



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 40TH and 41ST ASEAN SUMMITS
Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 11 November 2022**

1. We, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), gathered for the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits on 11 November 2022 under the Chairmanship of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Summits were chaired by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and convened in accordance with the ASEAN Charter.
2. We reiterated our support for Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship and welcomed ASEAN's commendable efforts in achieving "ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together", the theme of ASEAN for 2022. We were encouraged by the progress made in the realisation of ASEAN's priorities in 2022. We affirmed that ASEAN's unity and solidarity were strengthened, ASEAN Centrality consolidated, and ASEAN's active contribution to regional peace and stability duly recognised in accordance with ASEAN's values and principles as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. We also acknowledged the steady progress in ASEAN's economic integration and regional connectivity with the enhanced capacity of ASEAN to adapt to the changing regional and global dynamics. We commended active efforts to promote ASEAN awareness, identity and visibility. We were gratified by the achievements of ASEAN in contributing to the global cause for peace, stability and sustainable development. We welcomed and encouraged ASEAN's continued efforts in enhancing its institutional capacity and effectiveness to better respond to changing circumstances.
3. We reaffirmed our commitment to maintaining Southeast Asia as a region of peace, security, and stability and further strengthening peace-oriented values. We further reiterated the importance of maintaining an ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, transparent, rules-based and inclusive. We supported the enhanced synergy among various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). We

committed to implement the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), including through our engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.

4. We acknowledged the fast-changing strategic complexities coupled with the emergence of non-traditional security issues and the pending challenges to be highlighted. We reaffirmed our strong commitment to further strengthen collective efforts in enhancing ASEAN's resilience to navigate and effectively respond to emerging challenges, and further promote a comprehensive, robust and sustainable recovery, thereby, protecting the life and well-being of our people, sustaining ASEAN's inclusive growth towards a resilient future with a holistic and strategic approach to better shield our people against future spill-over impact and challenges.

ASEAN COMMUNITY BUILDING

5. We emphasised our dedicated efforts to sustain the momentum of ASEAN Community-building, ensuring the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
6. We noted with satisfaction the progress in implementing the recommendations of Mid-Term Reviews (MTRs) of ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. We commended the active efforts by ASEAN Member States and Sectoral Bodies across the three ASEAN Community pillars in ensuring the effective realisation of the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 in the face of global and regional challenges as they draw from the experience and lessons from the MTRs, and pursue implementation of its recommendations moving forward with the remaining goals for the successful delivery of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
7. We adopted the Recommendations on Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness by the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) and agreed to task the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to follow-up on the recommendations. We also took note of the proposed Core Elements of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision that would enable ASEAN to be responsive and better adapt to a fast and dramatically changing world. In developing the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision, we noted the need to balance pragmatism and ambition so that ASEAN remains stable and progressive while staying true to its identity.

8. We reiterated the importance of cross-pillar, cross-sectoral coordination in ASEAN Community-building and the significance of a holistic approach, coordinated response and coherent perspective in addressing the increasingly multi-dimensional character and complexities of issues facing ASEAN.
9. We commended the successful launch and implementation of the inaugural ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme with the ASEAN Secretariat (AJFP), which is aimed at increasing the knowledge and effectiveness of junior officials of ASEAN Member States in performing their work on regional cooperation through engagement with the ASEAN Secretariat. We looked forward to the continued organisation and development of this initiative as part of the larger ASEAN Community-building agenda, encouraging sustainability in our efforts to harness the potential of ASEAN's youth.
10. We reaffirmed our shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security, and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
11. We recalled the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Upholding Multilateralism and reaffirmed our belief that regionalism and multilateralism founded on the principles of the UN Charter and anchored in international law are important principles and frameworks of cooperation, and that their strength and value lie in their inclusivity, rules-based nature, and emphasis on mutual benefit and respect.
12. The ASEAN Leaders' Interface with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), representatives of ASEAN youth and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) on the sidelines of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits demonstrated ASEAN's concerted efforts to expand further engagement with other relevant stakeholders to continue contributing to the ASEAN Community-building process.

ASEAN 2022 KEY DELIVERABLES

13. We adopted the *ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together*, which underscores the spirit of "Togetherness" as one Community and the common will in our collective endeavour to address and overcome challenges facing our region. It also aims to encourage ASEAN Member States to uphold the spirit of

collective endeavour, affirm our common interests and join hands, in the spirit of ASEAN's guiding principles, in addressing major challenges facing the region in an effective and timely manner, to realise a harmonious ASEAN Community that is peaceful, stable, and prosperous.

14. We emphasised that this year's 55th anniversary of ASEAN is an important milestone that demonstrates what ASEAN has delivered in terms of economic prosperity, social advancement, and regional peace by working collectively in the past 55 years across the three ASEAN Community pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) to build an inclusive, peaceful, resilient, stable and prosperous region. We welcomed the efforts of ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat in having prepared activities to commemorate ASEAN's 55th anniversary, including the physical celebration to mark this milestone at the ASEAN Secretariat on 8 August 2022. We are pleased to adopt the *ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the 55th Anniversary of ASEAN* which reaffirms our commitment to advance ASEAN Community-building efforts, highlighting the importance of upholding ASEAN Centrality as the primary driving force behind our substantive dialogue and cooperation with our external partners, particularly in the context of all ASEAN-led mechanisms in building an ASEAN Community.
15. We recognised the progress made in implementing the MPAC 2025, which supports the region's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthens resilience towards achieving a connected, sustainable and inclusive ASEAN Community. To this end, we adopted the *ASEAN Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Connectivity Post-2025 Agenda* which charts the future direction to enhance ASEAN Connectivity beyond 2025 while taking into account recent trends and developments as well as past lessons and experiences to ensure that ASEAN's efforts to enhance regional connectivity for the prosperity of its peoples are guided by a common vision that is cutting-edge, sustainable, practical and inclusive.
16. We were pleased to note the successful conduct of the ASCC and AEC Fact Finding Missions (FFMs) to Timor-Leste on 6-8 July 2022 and 19-21 July 2022 respectively, with participation from all ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat. We appreciated the finalisation and adoption of the assessment reports of the FFMs, we adopted *the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Application of Timor-Leste for ASEAN Membership* which agreed in principle to approve Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership and tasked the ACC to develop the

objective criteria-based Roadmap for Timor-Leste's full membership in ASEAN. We reaffirmed our commitment together with our external partners to provide Timor-Leste with full, and other relevant necessary support to achieve the milestones for its full membership.

