



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 15TH ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT

14 November 2017, Manila, Philippines

"Partnering for Change, Engaging the World"

1. The 15th ASEAN- India Summit was held on 14 November 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.

2. We agreed to continue enhancing the strategic partnership between ASEAN and India in order to bring about tangible benefits to the peoples as well as contribute to the promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. We highlighted the importance of frequent high-level meetings and exchanges in building cooperative efforts to address regional and global issues of common concern.

3. We welcomed the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue relations as an occasion to highlight the role of India in the region and its deep civilizational and cultural links with ASEAN Member States. We welcomed the various commemorative activities held in ASEAN Member States and India to deepen our people-to-people ties. We recognised that this milestone in dialogue relations presents an opportunity to further advance cooperation under the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2016-2020) through various projects across all the three ASEAN Community pillars.

4. We appreciated India's continued support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture. We appreciated India's active participation and positive contribution to ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus), Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) and other Senior Officials Meetings and engagements. Through these mechanisms, ASEAN-India cooperation continues to gain strength in effectively responding to traditional as well as non-traditional security challenges, especially terrorism, violent extremism, radicalisation, maritime security, and cybersecurity.

5. We agreed to further strengthen regular interactions between ASEAN and India particularly through the ASEAN-India Summit, the Post-Ministerial Conference Plus One (PMC+1) Session with India, the ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting, and the ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting, among other regular meetings, to develop and deepen areas of cooperation.

6. We noted the adoption of the framework of the Code of Conduct on the South China Sea (COC), and urged the Parties to conclude a substantive and effective COC consistent with universally recognised principles of international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at the earliest opportunity. In this regard, we welcomed the announcement of the start of substantive negotiations on the COC at the 20th ASEAN-China Summit.

7. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, maritime safety and security, rules-based order and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea. In this regard, we further reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, emphasized the importance of non-militarization and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the DOC that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea, and stressed the need to adhere to the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

8. We highlighted the importance of maritime cooperation between ASEAN and India through all ASEAN processes. We welcomed the outcomes of the 2nd EAS Conference on Maritime Cooperation and Security held in Goa, India, on 4-5 November 2016, EAS Conference on Combatting Marine Plastic Debris held in Bali, Indonesia and looked forward to the holding of an ASEAN-India Workshop on the Blue Economy in Viet Nam on 24-25 November 2017.

9. We discussed ways to enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in cyber security including by holding the ASEAN India Cyber Dialogue early next year which would discuss, among other topics, India's support for a potential ASEAN Cyber Centre and networks of national Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTS). We noted that these topics are currently being considered through feasibility studies and have tasked our officials to explore this area further, taking into account the outcomes of the studies.

10. We recognized that India remains one of ASEAN's top ten trading partners in 2016 with total trade volume amounting to USD 58.45 billion and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from India to ASEAN recorded at nearly USD 1.05 billion in the same year. We stressed the need to fully tap the potentials offered by the effective implementation of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area, operationalisation of the ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre (AITIC) and the finalisation of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. We welcomed the progress in the ratification of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements and encouraged the Parties which have not ratified the agreements yet to do so at the earliest possible time. We reiterated the importance of implementing these Agreements by all Parties to further contribute towards elevating ASEAN-India economic relations to a higher level.

11. We noted the progress made by our joint efforts in advancing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. In view of the large

potential of the RCEP to promote global trade and growth, we reaffirmed our strong commitment to bring the RCEP negotiations to a conclusion.

12. We recognized the benefits of deepening trade and economic relations through the effective implementation of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods, ASEAN-India Trade in Services, and the ASEAN-India Investment Agreements. We agreed that ASEAN and India should undertake further measures, inter alia, to boost trade and investment, strengthen SMEs competitiveness, enhance cooperation in innovation, and promote regional value chains and production networks. In this regard, we noted that the ASEAN-India Business Summit and Expo will be held in India on 22-24 January 2018.

13. We welcomed the success of the ASEAN-India Expo and Forum 2017, held in Thailand under the theme “Creative and Digital” which allowed both public and private sectors a venue to exchange views on the current trade and investment environment, conduct business networking and other business promotion activities.

14. We underscored the importance of ASEAN and India connectivity cooperation which would significantly contribute to the implementation of the five strategic areas of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. In this regard, we noted India’s commitment to support ASEAN’s connectivity goals, including the establishment of a US\$ 1 billion line of credit for digital and infrastructure connectivity. We encouraged its full utilization towards strengthening the strategic area of digital innovation in particular and welcomed the convening of the ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit to be held on 11-12 December 2017 in New Delhi. We appreciated India’s constructive role in expediting the completion of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project and looked forward to developing an India-Myanmar-Laos-Vietnam Cambodia highway as committed in the Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2016-2020). We invited India to support initiatives to strengthen MSME technology platforms, including in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) with a view to spurring economic progress.

