



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 9TH ASEAN-UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT

13 November 2017, Manila, Philippines

"Partnering for Change, Engaging the World"

1. The 9th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit was held on 13 November 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Summit was chaired by the Philippines and was attended by Heads of State/Government and Representatives of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.

2. ASEAN Leaders recognised the instrumental role of the UN in ensuring multilateral approaches and solutions to global challenges in close collaboration with regional organisations, including ASEAN. We were pleased to note the ongoing engagements between ASEAN and the UN in areas of mutual interests. The UN Secretary-General congratulated ASEAN Leaders on the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN and expressed his strong appreciation of the significant role of the regional grouping in the maintenance of peace and the promotion of prosperity in the region and beyond. Noting the increasing importance of the UN's cooperation with regional organisations, the Secretary-General also called for a 'quantum leap' in the UN's partnership with ASEAN.

3. We recognised that the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN continued to be strengthened in all pillars of cooperation as indicated in the Joint Report on the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership by the ASEAN and UN Secretariats in 2017. We applauded the significant progress made under the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action (2016-2020) with 80 per cent of the action lines being addressed. We agreed to substantively strengthen our cooperation in support of the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action (2016-2020). We reaffirmed the important focus on the current priorities of cooperation as well as exploring new areas for future cooperation, including cross-sectoral cooperation.

4. We agreed on the value of increasing direct engagements between ASEAN and the UN in all areas of cooperation at different political and technical levels, including the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly (AUMM). We also noted that the recent interface meetings between the UN and the Committee of Permanent Representatives held in Jakarta had become an important platform for the substantive engagement on technical cooperation and emerging issues. We welcomed the recent institutionalisation of the ASEAN-UN Secretariat-to-Secretariat (S2S) mechanism with two meetings annually at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta and at the UN Headquarters in New York.

5. We reaffirmed the increasing significance of regional organisations in the maintenance of international peace and security, in line with their role specified in the UN Charter. This is particularly vital in view of many pressing and multidimensional global challenges. The UN Secretary-General expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Leaders for the current contribution of more than 4,600 peacekeeping personnel from ASEAN Member States to global UN peace operations.

6. We expressed concern about the situation in the Korean peninsula, calling on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abide by all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The UN Secretary-General welcomed ASEAN's readiness to play a constructive role to help in efforts to de-escalate the situation in the Korean peninsula, noting the need for DPRK to create the conditions conducive to peaceful dialogue.

7. With regard to the situation in the South China Sea, we noted the positive momentum in ASEAN-China relations and urged the parties to continue working towards the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in its entirety and the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

8. We welcomed the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN. ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN's contribution to strengthening ASEAN's capacity in conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and maintenance of peace and stability, including the 1st ASEAN-UN Training in Preventive Diplomacy and Peacemaking for the Asia-Pacific Region which was held in Lao PDR in 2016. We welcomed the appointment of the Executive Director of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) and the UN's reaffirmed commitment to closer collaboration in the operationalisation of the AIPR. We looked forward to the forthcoming 1st ASEAN-UN Training Workshop on the Law of the Sea, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, in Indonesia in December 2017, and the 1st ASEAN-UN Training Programme on Electoral Observation in the Philippines, also in December 2017.

9. We reaffirmed the importance of global, regional and national cooperation to address the threats and challenges of global terrorism and violent extremism to the ASEAN region. We agreed on the importance of comprehensive approaches to counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism, in line with the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action for Preventing Violent Extremism.

10. We welcomed the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, which was adopted at the 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime on 20 September 2017, and its recognition of the value of addressing multidimensional challenges through wide-ranging preventive strategies. The UN reaffirmed its commitment to providing technical support to ASEAN, including in the development of a regional Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism. Further, we commended the successful convening of the 5th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Workshop: Regional Dialogue III on Political-Security Cooperation: 'ASEAN-UN Collaboration in Conflict Prevention, Preventive Diplomacy and Prevention of Violent Extremism' in Jakarta, on 7-9 November 2016 and looked forward to the convening of

the next ASEAN-UN Workshop: 4th Regional Dialogue on Political-Security Cooperation (AURED IV) on Women, Peace and Security - The Role of Women in Preventing Violent Extremism, which is scheduled to be held in Malaysia in December 2017, and to concrete outcomes that will contribute to regional and national policies and plans to prevent violence extremism. We took note of the readiness of the new UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and relevant UN agencies to assist ASEAN in addressing the complex threats of terrorism and violent extremism.

11. We agreed that regional cooperation should be intensified to combat the growing threat of transnational organised crime. Growing connectivity and economic integration within ASEAN can also be an enabling factor for transnational organised crime, including drug trafficking and trafficking in persons. We recognised that illicit drugs production, trafficking and consumption are increasing challenges for the ASEAN region. We agreed on the need to address drug issues in a comprehensive, holistic and balanced manner involving both demand and supply reduction measures. We reaffirmed that law enforcement efforts in this regard should be conducted with a focus on combatting transnational organised crime and with respect for the rule of law and the promotion and protection of human rights, while recognizing the sovereign right of countries in deciding the most appropriate approaches to address their national drug situations.