17. We acknowledged the indispensable role of youth in ASEAN Community-building, especially in COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts and other megatrends, as well as in setting the foundation of regional peace and security through ASEAN awareness, values and identity. In this regard, we are pleased to adopt the ***ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Year of ASEAN Youth to Strengthen the Role of Youth in ASEAN Community-Building*** and commended the successful convening of the First ASEAN Youth Dialogue on 25-26 July 2022 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. We recognised the recommendation of the first ASEAN Youth Dialogue to strengthen regional cooperation towards providing equitable access to education, skills development, opportunities, services, and infrastructures for communities living in remote areas and marginalised groups.
18. We recognised that culture and the arts have invaluable contributions to the social, economic, human and sustainable development of ASEAN, manifested through tangible and intangible cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, and heritage tourism. In this regard, we are pleased to adopt the ***Siem Reap Declaration on Promoting a Creative and Adaptive ASEAN Community to Support the Cultural and Creative Economy*** to address cross-cutting issues that invoke the roles of culture and the arts in the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development, through support for small and medium sized cultural and creative enterprises, digital adoption for culture and the arts, sustainable heritage tourism, and protection of intellectual property rights, as well as its potentials in contributing to a culture of education for all, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, disaster management, and combating climate change.
19. We reaffirmed our commitment to promoting women's entrepreneurship and strengthening women's economic empowerment in building long-term resilience and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting the critical role of women as economic agents addresses long-standing gender inequalities which in turn contributes to inclusive economic growth and uplift the lives of women. It is in this regard, that we adopted the ***Declaration on Building a More Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Future Unlocking Women's Entrepreneurship in ASEAN***.

20. We underscored the significant role of women in building and maintaining peace and stability in the region, and we are pleased to adopt the *ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security*. We view this framework as essential in mobilising concrete actions at the national and regional levels to cover the pillars of women, peace and security namely: protection, participation, prevention, and relief and recovery. We commend the leadership of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), together with all the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, in developing the regional plan of action. We looked forward to the implementation of the regional plan of action, including full support from other relevant stakeholders, including the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) and the Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators (SEANWPNM).

ASEAN'S KEY INITIATIVES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

21. Entering the third year since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), the overall pandemic situation in ASEAN has significantly improved. We commended ASEAN Member States for the progress made in the ASEAN Community-building process while focusing on recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continuing to ensure peace, safety and security for the people of ASEAN. We were pleased to note the region's gradual reopening and the transition from the pandemic to the endemic phase, demonstrated by the easing of travel restrictions and health protocol and relevant mandates. We took note of the progress made in terms of ASEAN's collective response to COVID-19, including the utilisation of the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund to procure vaccines to cater to public health emergencies. We encouraged ASEAN Member States to contribute to and tap the earmarked contributions in the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (RRMS).
22. We commended the efforts made by ASEAN Member States in strengthening regional emergency preparedness, response and resilience and noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan. We emphasised the importance of addressing and mitigating the impact of emerging challenges arising from the pandemic and the current geopolitical tension, such as on food security and energy resiliency, with a view to strengthening economic recovery and improving the resilience of the region. We appreciated the continued support from all stakeholders in the implementation of the ACRF and

emphasised the need for a whole-of-Community approach to ensure inclusive and sustained regional recovery efforts.

23. We commended the enhanced cooperation on Advancing the Achievements of ASEAN Health Development, which include enhanced cooperation initiatives on building regional health system resilience and accelerating COVID-19 recovery; optimising the mobilisation of essential health resources to respond to public health crises; promoting One Health Approach to prepare and respond to pandemics; strengthening health systems for sustainable universal health coverage; and, health security for resilient health systems. We looked forward to the sustained partnership and operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), and to the finalisation of the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System (APHECS). We also noted the need to follow-up on the EAS Statement on Mental Health Cooperation to encourage regional and international cooperation on mental health.

INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI)

24. We reiterated that narrowing the development gap and regional integration remain the key agenda in ASEAN Community-building. These efforts have been made through the implementation of the Initiative of ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plans, among other initiatives. We noted the active roles of the IAI Task Force, the CLMV National Coordinators and the Focal Points along with the active contribution and participation of the ASEAN-6, ASEAN external partners and other relevant stakeholders. We welcomed the good progress in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) to assist CLMV countries in achieving the ASEAN-wide target and in narrowing the development gap within ASEAN.

ASEAN CONNECTIVITY

25. We underlined the importance of enhancing regional connectivity, especially in further supporting the region's recovery from the pandemic towards a sustainable and resilient future. We commended the work of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC), the Lead Implementing Bodies, relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies as well as the MPAC 2025 National Coordinators and National Focal Points in advancing the implementation of MPAC 2025 and ASEAN Connectivity. We welcomed the finalisation of the Assessment of Future Sustainable Infrastructure Trends and Priorities in a Post-Pandemic ASEAN, the City Technical Proposals for eight cities, and the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Report. We looked forward to the finalisation of the

Framework on ASEAN Supply Chain Efficiency and Resilience and encouraged further efforts to promote people-to-people connectivity. To this end, we welcomed the commencement of joint efforts in supporting the Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism through activities undertaken to lead the regional recovery.

26. We expressed our appreciation to our Dialogue Partners and other external partners for their continued support to MPAC 2025 as well as the growing interests in developing stronger cooperation on connectivity. We reaffirmed our commitment to forge further collaboration and cooperation, including through enhancing synergies between relevant connectivity initiatives within and beyond ASEAN in line with the Connecting the Connectivities Initiative. In this regard, we commended the successful convening of the in-person 13th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium on Enhancing Connectivity Towards an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision and the ACCC Consultations with Dialogue Partners and Other External Partners on Connectivity.

ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK

27. We commended the efforts of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in advancing the implementation of Smart City Action Plans (SCAPs) and facilitating the development of the ASCN Online Portal and ASEAN Smart City Investment Toolkit towards exchanging knowledge, sharing experience, strengthening the partnerships, and bridging resource gaps. We welcomed the ASCN's decision to take an incremental approach to expand its membership by up to three cities per ASEAN Member State over the period of 2022-2025 to ensure quality engagement and optimal use of resources. We appreciated ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other external partners for their support to the ASCN and looked forward to broadening and deepening our ASCN collaborations.

FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

28. We are pleased with the progress ASEAN has made in advancing the region's Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) goals and ambitions, particularly the implementation of the Consolidated Strategy on the 4IR for ASEAN (CS4IR). While we welcomed the recently established ASEAN 4IR Task Force Group under the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) to better coordinate and monitor ASEAN's 4IR endeavours moving forward, we also looked forward to the finalisation of the Implementation Plan of the CS4IR in December this year. We are confident that with both the institutional mechanisms and the Implementation Plan in place, ASEAN will be in a better place to address

and embrace the challenges and opportunities the 4IR phenomenon brings to our region.

ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY

29. We reaffirmed the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct in governing inter-state relations in the region and as a foundation for maintaining regional peace and stability. We remain committed to further promoting the principles embodied in the TAC and emphasised the importance of all High Contracting Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty. We also welcomed the growing interest of non-regional countries to accede to the TAC, on the basis of respect for and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the TAC. We welcomed the accession to the TAC by the Kingdom of Denmark, the Hellenic Republic, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates in August 2022 as well as Ukraine in November 2022.
30. We reiterated our commitment to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the Treaty of Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) and the ASEAN Charter. We stressed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty. We welcomed the renewal of the Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty for another five-year period (2023-2027). We reaffirmed our commitment to continuously engage the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) and intensify the ongoing efforts of all parties to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty. We encouraged our ASEAN experts to explore ways to bridge the differences, including the possibility of engaging with the NWS experts. We agreed to continue to submit the biennial SEANWFZ Resolution through the First Committee to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
31. We remained steadfast in our commitment to combat transnational crimes, particularly amidst the challenges and threats arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, including by strengthening cross-sectoral and cross-pillar cooperation.
32. We commended the contribution of various ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, led by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), in implementing the Bohol Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Work Plan 2017 – 2020 and welcomed the adoption of its Final Review Report. We also looked forward to the finalisation of the successor ASEAN Multi-

Sectoral Work Plan Against Trafficking in Persons ‘Bohol TIP Work Plan 2.0’ 2022-2027 to continue comprehensive efforts in addressing TIP. We welcomed the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the National ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) Representatives and looked forward to enhanced monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the ACTIP as guided by the TOR.

33. We stressed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (Bali Work Plan) 2019-2025 to address radicalisation and violent extremism in the region in a holistic manner.
34. We noted the progress in ASEAN cybersecurity cooperation and reaffirmed our commitment in building an open, safe, secure, stable, accessible, interoperable, peaceful, and resilient cyberspace. Noting the role cybersecurity plays in supporting the growth of the region’s digital economy and community, we welcomed the updated ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy 2021-2025. We also welcomed the development of the ASEAN Regional CERT, which will strengthen the region’s cybersecurity incident response and preparedness. We recognised the role of cybersecurity awareness activities and capacity building programmes of the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE) in Singapore and the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC) in Bangkok in complementing existing ASEAN efforts in building regional cybersecurity posture.
35. We reiterated the importance of cross-sectoral and cross-pillar coordination to combat illicit drugs in the region and reaffirmed our commitment towards a drug-free region. We also remained steadfast in realising this commitment amidst global attempts to reschedule certain types of illicit drugs. We noted with appreciation the finalisation and adoption of the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025 (ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2025) and the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle 2020-2022 (ASEAN Cooperation Plan 2020-2022), which were led by Indonesia and Thailand respectively in 2021. We commended the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN NARCO) for its efforts to publish the next issue of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report (ADM) 2021, as a key trademark of ASEAN’s cooperation in combating illicit drugs.

36. We commended the defence sector's commitment to addressing security issues of common concern while continuously contributing to our collective efforts in the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also looked forward to the defence sector's greater involvement in the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. We further noted the progress of practical defence cooperation made under the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWG) for 2021-2024 in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, maritime security, counter-terrorism, military medicine, humanitarian mine action and cybersecurity.
37. We commended the ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) and the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) on the work in the area of laws and legal matters to support the ASEAN Community-building agenda as well as its rules-based order and looked forward to the conclusion of the negotiation of an ASEAN Extradition Treaty.
38. We also welcomed the First Meeting of the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (SOM-MLAT) and looked forward to the inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers/Attorneys General Meeting of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (AMAG-MLAT) in ensuring the effective implementation of the ASEAN MLAT which will further strengthen ASEAN Member States' capacity and resilience to combat transnational crimes.
39. We reaffirmed our commitment to promoting tolerance, moderation and respect for diversity as well as to promoting and protecting human rights and respecting fundamental freedoms as they are core principles of ASEAN, and in this context, we underscored the importance of addressing effectively the challenges posed by violent extremism.
40. We noted with satisfaction the progress of work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN. We encouraged AICHR to further continue its work in mainstreaming human rights across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community and in implementing its mandate to promote and protect human rights in a full and effective manner.
41. In commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), we encouraged further initiatives to advance human

rights towards the building of a people-oriented ASEAN Community for progressive social development, justice, human dignity and a high quality of life for ASEAN peoples.

42. We welcomed the proposal from AICHR to hold the ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue 2022 on 19 November 2022 as a regional platform for dialogue on human rights and sharing best practices and experiences in the promotion and protection of human rights among ASEAN Member States.
43. We congratulated the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) on the 10th Anniversary of its establishment. We welcomed the completion of the ASEAN-IPR Research – Aceh Case: Peacebuilding and Post-Tsunami Recovery. We noted ASEAN-IPR's activities with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and external partners to promote the culture of peace and moderation in ASEAN. We are encouraged by the ASEAN-IPR's effort to strengthen its research capacity and continue conducting various peace-oriented initiatives. We also encouraged all ASEAN Member States to contribute in supporting the operations of the Institute for each budget year, as agreed in the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN-IPR. We also noted ASEAN-IPR's continued support for the AWPR to implement the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in ASEAN. We encouraged ASEAN-IPR to engage with other relevant stakeholders, including the AWPR and Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators, to further implement the Joint Statement.
44. We commended the role of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) as a centre of excellence in promoting ASEAN's efforts to address humanitarian aspects of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and raise awareness of the danger of ERW among affected communities. We reiterated the importance of mine action in national rehabilitation and sustainable development and welcomed efforts to promote mine action at the global level, including at the UN.

ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

45. We were pleased to highlight that the ASEAN economy remains strong amidst global challenges and is projected to grow at 5.0% in 2022 following a significant upturn of 3.4% in 2021. We were encouraged that the nominal GDP has surpassed the pre-pandemic level and stood at USD 3.3 trillion in 2021. In 2021, ASEAN's total merchandise trade stood at USD 3.3 trillion, of which 21.3 per cent was intra-ASEAN, while

ASEAN's total services trade reached USD743.0 billion, where intra-ASEAN trade contributed 11.7 per cent. On investment, foreign direct investments to ASEAN reached USD 174.1 billion in 2021 of which 12.0 per cent was intra-ASEAN. With strong macroeconomic fundamentals, we are ready and committed to working together to strengthen regional economic resilience in navigating global challenges arising from geopolitical tensions, soaring inflations and fiscal tightening.

