



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 12TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS) FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

Phnom Penh, 5 August 2022

1. The 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was convened on 5th August 2022 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Review and Future Direction of the EAS

2. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening the EAS as the premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation 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 in line with the EAS fundamental documents, including the 2020 Ha Noi Declaration on the Fifteenth Anniversary of the East Asia Summit and based on the established principles, objectives and modalities of the EAS.

3. The Meeting reaffirmed that the EAS would continue to be an open, inclusive, transparent and outward-looking forum that is an integral component of the evolving ASEAN-centred regional architecture, under the guiding principles of the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the 2011 EAS Declaration on the Principles of Mutually Beneficial Relations, and reconfirmed in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The Meeting reaffirmed ASEAN's central role in the EAS and underscored ASEAN's commitment to work in close partnership with all EAS participating countries to be an integral component of the ASEAN centred regional architecture. The Meeting emphasised towards upholding the important role of the EAS in strengthening multilateralism founded on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN Charter) and the international order based on international law. The Meeting underscored the need to promote an enabling environment for peace, stability and prosperous development for all through ensuring a culture of dialogue and cooperation, instead of rivalry, enhancing mutual trust and confidence and respect for international law.

4. The Meeting underscored the need to further strengthen the EAS to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness amidst the rapidly evolving regional and global architecture. In this regard, the Meeting recognised the continued importance of

constructive dialogue on strategic issues among leaders at the EAS in order to reinforce strategic trust and to address common challenges based on mutual trust, mutual benefit and mutual respect.

5. The Meeting welcomed and appreciated the continued efforts to strengthen the EAS work processes, such as through the EAS Ambassadors' Meeting in Jakarta and the EAS Senior Officials' Meeting to ensure the effective follow-up and implementation of the Leaders' decisions and initiatives in a timely manner, including during inter-sessional periods, as well as to promote coherence with other ASEAN-led mechanisms which are mutually reinforcing, through fostering complementarity among the mechanisms and avoiding duplication of work. In this regard, the Meeting recognised the role of the Ambassadors of EAS participating countries in Jakarta to discuss and recommend on the implementation of the Leaders' decisions and EAS cooperation as well as to exchange information on regional development cooperation initiatives and security policies and initiatives and the discussions on the evolving regional architecture. The Meeting also encouraged the further strengthening of the EAS Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate and support EAS coordination and cooperation.

Areas of Cooperation

6. The Meeting recognised that substantive progress has been made in the areas of EAS cooperation under the Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative (2018-2022). It underscored the need to accelerate efforts to ensure the timely implementation of the Plan of Action before its expiry in December 2022, through the existing EAS mechanisms and relevant ASEAN frameworks, in close consultation with and support from the EAS participating countries and relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies. The Meeting looked forward to the adoption of the successor EAS Plan of Action (2023-2027) to streamline and build on the existing Plan of Action and further enhance EAS cooperation over the next five years, including to facilitating a sustainable and comprehensive recovery of the region.

Environment and Energy

7. The Meeting took note of the virtual convening of the 12th EAS High Level Seminar on Sustainable Cities (HLS-SC) in February 2022, held under the ASEAN SDG's Frontrunners Cities initiative, and was attended by national governments of ASEAN Member States, some EAS participating countries, local governments from ASEAN Member States and Japan, international and regional organisations, as well as, non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The Meeting also took note that the 13th EAS HLS-SC is planned to be held in 2023 in collaboration with other relevant initiatives on cities.

8. The Meeting recognised the importance of a sustainable recovery that supports both economic growth as well as climate and sustainability goals. The Meeting expressed support for full implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement,

including the agreement to review and strengthen Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and ensure targets are aligned with the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

9. The Meeting welcomed the fruitful outcome of the 15th EAS Energy Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) in September 2021. The Meeting also noted the special session among the EAS energy ministers to exchange views on strategic, policy, and practical cooperation initiatives needed to advance the global climate sustainability agenda and decarbonization in the energy sector by introducing the key aspects of their respective transition plans, policies, major initiatives, challenges, and ongoing learnings as well as the integration of energy transition into their pandemic recovery efforts. The Meeting also encouraged the EAS energy cooperation to be further enhanced in line with the newly adopted ASEAN Plan of Action of Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II: 2021-2025, and welcomed the successful commencement of the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS PIP) on 23 June 2022 in support of the broader vision of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG).