12. We welcomed the ASEAN Declaration to Prevent and Combat Cybercrime and the UN indicated its commitment to providing technical support to addressing cybercrime in the ASEAN region through its expert advisory capacity prevention and awareness raising, international cooperation, data collection, research and analysis on cybercrime.

13. We reaffirmed the importance of the promotion and protection of human rights, including through strengthening collaboration between the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the UN. The UN Secretary-General reiterated the UN's commitment to supporting the strengthening of AICHR. We urged the AICHR and the UN to further engage in the exchanges of best practices and capacity building initiatives, especially the rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups as well as exploring cross-sectoral /pillar human rights dialogue.

14. We acknowledged the importance of the cooperation of ASEAN and UN to pursue further economic integration both within the region and in the global economy as well as efforts to create effective operational and regulatory frameworks, for a competitive ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). In this regard, we recognised the needs for strengthening collaboration between ASEAN and the UN in supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and promoting connectivity in energy grids, transport and ICT, facilitating trade and investment including through paperless trade and promoting inclusive economic development, including MSME development.

15. We also thanked the UN for their continued support in the implementation of the Strategic Action Plans of the above stated areas such as the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Action Plan (KLTSAP) 2016-2025, ASEAN ICT Masterplan (AIM) 2020, ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (SPASMED) 2016-2025, and the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025.

16. We also looked forward to policy conversations at the technical level on how AEC can support and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, primarily through the impact evaluation component of the AEC 2025 Monitoring & Evaluation Framework in realizing the vision of a people-centered and people-oriented ASEAN.

17. We recognised the importance of cooperation between ASEAN and the UN in promoting a competitive, resilient and sustainable food, agriculture and forestry sector that contributes to an equitable and inclusive growth. We looked forward to the development of joint initiatives between FAO and the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) to support the implementation of the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025).

18. We lauded ASEAN-UN collaboration, through Thailand's coordinatorship, on promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and welcomed the Report by Thailand, UN ESCAP, and the ASEAN Secretariat on the Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action which examines the cross-cutting priority areas of poverty eradication, infrastructure and connectivity, sustainable production and consumption, sustainable management of resources, and resilience. We look forward to the implementation of the recommended areas and projects in the report.

19. We welcomed the successful "launch of ASEAN My World Survey" by ASEAN and UNDP in New York on 23 September 2017 which would help promote sustainable development at all levels. We encouraged ASEAN Member States, UNDP and civil societies to work together to gather a wide range of responses for the Survey. We noted the successful organization of "Seminar on Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women in ASEAN" organized by Thailand and UN Women in New York on 22 September 2017 and the "ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium on Financing the Implementation of the SDGs in ASEAN" in Chiang Rai, Thailand from 21 to 22 August 2017 and the issuance of its Regional Report on Financing the Implementation of the SDGs in ASEAN.

20. We encouraged the promotion of complementarities and mutual benefit in the areas of trade, investments and MSME development. It is in this vein that we welcomed the issuance of the following initiatives under this year's Philippine ASEAN Chairmanship that complements efforts to achieve the UN 2030 SDGs, namely: (i) Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment in ASEAN; (ii) ASEAN Inclusive Business Framework; (iii) ASEAN Declaration on Innovation; (iv) Focused and Strategic Action (FAST) Agenda on Investment; and (v) Operationalization of the ASEAN RORO, among others. ASEAN Leaders thanked the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretariat for documenting in the publication "ASEAN at 50: Achievements and Challenges in Regional Integration" the political origins of ASEAN and the creation of the ASEAN Economic Community, and its work on regional trade and services and in other areas of economic integration.

21. We noted the need to intensify ASEAN-UN cooperation in promoting human development, human rights, social welfare, gender equality and women economic empowerment. We commended the great strides in addressing violence against children through the efforts of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (SRSG) and UNICEF, the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in ASEAN Community through the cooperation with UN Women, the partnership and support provided by OHCHR and other relevant UN agencies to AICHR, and advancing the attainment of the sustainable development goals through partnership with UNDP, ILO and UNESCAP. We looked forward to sustaining and expanding these areas of partnership to include addressing issues such as online child sexual abuse, women economic empowerment, social protection and ensuring that poverty alleviation policies and programmes reach the poorest of the poor.

22. The UN welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society, including in its synergy with the UN prevention agenda. The UN looked forward to closely working with ASEAN in support of its Culture of Prevention, particularly in strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation such as preventing violent extremism and violence against women and children.

23. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-UN Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change (2017-2020) by ASEAN Member States at the 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) on 13 September 2017 in Brunei Darussalam in alignment with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint and ASEAN's priorities on environment protection. We encouraged ASEAN and the UN to effectively implement the Action Plan aiming towards a greener, more resilient, growth path with reduced negative environmental impact in the region. We also looked forward to strengthening our partnership in addressing the region's transboundary environmental issues including those related to transboundary pollution such as marine litter as well as the sustainable development of the Mekong river basin, as well as cooperation in knowledge sharing with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and other relevant agencies.

24. We noted the adoption by the 31st ASEAN Summit of the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-23 to UNFCCC) held on 6-17 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany. We also noted the adoption of the ASEAN Joint Declaration on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes to the COP-13 Basel Convention; COP-8 to the Rotterdam Convention; and the COP-8 to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-8) held on 24 April to 5 May 2017 by the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Environment.

25. The UN encouraged ASEAN Member States to ratify and implement the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Minamata Convention on Mercury which entered into force to become legally binding for all its Parties on 16 August 2017, as central to efforts in addressing environmental issues.

26. We reaffirmed the importance of building a resilient ASEAN Community through enhanced ASEAN-UN cooperation on disaster management and in synergy with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)

and the “One ASEAN One Response” Declaration. We welcomed the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management III (2016-2020), the recommendations of the ASEAN-UNOCHA humanitarian partnership independent review as well as ASEAN’s active participation in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

27. We look forward to the UNESCAP-ASEAN Joint Study on Drought and Poverty Alleviation which addresses the necessity of deepening understanding of early warning, preparedness and prevention of such disasters resulting from climate variability and shifts in the geography of droughts.

28. We acknowledged the exchange of inter-operability briefs on cooperation between the Secretary General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC) and the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC) as a step forward in translating our commitments into concrete action on emergency response.

29. We noted the emerging challenges of human-induced crisis situations, and in line with this, we appreciated the prompt response of ASEAN through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in the delivery of relief items for the affected communities in Marawi City, the Philippines, and Rakhine State, Myanmar. The UN indicated its readiness to continue assisting and supporting ASEAN in line with international best practices. The UN welcomed constructive approaches and expressed serious concerns about the mass movement of refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh. The UN Secretary-General reiterated his call for an end of violence, unhindered humanitarian access to affected communities and the right to safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees to places of origin. We noted the importance of addressing the underlying issues by implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The UN commended ASEAN for offering to help Myanmar in implementing some of the recommendations of the Commission.

30. We welcomed strengthened ASEAN-UN cooperation on harnessing the power of sport as an enabler of SDG implementation and one of the most important paths towards the PVE. We also directed ASEAN-UN partnership towards promoting “good practices” in youth-led, sports-based, community-oriented initiatives that use sports for PVE, promotion of peace and development towards the achievement of SDGs, and welcomed the dissemination of these practices in the region, as demonstrated by the ASEAN Sport and the SDGs Youth Workshop hosted by the Philippines Sports Commission on 8-10 November 2017. These recommendations are in alignment with ASEAN Vision 2025, the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports 2016-2020 and the imperative of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

31. ASEAN Leaders appreciated the support of the UN to the development of the First ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI) with the objective of evaluating the outcomes and effectiveness of youth programmes in ASEAN, and to assist ASEAN Member States in planning new interventions for the youths. The four domains covered in the First ASEAN YDI Report are Education, Health and Wellbeing,

Employment and Opportunity, and Participation and Engagement. Overall, the results indicated evident improvements in youth development between 2011 and 2015.

32. We acknowledged the continuous ASEAN-UN collaboration on the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda (2016-2020) as a vital partnership in safeguarding the health of the peoples of ASEAN, particularly through the initiatives in promoting healthy lifestyles; ending all forms of malnutrition; fast-tracking and sustaining strategies in ending AIDS by 2030; preventing and controlling communicable, emerging infectious and non-communicable diseases, and other hazards and emerging threats; combating anti-microbial resistance; enhancing food safety; and strengthening health systems and access to care. This synergy can also better address the needs of key populations or vulnerable groups such as, amongst others, health and active aging in the elderly; migrants' health; adolescent population and their reproductive health needs; women and children and their health during disasters; universal health coverage; and human resource development in health.

33. We commended the progress of ASEAN-UNESCO cooperation in the culture and information sectors through the successful implementation of the: (a) Symposium on Preservation and Access: Southeast Asia's Documentary Heritage in the Digital Age and ASEAN Plus Three Consultation for the Implementation of the 'UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage, 8-11 May 2017, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and (b) ASEAN-UNESCO Conference on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, 19-20 September 2017, Makassar, Indonesia.

34. We looked forward to promote collaboration between ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) and the UN agencies which specialize in this area, including capacity building, sharing of expertise and best practices in addressing humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war.

35. We reaffirmed the immense value of our Comprehensive Partnership as confirmation of the importance of multilateralism and regionalism in an increasingly complex world.