46. We welcomed the successful delivery of the nine Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under Cambodia's 2022 Chairmanship pursued to enhance digital connectivity, narrow development gap, promote an integrated, competitive and resilient ASEAN and strengthen global ASEAN for growth and development. We also noted the substantial progress made on the remaining deliverables and we looked forward to their timely completion.
47. We welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) Upgrade Negotiations. We looked forward to an upgraded ATIGA that is comprehensive in scope covering not only traditional trade-in-goods elements but also emerging issues such as paperless trade, circular economy, and sustainable development, among others, and will ensure a modern, forward-looking ATIGA that is also more responsive to regional and global developments. We welcomed the exchange of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) through the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) by eight (8) ASEAN Member States and encouraged the remaining ASEAN Member States to intensify efforts to join the live exchange of the ACDD within 2022. We also looked forward to Indonesia and Thailand to join the live exchange of the e-Phyto Certificates within 2022. We welcomed the adoption of the Joint Action Plan (JAP) on the ASEAN Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (AAMRA) and encouraged the ASEAN Member States to sign the AAMRA in 2022 to commence the pathfinder programme among ready ASEAN Member States in 2023. To continue ensuring the smooth flow of essential goods and prevent supply chain disruptions, we welcomed the agreement by all ASEAN Member States to extend the lifespan of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Implementation of the Non-Tariff Measures on Essential Goods under the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to The Covid-19 Pandemic until November 2024.
48. We welcomed the conclusion and we looked forward to the signing of the Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Agreement on Movement of Natural

Persons (MNP) that will put into effect the updated ASEAN Member States' Schedules of Commitments on MNP in a common format that is easier for stakeholders to understand and use. We noted the progress in developing an ASEAN Services Facilitation Framework (ASFF) to address the unnecessary regulatory and administrative burdens in trade in services and reduce the cost of doing business in the services sector, and we looked forward to its conclusion by next year. We also noted the progress of discussions on the principles and modality for the transition of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) reservation list to a two-annex negative list, and we looked forward to the conclusion of the Fifth Protocol to Amend the ACIA to operationalise this transition by next year.

49. We commended the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting's (AFMGM) work on sustainable finance with the issuance of Version 1 of the ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance and the launch of the ASEAN Sustainability-Linked Bond Standards. These initiatives have contributed to the region's sustainability ambitions by setting up financial infrastructure guidelines that are inclusive, transparent, practical, and facilitative; and that facilitate the issuance of bonds with sustainability-linked goals that can encourage and support ASEAN companies to transition to sustainable business practices. We looked forward to the completion of the next version of the ASEAN Taxonomy by next year. We are also pleased with the launching of several bilateral cross-border QR code payment linkages under the ASEAN Payments Policy Framework for Cross-Border Real-Time Retail Payment Systems (RT-RPS) among ASEAN Member States and we looked forward to a more interconnected payments network across the region, furthering digitalisation and financial inclusion in ASEAN.
50. We are pleased with the adoption of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Policy (APRP), which is a collaborative initiative between the health sector and the economic pillar that will provide a basis, direction and a policy framework to ASEAN Member States and ASEAN National Regulatory Authorities in the development of harmonised strategies that facilitate the enhancement of national regulatory systems and market integration initiatives. We looked forward to further advance the initiative with the adoption of the ASEAN Pharmaceutical Regulatory Framework (APRF) and the development of APRF Agreement this year.
51. We underscored the critical role played by the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in driving the development of the ASEAN economy. We acknowledged the ongoing efforts to bridge the skill gaps

through upskilling and reskilling the workforce and improving market opportunities for ASEAN enterprises through the ASEAN SME Academy and the ASEAN Access. We noted the commencement of the work on developing digital business identities in ASEAN to enhance digital interoperability across the region. We underscored the need to provide equal opportunities and access to economic activities among ASEAN's communities and welcomed the finalisation of the Policy Toolkit on "Strengthening Women's Entrepreneurship in National MSME Policies and Action Plans".

52. We commended the ASEAN-BAC and Joint Business Councils (JBC) for their continuous support to ASEAN's post-pandemic recovery efforts. We encouraged the business councils to deepen their active contribution to regional efforts to enhance digital transformation and foster a greener and sustainable economic community.
53. We recognised the importance of maintaining competition policy and law to support ASEAN's Post-Pandemic Recovery Efforts and commended the ASEAN Heads of Competition Agencies (AHCA) in issuing a Joint Statement on Maintaining Competition Policy in Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery in line with the ACRF. The Joint Statement highlights several agreed steps among ASEAN Competition Agencies to strengthen competition in ASEAN, and to foster greater governmental engagement to create a more resilient ASEAN. We encouraged ASEAN Competition Agencies to continue strengthening their enforcement capabilities and merger review regimes to address post-pandemic competition issues including emerging issues relating to digital markets and MSMEs. We also encouraged ASEAN Member States to work towards greater cooperation in enforcing its competition laws and policies.
54. We welcomed the Launch of the Negotiations for an ASEAN Framework Agreement on Competition, which will provide a fair and competitive business environment in ASEAN. We commended the completion of the ASEAN Investigation Manual on Competition Policy and Law for the Digital Economy that will guide ASEAN Competition Agencies to collaborate in investigating anti-competitive practices in the digital economy. We also noted the progress of the development of the ASEAN Guidelines for Sharing Merger Cases, which will serve as reference to develop the ASEAN Portal on Merger Cases in 2023.
55. We recognised the importance of ensuring enhanced awareness of emerging consumer protection issues. We welcomed the launch of the

ASEAN Consumer Complaints Function that aims to enhance consumers' access to redress in ASEAN as well as the launch of the free Learning Management System (LMS) to enhance various stakeholders' knowledge on consumer issues. We also commended the completion of the ASEAN Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Guidelines; the ASEAN Sustainable Consumption Toolkit for Consumer Protection to enhance understanding on sustainable consumption policies and priorities; and the ASEAN Guidelines on Consumer Associations to advocate consumer movement in ASEAN.

56. We welcomed the positive progress in ASEAN patent cooperation, such as the completion of the ASEAN Quality Management System for Patent Processes, and the extension of the Pilot Program under the Patent Cooperation Treaty – ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation. We noted the publication of the 2nd Edition of the ASEAN Common Guidelines on Industrial Design on the ASEAN IP Portal to support businesses seeking protection for Industrial Designs in the ASEAN region. We welcomed the completion of the Comparative Study on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Traditional Cultural Expression (GRTKTCE) to enhance GRTKTCE development in ASEAN. We welcomed the completion of the Study on Best Practices for Intellectual Property Valuation in ASEAN. We welcomed the first ASEAN Economic Ministers' interface with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Director General on 15 September 2022 to deepen and widen cooperation between ASEAN and WIPO. We underscored the importance of Intellectual Property to drive innovation and creativity and noted the progress in the discussion to develop possible Guiding Principles to guide the negotiations of a new ASEAN Framework Agreement for Intellectual Property Cooperation (AFAIPC) that will be modern and comprehensive. The Framework Agreement would strengthen regional cooperation and engagement in intellectual property.
57. We underscored the increasingly pivotal role of digital technology in achieving an innovative, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic growth in the region. We commended the good progress in the implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap: an ASEAN Digital Transformation Agenda to Accelerate ASEAN's Economic Recovery and Digital Economy Integration (BSBR) especially in the areas of paperless trade, digital payment, consumer protection, and e-commerce. We strongly encouraged relevant sectoral bodies to timely deliver the initiatives and remain on track for the completion of the BSBR initiatives. We also noted the acceleration of the study for the

ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) in 2023 with a view to commencing the negotiations for the DEFA as soon as possible. The DEFA is a crucial step for ASEAN to become the leading digital community and economic bloc, powered by secure and transformative digital services, technologies, and ecosystem, as identified in the ASEAN Digital Master Plan 2025.