10. The Meeting encouraged EAS participating countries to address the impact of climate change, including through the sharing of best practices, and providing technical expertise. The Meeting also welcomed support for the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in Brunei Darussalam.

11. The Meeting took note of the progress made under the EAS Leaders' Statement on Sustainable Recovery, which was adopted at the 16th East Asia Summit in October 2021, particularly the importance of a sustainable recovery that is comprehensive, inclusive and resilient, and the need to promote economic policies and growth including trade and investment, which contribute to the sustainable development and tackling of climate change. Through this Statement, the Meeting took note of the EAS participating countries' decision to (i) support the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan; (ii) support the implementation of the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (ASEAN SHIELD); (iii) promote youth participation in climate action.

12. The Meeting encouraged EAS participating countries to further strengthen energy cooperation through the implementation of the existing three EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force (ECTF) Work Streams, as well as the 15th EAS Energy Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) back-to-back with the 39th AMEM that seeks to enhance greater cooperation in promoting sustainable development, as well as opportunities for energy transition and climate action. The Meeting noted the continued advocacy on the promotion of innovative technologies and low carbon societies, including the development of hydrogen, fuel ammonia, mobility low carbon emission technologies, carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) and carbon recycling. The Meeting took note of the launch of the Asia Network during the 1st CCUS Network Forum in June 2021 and also looked forward to the convening of the 16th EAS EMM, which is to be hosted by Cambodia in September 2022.

13. The Meeting recognised deliverables under EAS energy cooperation completed in 2021 include the Report of the Joint Research with ERIA on the “Analysis of EAS Future Mobility Fuel Scenario Considering the Sustainable Use of Biofuels and Other Alternative Vehicle Fuels”, conduct of the Webinar on “Floating Solar in ASEAN: Outlook, Policies, Opportunities and Challenges” on 26 August 2021 and the 5th EAS Clean Energy Forum with the topic “Boosting Green Recovery with High Proportion of Renewable Energy” on 25-26 November 2021 via videoconference, and the EAS New Energy Forum held on 20 October 2021 via videoconference.

Education

14. The Meeting encouraged and affirmed the need to work together to foster long-term, life-long learning skills development and digital literacy and mutually beneficial education cooperation through the alignment of future and complementation of the related action lines under the Manila Plan of Action with the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025 as presented at the 6th EAS Senior Officials’ Meeting on Education (EAS SOM-ED), and the 5th EAS Education Ministers’ Meeting. The Meeting noted with appreciation the recent adoption of the ASEAN Workplan on Education 2021-2025 by the ASEAN Education Ministers’ Meeting and its alignment with the 14 priority areas of education cooperation under the Manila Plan of Action. The Meeting commended the implementation of inclusive and equitable quality education programmes and activities by EAS countries in the areas of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), people-to-people exchanges including through scholarship programmes, strengthening competency of teachers in LCT areas, and the promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The Meeting took note of the establishment and the on-going implementation of the ASEAN-India Network of Universities-Faculty Exchange Programme.

Finance

15. The Meeting reiterated the need to work together to strengthen the global economic recovery. The Meeting expressed support for the further strengthening of the region’s resilience to external shocks through continued regional financial cooperation and exchanging views on macro-economic and financial developments.

16. The Meeting encouraged working together to strengthen cooperation to ensure macroeconomic and financial stability aimed at mitigating the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global and regional trade and investment. Following the 3rd Informal EAS Finance Ministers’ Meeting on 12 October 2013 in the United States on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Annual meeting, the EAS participating countries looked forward to convening the 4th Informal EAS Finance Ministers’ Meeting.

Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases

17. The Meeting took note of the participation of the EAS participating countries to exchange views and practices on preparedness and response to the current COVID-19 pandemic and future outbreaks of communicable, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases including pandemics, by prioritising cooperation in developing and producing effective, safe and affordable and quality vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostic tools. The Meeting reflected on the regional support provided through the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (COVAX AMC) financing instrument as well as multilateral contributions to ASEAN Member States.

18. The Meeting recalled the adoption of the EAS Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Collective Capacity in Epidemics Prevention and Response at the 15th EAS on 14 November 2020 which recognises the unprecedented and severe challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to adopt effective and comprehensive response to enhance global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacity to promote the health, well-being, livelihood and safety of our peoples and address the pandemic's adverse impacts on the socio-economic development and sociocultural aspects of EAS participating countries.

19. The Meeting recognised the importance of mental health as a critical public health issue which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and called for greater collaboration in mental health. The Meeting noted the convening of the EAS Workshop on Mental Health Cooperation in the COVID-19 Recovery co-hosted via videoconference by Brunei Darussalam and Australia in November 2021 following the adoption of the EAS Leaders' Statement on Mental Health Cooperation to help navigate possible policy practices and address mental health challenges.

20. The Meeting acknowledged the progress in strengthening public health emergency preparedness and response initiatives, such as, the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies, the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, ASEAN Strategic Framework for Public Health Emergencies, the Mitigation of Biological Threats Programme, the ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance, the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine, the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine, and the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System. The Meeting expressed support in scaling-up, sustaining and exploring complementarity areas of cooperation in these regional initiatives, including enhancing efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), strengthening coordination between finance and health authorities, to better prepare for and respond to all hazards and emerging health threats.

21. The Meeting took note of the intersessional exchanges of input between ASEAN Health Sector and Russia on Russia's Concept Paper on a Regional Mechanism for Emerging Infectious Disease Prevention and Control and looked forward to further discussion on the subject within the EAS format. The initiatives

recommended by EAS participating countries through this mechanism may be aligned and harmonised with the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda 2021-2025 and the relevant Work Programmes for 2021-2025 of ASEAN Health Clusters.

22. The Meeting noted the progress of the ASEAN Strategic Framework to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) through One Health Approach for 2019 to 2030. The Meeting encouraged the engagement of various sectors and partners involved with public health, animal health, food safety, agriculture and environment to cooperate in the implementation of the framework.

23. The Meeting acknowledged the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management for 2019 to 2025. The Meeting looked forward to the potential collaboration on disaster health management through enhancing relevant regional collaborative frameworks, multi-sectoral participation, strengthening regional and national capacity and knowledge management.

Disaster Management

24. The Meeting reiterated their support to the implementation of *the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region* to increase the speed, scale and solidarity of ASEAN's response. They noted the completion of implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2016-2020 and welcomed the newly adopted AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 in November 2020. The Meeting reaffirmed commitment to supporting the implementation of the priority programmes of the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 as well as strengthening the capacity of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) as the primary ASEAN regional coordinating agency on disaster management and emergency response.

25. The Meeting encouraged strengthening of engagement between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the national disaster management organisations (NDMOs) of non-ASEAN EAS participating countries, through the participation in ASEAN-led activities/projects including the biennial ASEAN Disaster Resilience Forum, the biennial ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) and the annual ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM). The Meeting also encouraged the EAS participating countries to promote cooperation in disaster management including through the realisation of the 2014 EAS Statement on Rapid Disaster Response to respond effectively to disasters in the region while respecting ASEAN Centrality.

ASEAN Connectivity

26. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of promoting greater synergies amongst the various connectivity strategies within and beyond the region. In this connection, the Meeting expressed the benefit of working together among the EPCs in the Mekong and BIMP-EAGA sub-region, as well as aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN. In supporting socio-economic recovery, the Meeting reaffirmed the importance of promoting connectivity efforts for quality and sustainable infrastructure development in East Asia to facilitate trade, investment, and service competitiveness in the region. The Meeting acknowledged that the immediate mobilisation of resources to support sustainable infrastructure, smart cities and connectivity and transport was critical to strengthening the region's resilience to deal with future public health emergencies and other crises and meet the needs of communities.

