States held on 26-28 June 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which was jointly organized by the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) and the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). The main objective of the Seminar was to strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Member States' joint investigations in the region, and in detecting and preventing the illegal cross-border movement of cash, and emphasized the rule of law and the importance of respecting human rights while countering terrorism.

10. The Summit welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) by ASEAN Leaders, which would serve as a centre of excellence to encourage efforts to address explosive remnants of war for interested ASEAN Member States, and shall facilitate cooperation with relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sustainable Development, Climate Change and the Global Financial Crisis

11. The Summit noted with satisfaction that ASEAN Member States are on track to attaining many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), namely the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality, improvement in maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and development of global partnership for development.

12. The Summit agreed that there is a need for enhanced implementation of the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) as the progress among ASEAN Member States and across the sub-national level entities varies widely.

13. The Summit welcomed the 'ESCAP/ADB/ UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional MDGs Report 2012/2013' and noted with appreciation the sub-regional consultations held with stakeholders from ASEAN Member States to ensure their perspectives were reflected in the report.

14. The Summit underlined as a matter of priority that the adverse impact of the global financial and economic crises should not undermine ASEAN's commitment to the achievement of the MDGs by 2015. In this context, the UN reiterated its support for the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the MDGs. The Summit also noted of ASEAN's initiative to formulate aspirational goals beyond 2015, such as doubling ASEAN's combined GDP and halving the percentage of people living in poverty in the ASEAN region by 2030.

15. The Summit emphasised the importance of narrowing development gaps in the region and welcomed the UN's interest to support the implementation of the Bali Concord III Plan of Action (2013-2017) and continued support to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II (2009-2015).

16. The Summit welcomed the convening of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development held on 20-22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which focused on two themes: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development. The Conference also highlighted seven critical issues which need to be prioritised, namely decent jobs, energy, sustainable cities, food security and sustainable agriculture, water, oceans and disaster readiness. The Conference further called for the establishment of an Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (OWG on SDGs) to work on a proposal on the SDGs and its process for consideration by the 68th session of the UN General Assembly.

17. The Summit reiterated their strong commitment to address climate change at the national, regional and global levels based on the principles contained in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. The Summit reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen efforts in mitigation and adaptation to address the adverse effects of climate change as the environmental and economic challenges of today are multifaceted and complex, and require enhanced cooperation on sustainable development. The Summit reiterated their commitment to collaborate on issues, such as promoting greater awareness on climate change as well as the concept of green economy to ensure the attainment of sustainable development and enhancing high quality of life of the people in the region. The Summit further attached importance to the current UNFCCC negotiations to produce an agreement by 2015 applicable to all Parties and to be implemented from 2020.

18. The Summit expressed its deep concern on the slower than expected global economic recovery and continuing volatilities in the global financial system, especially in commodity prices. The Summit affirmed the importance of continuing efforts towards achieving strong, inclusive, sustainable and balanced growth and in this connection, agreed on the importance of maintaining free and open markets and called for greater transparency and stronger disciplines in the financial system. The Summit also emphasised the importance of adhering to the international commitments on financing for development and welcomed the on-going initiatives of the UN Secretary General to urge G20 Leaders to mainstream the development agenda into the G20's discourses.

Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

19. The Summit welcomed the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda on 26-28 August 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, jointly organized by the Government of Thailand and the UN regional commission.

20. The Summit noted the establishment of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda in January 2012, co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Development Programme. The UN System Task Team assembled more than 60 UN agencies and international organisations and supported the process by providing analytical thinking and substantial inputs.

21. The Summit also noted its first report entitled, “Realising the Future We Want For All” in June 2012, in which it outlined the vision of the UN system on the global development agenda beyond 2015. The Summit further noted the second report released in March 2013 entitled, “A renewed global partnership for development”, which recommended features of a renewed global partnership for development that are required for a successful post-2015 global development agenda.

22. The Summit further welcomed the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, co-chaired by the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom entitled, “A new Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development”, in which several recommendations were proposed on the development agenda beyond 2015.

23. The Summit noted and supported ASEAN’s initiative towards realising an ASEAN Community by 2015 and in developing the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision, as well as acknowledged the need to deepen and enhance ASEAN’s dialogue partnerships and external relations. In this regard, the Summit recognised the importance of continuing close consultations with each other on the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision and the UN’s Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Cooperation in Disaster Management

24. The ASEAN Leaders expressed their appreciation to the UN for its continued support in the area of disaster management and humanitarian assistance, including through the joint ASEAN-UN working group on disaster management in collaboration with the UN Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism. The Summit remains committed to implementing the ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management and agreed to support the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) as well as the implementation of the Work Programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) for 2010-2015.

ASEAN Connectivity and Integration

25. The Summit recognised that regional connectivity and integration, through stronger physical, institutional and people-to-people linkages, are vital for sustainable and equitable economic development, which is essential to eradicate poverty and narrow development gaps within an ASEAN Community. The Summit noted with satisfaction the contributions of the UN, particularly the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), to the development of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the implementation of the IAI. The Summit agreed to further strengthen joint work in these areas and looked forward to the support of relevant UN Entities in implementing the MPAC.

Human Rights

26. The Summit welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Declaration on the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, in which ASEAN Member States reaffirmed their commitment to ensure that the implementation of the AHRD be in accordance to their commitment to the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, and other international human rights instruments to which ASEAN Member States are parties, as well as to relevant ASEAN declarations and instruments pertaining to human rights.

27. The Summit welcomed the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission for Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). The Summit encouraged the AICHR to enhance its activities, including the implementation of the AHRD, in close coordination with the various ASEAN sectoral bodies and where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant United Nations organisations as well as the ACWC's ongoing initiatives to promote public awareness through an annual public campaign to stop violence against women and children.

28. The Summit welcomed the outcomes of the International Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation between the UN and Regional Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held on 12-14 December 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland, where the AICHR was also invited to participate. The Summit encouraged the continuous engagement and support from the various UN human rights bodies in enhancing the work of the AICHR and ACWC.

International and Regional Issues of Common Concern

29. The Summit exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern and noted the prevalence of regional and global challenges, including the unresolved security problems in some areas, and the situation in the Middle East and North Africa. ASEAN Leaders and the UN Secretary-General are determined to strengthen their collaboration to contribute to solving these challenges.

Joint Action and Follow-up Coordination Mechanisms

30. The Summit encouraged the Secretariats of ASEAN and the UN to draft a 'roadmap on the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership for 2014-2015', which could include immediate priorities in all four pillars of the political-security cooperation, economic cooperation, socio-cultural cooperation and secretariat-to-secretariat cooperation.

31. The Summit recalled the three-layer mechanisms of ASEAN-UN cooperation: the ASEAN-UN Summit to coordinate policy matters, the AUMM to review the implementation of cooperation activities and the S2S dialogue. In this regard, the Summit recognized that these mechanisms are useful for the implementation of the Comprehensive Partnership, and looked forward to the convening of future ASEAN-UN Summits and other mechanisms on a regular basis. The Summit welcomed the convening of an ASEAN-UN Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting at the margin of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York in addition to the existing mechanisms.

32. The Summit also encouraged the two Secretariats to consult each other to look into ways and means, including enhance liaison functions with each other, to bring about new impetus to the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership.

33. The Summit also agreed that the meetings between the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, the Secretary-General of the UN and the President of the UN General Assembly should continue to take place during the annual UN General Assembly meeting in September, and welcomed the joint press statements of successive AUMMs in the past, most recently on 26 September 2013. In addition, the Summit welcomed further meetings between relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and UN agencies to promote substantive cooperation between ASEAN and the UN.