58. We recognised the importance of Circular Economy in contributing towards sustainable development in the region, and in achieving ASEAN Member States' commitments under the Paris Agreement. We underscored that implementation of the Framework for Circular Economy for the AEC would be key in achieving carbon neutrality for the region. We welcomed the completion of the Work Programme to Support Implementation of the Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community that will support socialisation and capacity building on circular economy in the region. We looked forward to the adoption of the Implementation Plan for the Framework for Circular Economy for AEC by the AEC Council. We are encouraged by the finalisation of the concept note for ASEAN Strategy on Carbon Neutrality. We looked forward to the adoption of the concept note by the AEC Council and the subsequent development of the strategy that will provide a systematic, orderly and inclusive pathway for ASEAN to become carbon neutral in the years to come.

59. We commended the strong commitment of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers to effectively address unprecedented challenges during the pandemic and to revitalise the ASEAN tourism industry through innovative solutions to enhance travel safety, hygiene standards and high-quality service in tourism products. We noted the progress of the implementation of the Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism including the completion of the Comprehensive Study on the Implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangements for Tourism Professional (MRA-TP): Enhanced Mechanism for Tourism Professionals, and the ASEAN Framework on Sustainable Tourism in the Post-COVID-19 Era. We also acknowledged the endorsement of the Guidelines on Hygiene and Safety for the Professionals and the Communities in the Tourism Industry as well as the New ASEAN Tourism Logo and Tagline "A Destination for Every Dream" with a focus on showing travellers the many beautiful experiences they could enjoy in each of the ASEAN Member States while highlighting the changes the region is making towards safe and responsible tourism. In this vein, we encouraged the ASEAN Tourism Ministers to pay special focus on supporting tourism MSMEs and on promoting equal opportunities to

enhance jobs for local communities as stated in the ***Phnom Penh Declaration on Transforming ASEAN Tourism***.

60. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture to promote a sustainable and circular economy in the food and agriculture sector, and encourage ASEAN partners, international organisations, and relevant stakeholders to work with ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat to identify meaningful projects and programmes to support the practical implementation of the Guidelines. In this connection, we looked forward to the development of the ASEAN Statement calling to prevent and eventually eliminate the use of banned harmful agrochemicals in the region. We welcomed the adoption of the Guidelines for Sharing, Access to, and Use of the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing-Related Information, which outlines the common information sharing principles to support the operation of the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU fishing. We also commended the adoption of the ASEAN Strategy for Preventing Transmission of Zoonotic Diseases from Wildlife Trade, which aims to enhance the resilience of the region to the adverse impact of potential future pandemic through one health strategy on zoonotic diseases risk management link with wildlife trade. We also encouraged the promotion of farmers and farmers' organisations especially among women and the youth, as well as the establishment of networks between young farmers and researchers to exchange experiences, share research outcomes and promote practical application of sustainable and environmentally friendly digital technologies with a view to increasing productivity towards ensuring food security.
61. We welcomed the signing of ASEAN-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (AE CATA) on 17 October 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. As the world's first bloc-to-bloc Air Transport Agreement, this would significantly strengthen air connectivity between ASEAN and Europe and enable greater business, trade, tourism and people-to-people links between the two regions as well as build a solid foundation for wider aviation cooperation. We were also pleased to note the adoption of the Guiding Principles for the Regulation of Application-based Mobility Services for Passenger Transport in ASEAN that will guide ASEAN Member States in developing a robust and appropriate regulatory framework to better manage mobility-as-a-service in the region. We also welcomed the adoption of the Implementation Framework on Enhancing Container Processing and Circulation in ASEAN Member States, including its Action Plan, which aims to provide practical strategies and measures to assist ASEAN Member States in

enhancing container circulation for the resilience of regional container shipping, maritime transport logistics and multimodal transport, which in turn, would bolster intra-ASEAN and international trade flows in the region.

62. We noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II 2021-2025 which frames the region's work towards energy transitions and resilience and aims to respond to both the impact of the pandemic and the long-term requirements of sustainable development. We welcomed the launch of two important energy outlooks by the ASEAN Energy Ministers in September 2022, namely: the 7th ASEAN Energy Outlook and the 2nd ASEAN Renewable Energy Outlook: Towards Regional Energy Transition, which complement the continuing implementation of the APAEC and outlines scenarios and potential pathways for achieving the region's energy agenda, monitor access and social impact, and assess options for accelerating the deployment of renewables, cleaner energy technologies and end-user electrification.
63. We recognised the strong outlook of the global minerals and metals demand up to 2050 and beyond, together with the opportunities for ASEAN to play an important role in the minerals value chain, including the emerging requirements of the global energy transition and digital age technologies. We welcomed the commitment of the ASEAN Ministers in charge of the minerals cooperation (AMMin) to gear the cooperation towards promoting the region as a minerals investment destination and looked forward to the successful implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP-III) Phase 2: 2021-2025 to develop the region's resource base in a sustainable manner.
64. We welcomed the progress made in implementing the "Global ASEAN" strategy being pursued through ASEAN's free trade and comprehensive economic partnership agreements. In particular, we welcomed the substantial conclusion of the upgrade negotiations for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Agreement Area (AANZFTA), which is a PED of Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship. We noted the commencement and progress of the ASEAN-Canada FTA negotiations, and welcomed the commencement of the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA). We recognised the importance of these agreements in contributing not only to stronger and more resilient supply chains but also to accelerating post-pandemic economic recovery. We therefore encouraged officials to ensure that these agreements are made

modern, comprehensive, forward-looking and sufficiently pliant to withstand future adversities.