27. The Meeting expressed support for ASEAN's efforts to effectively implement the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, which aims to achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of Community. The Meeting encouraged further engagement between the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the non-ASEAN EAS participating countries through the ASEAN Connectivity meetings and events, as well as the development of tangible connectivity projects. The Meeting took note on the outcomes of the 12th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium on "Promoting Recovery and Resilience Through Connectivity" in August 2021 and looked forward to the 13th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium on "Enhancing Connectivity Towards an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient ASEAN Community Post 2025 Vision", which will be held in September/October 2022 in Cambodia.

Economic Cooperation and Trade

28. The Meeting reaffirmed the EAS Leaders' commitment to keeping markets open, inclusive and competitive, through a rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core and welcomed the adoption of the "Geneva Package" at the 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO. The Meeting underscored the importance of strengthening economic relations among the EAS participating countries with ASEAN playing a central role. The Meeting encouraged increased dialogue on common economic challenges facing EAS participating countries to further strengthen regional economic security, regional economic integration, global supply chain resilience, and narrow the development gap in the region. The Meeting welcomed the entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement on 1 January 2022 and looked forward to the full and effective implementation of the Agreement.

29. The Meeting emphasised the importance of strengthening collective efforts, among the EAS participating countries, to mitigate the multifaceted impacts of the

COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate the region towards a resilient recovery. As the region gradually transitions from the Reopening to Recovery and Resilience phases, the Meeting took note of the significant progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) in five broad strategies across health systems, human security, economic integration, digital transformation, and sustainability. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of leveraging on digitalisation and mainstreaming sustainability across regional recovery efforts and reaffirmed their commitment to continue fostering collaboration and partnership to support the effective implementation of the ACRF.

30. The Meeting recalled the adoption of the EAS Leaders' Statement on Cooperation to Promote Steady Growth of Regional Economy at the 15th EAS, which acknowledges the importance of the development in the long-term of enhanced connectivity within the region to support ASEAN Connectivity, which would benefit all EAS participating countries through sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence and people mobility which would strengthen regional supply chains.

31. The Meeting welcomed the convening of the 11th Meeting of SEOM-EAS Consultations in August 2022 and the 10th EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting (EMM) in September 2022, both hosted by Cambodia.

32. The Meeting recalled the EAS Leaders' Statement on Sustainable Recovery, which complements the shared vision to promote a more holistic and comprehensive response to the pandemic which enables swift economic progress and ensures sustainable and inclusive development.

Food Security

33. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitments to implement the 2013 EAS Declaration on Food Security and stressed the need to further enhance food and nutrition security through the implementation of the new ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS) 2021-2025, which was adopted by the 42nd ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in Cambodia in 2020. The Meeting expressed support for the work of the AMAF in ensuring sustainable food systems, promoting sustainable agriculture and implementing climate-smart agriculture that strengthens the capacity of ASEAN to address the impacts of climate change on food production in the region. Some EAS participating countries raised concern over the food crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis in Ukraine.

34. The Meeting took note of the progress on the completion of action line 8.2 of the Manila POA with regard to participation in activities of the EAS Track II Study Group on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environmental Conservation on a voluntary basis, including recent activities in

this area such as the EAS Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.

Maritime Cooperation

35. The Meeting expressed its support for strengthening maritime cooperation among the EAS participating countries in line with the 2015 EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation and the Manila Plan of Action in a collective and comprehensive approach, at the same time emphasising the need to enhance complementarity with other ASEAN led-mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts. Some Ministers took note of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution A/RES/76/72 emphasising, in the Preamble, the universal and unified character of the 1982 UNCLOS, and reaffirming that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector and that its integrity needs to be maintained.