15. We encouraged stronger aviation and maritime connectivity by working towards the expeditious conclusion of an ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement and an ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Agreement. We welcomed the convening of the First Meeting of ASEAN-India Joint Working Group in Civil Aviation in December 2017.

16. We noted the implementation of the Plan of Action on ASEAN-India Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2020) to further enhance cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry, with the aim of enhancing productivity of agricultural products and meet the challenges of food security in the region.

17. We recognised the crucial role played by the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) in further deepening the economic ties between the two Parties by providing opportunities to entrepreneurs from various industries in ASEAN and India, by means of technology transfer, joint venture, international collaborations, and contract manufacturing, and other mutually beneficial schemes.

18. ASEAN Leaders welcomed India’s support in narrowing development gaps among ASEAN Member States through various capacity building programmes under

the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), and looked forward to India's continued commitment. We noted India's engagement with CLMV countries, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels. In this regard, we welcomed the operationalization of the US\$77 million Project Development Fund to develop manufacturing hubs in CLMV countries, and the pilot deployment of Gigabyte Passive Optical Network (GPON) Technology as well as the establishment of Centres of Excellence in Software Development and Training (CESDT) in CLMV countries, and provision of scholarships for CLMV students at the Nalanda University through the ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund.

19. We looked forward to the early signing of the ASEAN-India Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on establishing the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC). The Centre's early operationalisation would help promote cooperation in various areas such as trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people exchanges between ASEAN and India.

20. We commended various track 1.5 engagement and cooperation in promoting ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. We noted with satisfaction the success of the 2nd International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links held in Jakarta on 19 January 2017 and the Delhi Dialogue IX with the theme "ASEAN-India Relations: Charting the Course for the Next 25 Years" held on 4-5 July 2017 in New Delhi. We appreciated the visit to India organized for the Committee of Permanent Representatives of ASEAN in conjunction with Delhi Dialogue IX. In this regard, we looked forward to the conduct of the 5th ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks in Bali, Indonesia, in January 2018.

21. We lauded India's commitment to strengthen ASEAN-India people-to-people ties and exchanges through the holding of the ASEAN-India Youth Summit, the ASEAN-India Artists' Camp, the ASEAN-India Music Festival, the ASEAN-India Student Exchange Programmes, Indian scholarship programmes for ASEAN students, Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats, ASEAN-India Young Farmers Exchange Programme, and ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme. In this regard, we encouraged our young people to be more actively involved in heritage preservation and documentation and to make full use of multimedia technology and online platforms to promote awareness of the heritage, culture, history and values of ASEAN and India. We agreed to explore the idea of developing a network of SMART cities-culture center.

22. We appreciated the increase in the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) from US\$ 1 million to US\$ 5 million in 2016 to further encourage and sustain the implementation of collaborative R&D and technology development programmes between ASEAN and India. We welcomed the launch of the ASEAN-India Collaborative R&D programme and the ASEAN-India Research & Training Fellowship for ASEAN professionals under the AISTDF. The ASEAN Leaders also expressed appreciation to India for supporting the capacity of ASEAN Member States in the development of space technology and its applications through the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

23. We welcomed the enhanced ASEAN-India cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises and looked forward to closer coordination and consultation between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM),

including the AHA Centre as the operational engine of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and India's relevant agencies.

24. We appreciated the platform afforded by the 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in New Delhi, India, where ASEAN shared its views on moving forward the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) as well as globally launch the One ASEAN, One Response Declaration.

25. We noted that the longstanding cooperation between India and the ASEAN region in environment and biodiversity have produced concrete initiatives, including the joint project between the National Biodiversity Authority of India (NBA) and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB). We recognized the urgent need to address climate change collectively based on strong scientific foundation and respective local experiences and needs. ASEAN Leaders expressed appreciation for India's support towards promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation through its contribution to the ASEAN-India Green Fund.

26. We supported the implementation of the Declaration on the Role of Civil Service as a Catalyst in Achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 adopted at the 30th ASEAN Summit this year. We welcomed cooperation between ASEAN and India in areas of mutual interest aiming at building a high performing, dynamic and citizen-centric civil service.

27. We looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on 25-26 January 2018, with the theme "Shared Values, Common Prosperity." The forthcoming Summit presents an important opportunity to forge our substantive vision to further strengthen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared prosperity in years ahead.