65. We expressed our appreciation to ASEAN's Dialogue and Development Partners for their continued support to ASEAN's Community-building efforts through the various economic cooperation and technical programs that they have established under the ASEAN Plus One FTAs. We welcomed, in particular, the economic cooperation activities being organised by ASEAN's Dialogue Partners to prepare ASEAN for the challenges and opportunities brought by the 4IR, including to enhance the capacity and readiness of ASEAN towards a digital economy and we underscored ASEAN's commitment to work closely with our partners to keep markets open and ensure the continued flows of trade and investment, supply chain connectivity, particularly for essential products, and for a strong and resilient post-COVID-19 economy.
66. We welcomed the entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement on 1 January 2022 and looked forward to its full and effective implementation to contribute to economic recovery, inclusive development as well as our support for an open, inclusive, rules-based trade and investment arrangement. We acknowledged the significance of the RCEP Agreement in contributing to our region's economic recovery as well as its important role in the region's bouncing back faster, better and stronger amidst regional and global challenges.
67. We noted the achievements in accomplishing Cambodia's Priority Economic Deliverables for 2022, aided by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) which include: (i) the Work Programme to Support the Implementation of the Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community; (ii) the Development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture; (iii) the Launch of ATIGA Upgrade Negotiations; (iv) the Framework on Sustainable Tourism Development in ASEAN in Post COVID-19 Era; (v) the Development of the Work Plan for the Implementation of the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development (AFEED); and (vi) the Comprehensive Study on the Implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangements for Tourism Professional (MRA-TP): Enhanced Mechanism for Tourism Professionals.
68. We took note of Cambodia's idea to establish an ASEAN Green Deal with the aim to gradually transform the ASEAN region towards a green

future, encourage sustainability, effective use of resources, resilience, and economic competitiveness.

ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

69. We reaffirmed our commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. We also encouraged the further advancement of sustainable cooperation in the region through existing ASEAN frameworks and centres including the ASEAN Centre on Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD). We looked forward to the convening of the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Accelerating Actions to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals to continue this effective platform for exchange among the national development planning agencies in ASEAN Member States.
70. We noted the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work through ongoing data collection and funding activities; the ASEAN Labour Productivity Index and the continuation of data collection; and the launch of the Roadmap on the ASEAN Higher Space and its Implementation Plan. We also noted with satisfaction the progress of work of the ASEAN Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council (ATC) to meet the current and future skills needs of the region.
71. We noted the steady progress of the implementation and monitoring of the ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025 and the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. We were also pleased to note the completion of the Study on Women Migrant Workers in the Laws and Policies of ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Migration Outlook. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Labour Inspection Committee (ALICOM)'s Work Plan for 2022-2030 that will strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of labour inspection in the post-pandemic future of work. These progresses are concrete translations of the region's commitment for more inclusive, safe, and responsive labour markets. We also welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines on HIV Counselling and Testing in the Workplace which will ensure workplaces are safe, healthy and non-discriminatory.
72. We commended the contribution of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to Cambodia's ASCC Chairmanship, in

particular its support to the development of 13 priority ASCC deliverables. We also appreciated ERIA's assistance and support for research including on Learning Loss in Reading and Mathematics at Primary School Level during the Pandemic in Lower Mekong Countries, and workshops that contributed to ASEAN outcome documents under the ASCC, including the *ASEAN Declaration on Fostering ASEAN Identity through the Safeguarding of Traditional Sports and Games in the Modern World* and the *ASEAN Declaration on Leveraging the Role of Sports in ASEAN Community Building and Achieving the SDGs*.

73. We reiterated the importance of strengthening disaster management and humanitarian assistance and enhancing resilience to disasters by effective prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, and recovery in ASEAN through advancement in risk information and early warning systems, anticipatory action and policy, science, technology and innovation, business continuity planning, search and rescue, and emergency response. We commended the publication of the ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management as well as the ASEAN Guidelines for Operationalising the ASEAN Regional Framework of Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Disaster Management. We continued to support ASEAN's vision to be the global leader in disaster management.
74. We expressed grave concern for the continuing rise in global greenhouse gas emissions and the compounded socio-economic impacts of climate change. We reiterated our commitment to global climate action and adopted the *ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 27th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-27)*. We further noted the progress of establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, and we welcomed the initiatives to seek complementarities within the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (ASEAN SHIELD), and their relevant deliverables to strengthen the region's resilience to disasters and climate change and support sustainable and green recovery.
75. We acknowledged that the well-being and prosperity of ASEAN is linked to the health and security of the oceans and seas and we reaffirmed our support to strengthening collective action to address the pressing transboundary ocean issues such as marine debris pollution. We noted with appreciation the ongoing implementation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Member States as

well as the opportunity for development of cooperation on other coastal and marine environment issues.

76. We recognised that transboundary haze pollution, arising from land and forest fires, remains a major concern in the region. We reiterated our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP). We welcomed the Final Review of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2006-2020 and welcomed the commencement of the formulation of the next APMS. We also welcomed the Report of the Final Review and the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation which have helped the region track progress and sustain momentum in ensuring demonstrable improvements for a haze-free ASEAN. We expressed our appreciation for the valuable support from Partners in the ongoing implementation of projects in peatland and ecosystems management related to fire and haze mitigation. We stressed the importance of remaining vigilant and noted the ongoing preventive efforts to minimise any possible occurrence of transboundary smoke haze during periods of drier weather. We looked forward to the establishment and full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACCTHPC) which will facilitate faster and effective implementation of all aspects of the AATHP to address transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region.
77. We welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025 and its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and looked forward to its successful implementation and collaboration with stakeholders. We also welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports 2021-2025; the ASEAN-FIFA Collaboration Plan; and the Joint Statement of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS) on Cementing Strong Foundation for ASEAN Athletes at the Southeast Asian Games. We also welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and the World Anti-Doping Agency to advance cooperation in anti-doping efforts. We noted with appreciation, the completion of the ASEAN Survey on Sports Participation 2021.
78. We acknowledged the socio-economic value of sports in improving physical and mental health, well-being, and leveraging the role of sports in ASEAN Community-building and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, we are pleased to adopt the *ASEAN Declaration on Leveraging the Role of Sports in ASEAN Community-Building and Achieving the SDGs* and the *ASEAN Declaration on*

Fostering ASEAN Identity through the Safeguarding of Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) in the Modern World. We noted with appreciation the support of experts from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), UNESCO, and the Commonwealth Secretariat in the development of both Declarations, including the ongoing Research Study on the Preservation of TSG.

79. We commended the sustained momentum of the ASEAN Road Map on Implementing the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community in strengthening social work and the social service workforce. We noted the finalisation of the Regional Guidance on the Role of Social Work and Social Service Workforce in Strengthening Social Protection and A Regional Guide to the Development and Use of the Social Service Workforce to Population Ratios. We looked forward to the guidance of these regional frameworks on the delivery of quality social services and social protection assistance that reaches the most vulnerable sectors and leaves no one behind.
80. We appreciated the rollout of the Regional Plan of Action on Implementing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN which will accelerate ASEAN's efforts to address the challenges of demographic change and ensure inclusive and sustainable development.
81. We acknowledged the adoption of the Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that will provide the operational mechanism in reviewing and assessing the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025.
82. We reaffirmed our commitment to mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls across the ASEAN Community. We took note and were encouraged by the finalisation and launch of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework. We underscored the importance of this framework as a tool to facilitate and foster the growing number of initiatives.
83. We were pleased to adopt the ***ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development***, underscoring its importance as a whole-of-ASEAN approach to promote rural development, considering the changing scenario that shaped rural development in the region, promoting the linkages between regional actions with national programmes on rural development, as well as supporting a platform for meaningful and

substantive engagements of farmers' organisations, rural peoples' organisations, civil society organisations, private sector, local authorities and other stakeholders engaged in promoting rural development.