36. The Meeting welcomed the outcome of the 5th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation held in Kolkata, hosted by India in partnership with Australia on 23-24 November 2021, in hybrid format which highlighted the critical need to further bolster maritime security through 1) building and maintaining international maritime orders based on the rule of law, 2) ensuring safe maritime transport, 3) providing capacity-building assistance to the maritime law enforcement agencies and organizations, and 4) promoting international cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). The Meeting also welcomed the convening of the EAS Workshop on IUU-Fishing on 12-13 April 2022 hosted by India and co-organised by Singapore with a focus to showcase the progress made by the EPCs and sharing the national success stories and experience gained in curbing IUU Fishing. The Meeting also took note of the adoption of documents at the 43rd AMAF Meeting, which aimed to promote responsible and sustainable fishing, and efficient aquaculture practices to help mitigate the repercussion on natural resources.

37. The Meeting recognised efforts in the strengthening of maritime cooperation through activities such as the 9th EAMF, hosted by Brunei Darussalam via videoconference in November 2021, and the EAS Workshop on Combating Marine Pollution with a focus on marine plastic debris held on 14-15 February 2022, co-hosted virtually by Singapore, Australia and India. The Meeting looked forward to the Philippines' hosting of the 2022 EAS Workshop on Maritime Cooperation, with the theme "Technical and Scientific Cooperation towards Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Oceans" on August 30 to 1 September 2022, and India's plan to organise the 6th EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation and an EAS Seminar on Conservation of Migratory Wildlife Species and Combatting Illegal Trafficking, and

ROK and Australia's plan to host ROK-Australia-ASEAN Maritime Connectivity Forum later this year.

Other Areas

38. The Meeting stressed the growing importance of security in the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), and reaffirmed the need to enhance cooperation to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful, interoperable and cooperative ICT environment through capacity building. In this connection, the Meeting welcomed the convening of the EAS cyber capacity building workshop on Regional Cyber Capacity Building: Seizing the Fourth Industrial Revolution in 2020, which was co-hosted by Singapore and Australia via videoconference. The Meeting also recognised the importance of preventing conflict and crisis in the ICT environment by developing trust and confidence among states.

39. The Meeting acknowledged that discussions on traditional and non-traditional security issues had been increasingly featured in the EAS, and reaffirmed their commitment to implement the relevant EAS Leaders' Statements and Declarations, including the 2020 EAS Leaders' Statement on Women, Peace and Security, the 2019 EAS Leaders' Statement on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime, the 2019 EAS Leaders' Statement on Combating the Spread of Illicit Drugs, the 2018 EAS Leaders' Statement on the Safe and Security Use, Storage, and Transport of Nuclear and Other Radioactive Materials, the 2017 EAS Leaders' Statement on Chemical Weapons; and the 2016 EAS Statement on Non-Proliferation.

40. The Meeting recognised that tourism is one of the main contributors to economic growth, employment, social benefits and livelihoods of local communities, and commended the relentless efforts by the tourism sector in implementing timely and innovative measures to ensure that the tourism sector remains resilient and more sustainable despite the temporary setbacks. In this regard, the Meeting encouraged all EAS participating countries to implement the EAS Leaders' Statement on Economic Growth through Tourism Recovery which was adopted at the 16th EAS on 27 October 2021, through the existing ASEAN tourism mechanisms with the Plus Ones and the Plus Three countries in line with the Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan of the ASEAN Tourism, and explore the possibility of holding dialogue on tourism among relevant agencies of the EAS participating countries.

41. The Meeting acknowledged that the protection and promotion of Natural and Cultural heritage is important, and delivers benefits for economic growth and sustainable development. Heritage-related tourism is especially critical to livelihoods of many across the region, including indigenous peoples. Thus, the Meeting requested all EAS participating countries to join together to develop meaningful policies and actions focused on stopping looting of archaeological sites and trafficking in cultural property, developing new partnerships to build international quality heritage sites and

institutions to house cultural properties returned, and promoting research on historical significance of certain looted cultural property.