84. We expressed support in addressing cultural losses arising from human-induced and natural disasters, conflicts, economic and health emergencies including the COVID-19 pandemic and illicit trafficking of cultural properties. We encouraged strengthened cooperation through the continued implementation of the Strategic Plan for Culture and the Arts (2016-2025), stronger cross-sectoral and cross-pillar innovation and cooperation to revitalise the cultural and creative industries, and greater regional collaboration to protect, preserve and conserve our cultural heritage that is the foundation of our regional identity.
85. We recognised that the proliferation of fake news and misinformation as a result of rapid digital adoption in the region could lead to social discrimination and prejudice that would hamper the progress of ASEAN's Community-building. In this regard, we expressed our support to mitigate the harmful effects of fake news and misinformation through policy initiatives and activities including the establishment of the ASEAN Task Force on Fake News.
86. We reaffirmed the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN to support a more visible and enhanced role of ASEAN in supporting Myanmar by providing humanitarian assistance, facilitating the repatriation process, and promoting sustainable development in Rakhine State. We appreciated the work of the Ad Hoc Support Team of the ASEAN Secretariat (AHAST) and efforts of the Secretary-General of ASEAN in leading the implementation of the recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment (PNA), and appreciated the contribution from ASEAN Member States and external partners in supporting ASEAN activities, such as the prioritised projects to facilitate the repatriation process and to promote inclusive and sustainable development in Rakhine State, including through providing basic services and creating livelihood opportunities for the displaced persons. We welcomed the outcomes of the 4th High-Level Coordination Meeting, particularly the endorsement of projects to further advance the implementation of the recommendations of the PNA and emphasised the need for the completion of the conduct of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) when conditions allow and encouraged the Secretary-General of ASEAN to continue identifying possible areas for ASEAN to effectively facilitate the repatriation process.

87. We reaffirmed ASEAN's continued support to bring peace, stability, and the rule of law, promote harmony and reconciliation among the various communities, as well as promote sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State. We stressed the importance of and reiterated our continued support for Myanmar's commitment to ensure safety and security for all communities in Rakhine State as effectively as possible and facilitate the voluntary return of displaced persons in a safe, secure, and dignified manner in accordance with the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh. We also welcomed the outcomes of the 5th Meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG). We looked forward and stood ready to support and facilitate the full implementation of the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of Bangladesh signed in 2017 and the renewed MOU between the Government of Myanmar, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which is valid until March 2023.
88. We acknowledged the imperative for schools to remain safely open for in-person learning as we move towards post-COVID-19 recovery, and recognised that education systems must be resilient to withstand future shocks, disruptions and crises, and education promises are back on track with the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, we noted the Reopen, Recover, and Resilience in Education: Guidelines for ASEAN Countries and looked forward to its utilisation by the ASEAN Member States.
89. We acknowledged that the care economy is important to ASEAN's resilience, and job creation, and may bring ASEAN closer to the SDGs. We welcomed the initiatives to advance the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Framework on Care Economy (ACFCE). We also expressed our steadfast support to strengthen social protection for women, children, the youth, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, migrant workers, and vulnerable and marginalised groups.
90. We noted the efforts to widen and deepen ASEAN cooperation on civil service matters through the utilisation of the Framework for Strategic Partnerships. Building and strengthening cooperation with relevant stakeholders are important in promoting good governance principles and agile civil service in this digital era.

91. We acknowledged the continuous and significant contribution of migrant workers to the region's economy. Therefore, we underscored the importance and reaffirmed our commitment to the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in the entire migration process as enshrined in the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

ASEAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

92. We are pleased with the good progress in ASEAN's relations with our Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, and Development Partners, regional and international organisations, and other external parties and agreed to further enhance and strengthen our partnerships and cooperation through the existing frameworks, Plans of Action, Practical Cooperation Areas and development programmes based on mutual interest and benefit. We underscored the importance of strengthening ASEAN Centrality and unity in our engagement with ASEAN's external partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus One, APT, EAS, ARF, and ADMM-Plus, in order to build mutual trust and confidence as well as reinforce an open, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture with ASEAN at the centre.
93. We acknowledged with appreciation the contribution of these partnerships to our ASEAN Community-building and development cooperation efforts, including through increased technical assistance and official contribution to regional cooperation programmes and projects. We welcomed the support of our partners for the priorities of ASEAN in 2022 in addressing challenges together and advancing ASEAN Community-building. We agreed to further strengthen partnership and cooperation with our external partners, thus contributing to the continued efforts towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and our proactive responses to emerging challenges. We looked forward to the convening of the 2nd ASEAN-Australia Summit, the 25th ASEAN-China Summit, the 25th ASEAN-Japan Summit, the 23rd ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit, and the 10th ASEAN-United States (U.S.) Summit, the ASEAN-Canada Summit to Commemorate the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations and the 19th ASEAN-India Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, to be held back-to-back with the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits. We looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit to Commemorate the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations on 14 December 2022 in Brussels. We looked forward to the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations in 2023 and agreed to have both

a regular Summit during the 43rd ASEAN Summit and a Commemorative Summit in 2023 in Tokyo. We welcomed the adoption of Annexes to the existing Plans of Actions to advance the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) with Australia and China that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial. We also looked forward to the establishment of this partnership of the CSP with India and the U.S. at the 19th ASEAN-India Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and the 10th ASEAN-U.S. Summit, respectively.

94. We took note of the growing interest from countries and regional organisations outside of the region in developing stronger collaboration and cooperation with ASEAN, including through applications for formal partnerships with ASEAN. In this regard, we welcomed Brazil and the United Arab Emirates as new Sectoral Dialogue Partners of ASEAN. We also agreed on the need to pursue our outward-looking approach and reach out to new potential partners based on shared interest, constructive engagement, and mutual benefit, while noting the decision to conduct a comprehensive review of the moratorium on new dialogue partnerships, in conjunction with the work of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision. We noted the role and contribution of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) in actively engaging with ASEAN's partners, including through 96 Non-ASEAN Ambassadors Accredited to ASEAN (NAAAs). We also welcomed the role of the 55 ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and International Organisations (ACTCs) in promoting ASEAN's interest and forging partnerships in the respective host countries and international organisations.
95. We also highlighted the importance of and reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthening ASEAN's relations with other external partners as well as regional and international organisations, including the UN to address global concerns, to promote an enabling environment for peace, stability and prosperous development, to pursue shared goals and complementary initiatives, and to promote sustainable development for the benefit of our people. As part of the continuing efforts to further increase interactions and strengthen cooperation with the UN, we encouraged ASEAN Member States to present their candidate or candidature to various posts in UN's bodies and agencies.