Regional and International Issues

Developments in the Korean Peninsula

42. The Meeting expressed grave concerns over the recent surge in DPRK's intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) testing and ballistic missile launches. This worrisome development reflects an increased tension on the Korean Peninsula and threaten peace and stability in the region and in the world. The Meeting stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue amongst all parties concerned in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. The Meeting called on the DPRK to fully comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions. The Meeting reiterated the 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. The Meeting reiterated the readiness to play a constructive role, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms in promoting a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue amongst the concerned parties. Some Ministers emphasised the importance of addressing issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.

South China Sea

43. The Meeting discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which concerns were expressed by some Ministers on the land reclamations, activities, serious incidents in the area, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions, and may undermine peace, security, and stability in the region. The Meeting 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. The Meeting further reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Meeting emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the DOC that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.

44. The Meeting 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. The Meeting underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. The Meeting 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. The Meeting welcomed the resumption of physical textual negotiation of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text through the convening of the 36th JWG-DOC on 25-27 May 2022 in Siem Reap, and looked forward to the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Meeting 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. The Meeting stressed the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence amongst parties and also reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

Cross Strait Development

45. The Meeting expressed concern over the recent cross-strait development, which could destabilize the region and eventually could lead to miscalculation, serious confrontation. While many countries reiterated One-China Policy, the Meeting underlined the importance of maximum restraint, refrain from provocative action and adherence to the principles enshrined in United Nations Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), so as to avoid open conflicts among major powers and unpredictable consequences.

Developments in Myanmar

46. The Meeting extensively discussed the recent developments in Myanmar and expressed its concerns over the prolonged political crisis in the country, including the execution of four opposition activists, which some participating countries denounced. The Meeting welcomed the 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. The Meeting was deeply disappointed by the limited progress in and lack of commitment of the Nay Pyi Taw authorities to the timely and complete implementation of the Five-Point Consensus. The Meeting reiterated its 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. The Meeting agreed that the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar shall engage all Myanmar relevant stakeholders at the earliest.

Countering Violent Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism

47. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to countering violent extremism, radicalization to violence through the effective implementation of counterterrorism measures at the national, sub-regional and regional levels including under the ASEAN

Convention on Counter-Terrorism where applicable, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, 2017 EAS Leader's Statement on Countering Ideological Challenges of Terrorism and Terrorist Narratives and Propaganda, 2018 EAS Leader's Statement on Countering the Threat of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Returnees and the 2020 EAS Leaders' Statement on Women, Peace and Security. Recognising the importance of a collective and comprehensive approach to address terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and radicalisation, the Meeting expressed continued support for the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (PoA PCRVE) 2018-2025.

Enduring Regional Architecture

48. The Meeting recognised the challenges and uncertainties facing the region that could undermine regional security, sustainable development and economic growth, and affect the dynamic of an open, stable, prosperous and inclusive people-centred ASEAN Community and ASEAN Centrality. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of the TAC and Bali Principles as the key code of conduct governing inter-State relations in the region, underscored its relevance to the wider region and recognised its contribution to promoting regional peace, stability and security.

49. The Meeting noted the importance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions and encouraged the enhancement and promotion of cooperation in priority areas identified in the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, sustainable development, economic and other areas of cooperation to further promote mutual trust, mutual respect, and confidence as well as to contribute to peace and prosperity in the region.

Situation in Ukraine

50. With regard to the war in Ukraine, the Meeting reaffirmed the need to respect for the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity. The Meeting reiterated the call for compliance with the fundamental principles of international law, which are enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. The Meeting underlined the importance of an immediate cessation of hostilities and the creation of an enabling environment for the peaceful resolution of conflict. The Meeting supported the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General in the search for a peaceful solution. The Meeting also called for the facilitation of 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. The Meeting also took note of the view that the root cause of the situation in Ukraine should also be addressed and the legitimate concerns on all countries must be taken into consideration.

Other matters

51. The Meeting noted the proposed outcome documents of the 17th EAS and also noted with appreciation the role of the EAMJ towards finalising these statements.

52. The Meeting discussed the preparations for the upcoming 17th East Asia Summit to be held in November 2022 in Cambodia.

53. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the 13th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in Indonesia in 2023.

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