ASEAN Plus Three

96. We reaffirmed the importance of the APT cooperation in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the East Asian region, with ASEAN as the driving force. We underscored the need to further strengthen and

deepen functional cooperation under the APT framework through the implementation of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022 and looked forward to the continued implementation of the East Asia Vision Group II recommendations. In this connection, we welcomed the adoption of the successor ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2023-2027), which serves as a master plan in enhancing the APT process and cooperation over the next five years. We reaffirmed the role of APT cooperation in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and further underlined the need to strengthen APT collaboration in advancing the region's recovery from the adverse socio-economic effects of the pandemic. We are committed to promoting APT cooperation in strengthening regional economic and financial resilience in the face of emerging challenges. With relevance to this, we welcomed the inaugural convening of the Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) + 3 Consultation held in Singapore and virtual format on 25 August 2022, which invigorated the enhanced relations between the APT countries on border management, immigration and consular affairs.

East Asia Summit

97. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthening the EAS as the premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political, and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in East Asia. We noted progress in the areas of cooperation under the Manila Plan of Action 2018-2022 and looked forward to the adoption of the successor EAS Plan of Action 2023-2027 to build on the existing Plans of Action and further enhance EAS cooperation over the next five years, including to facilitate a sustainable and comprehensive recovery of the region. We highlighted the need to strengthen EAS collaboration in response to emerging issues and challenges that affect peace, stability and prosperity in the region based on the principle of strengthening ASEAN Centrality. We noted the fruitful outcomes of the 12th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 5 August 2022 in Phnom Penh, on strengthening EAS coordination and collaboration in addressing the impact of COVID-19 and supporting regional recovery. We encouraged the enhanced role of the EAS Chair in strengthening coordination and cooperation between the EAS and other ASEAN-led mechanisms as well as in promoting coordination and exchange of information among the EAS participating countries inter-sessionally. We welcomed the continued discussions and efforts to strengthen the EAS, including through, among others, the regular engagement of the EAS Ambassadors' Meeting in Jakarta to discuss implementation of Leaders' decisions, as well as to exchange

information on regional development cooperation initiatives and security policies and initiatives, and discussions on the evolving regional architecture and with the support of the EAS Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEAN Regional Forum

98. We reiterated the importance of the ARF as a key platform for dialogue and consultation on regional political and security issues of common interest and concern and reaffirmed the need to further enhance its effectiveness and maintain its relevance in the evolving regional security architecture. We noted with satisfaction the progress of cooperation in the ARF and commended the provisional measures undertaken to ensure continuity of cooperation and operations of the ARF in the post-COVID-19 recovery. We were encouraged by the progress made in the implementation of the Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025) and looked forward to further discussion on efforts and follow-up actions to streamline and enhance the efficiency of the ARF based on the agreed Guide to ARF Processes, Procedures, Practices and Protocol. We noted the implementation of the ARF Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, including the convening of the ARF Workshop on Youth, Peace and Security. We also looked forward to the implementation of the ARF Statement to Promote Peace, Stability, and Prosperity through Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy, the ARF Statement on Reiterating Commitment to Preserve Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, and the ARF Framework on Inclusive Processes for the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security Agendas in Confidence Building Measures, Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution, which were adopted at the 29th ARF in August 2022.

ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)

99. We reaffirmed the importance of the AOIP as a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. We recognised the importance of ASEAN-owned and ASEAN-led process in the implementation of AOIP. Towards that end, we adopted the *ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Mainstreaming Four Priority Areas of the AOIP within ASEAN-led Mechanisms*, and we noted the Concept Note on ASEAN Roadmap for Promoting ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific 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 AOIP, on the four identified key areas of cooperation. We called 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.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

100. We discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which concerns were expressed by some ASEAN Member States on the land reclamations, activities, and serious incidents in the area, including damage to the marine environment, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions, and may undermine peace, security, and stability in the region. We reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability, and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation. We further reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of activities by claimants and all other states that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.
101. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea and recognised the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability, and prosperity. We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. We welcomed ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and China and were encouraged by the progress of the substantive negotiations towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) consistent with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, within a mutually-agreed timeline. We welcomed the resumption of physical textual negotiation of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text (SDNT) through the convening of the 36th and 37th Meeting of the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC (JWG-DOC) in May 2022 in Siem Reap and in October 2022 in Phnom Penh respectively, and looked forward to the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the need to maintain and promote an environment conducive to the COC negotiations, and thus welcomed

practical measures that could reduce tensions and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings, and miscalculation. We stressed the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence among parties, and we reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

102. We stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. The recent surge in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s intercontinental ballistic missile testing and ballistic missile launches and the increased tension in the Korean Peninsula are a worrisome development that threatens peace and stability in the region. We urged all concerned parties to exercise utmost restraint, avoid actions and military reciprocations that may escalate the situation, resume peaceful dialogue and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Diplomatic efforts, including the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties should remain a priority. We reiterated our readiness to play a constructive role, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue among the concerned parties.

103. We expressed concern over the developments in the Middle East region. We reiterated the need for a comprehensive, just, and sustainable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in order to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East region. We urged both sides to actively take positive steps to allow for negotiations to gain traction and work together towards the resumption of negotiations to achieve an enduring peace. We fully support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for an independent State of Palestine with the realisation of two states, Palestine and Israel living side by side in peace and security based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

104. We extensively discussed the recent developments in Myanmar and expressed our concerns over the prolonged political crisis in the country, including the execution of four opposition activists and recent escalation of violence. We welcomed efforts to help address the situation including visits to Myanmar by Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the

Kingdom of Cambodia, in January 2022, and by H.E. Mr. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar in March and late June to early July 2022. We were deeply disappointed by the little progress in and lack of commitment of the Nay Pyi Taw authorities to the timely and complete implementation of the Five-Point Consensus. We reiterated our commitment to peace and stability in the region and expressed ASEAN's readiness to assist Myanmar in a positive, peaceful, and constructive manner, including in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all the people in need in Myanmar, without discrimination. We also welcomed the first visit of Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, to Myanmar in August 2022, and affirmed the important roles of the UN, ASEAN and its external partners in facilitating a peaceful solution in Myanmar. We endorsed the ***ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus***. The third visit of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar will bring positive progress to the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, especially the delivery of humanitarian assistance and widen the window of opportunity for political dialogue in Myanmar.

105. With regard to Ukraine, as for all nations, we continued to reaffirm our respect for sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity. We reiterated our call for compliance with international law and the UN Charter. We underlined the importance of an immediate cessation of hostilities and the creation of an enabling environment for the peaceful resolution of conflict. We supported the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in the search for a peaceful solution. We also called for the facilitation of rapid, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for those in need in Ukraine, and for the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel, and persons in vulnerable situations.
