



## **“ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations”**

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### **JOINT DECLARATION ON COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) AND THE UNITED NATIONS (UN)**

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) gathered at the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UN Summit, on 19 November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia.

**NOTING** that the purpose of ASEAN, as enshrined in Bangkok Declaration of 1967 and ASEAN Charter is to maintain and enhance peace and stability as well as to promote prosperity in the region, which would also require a variety of collaborations with regional and international organizations;

**NOTING ALSO** that the UN Charter captures the spirit and desire of the community of nations to build a just, secure and prosperous society through cooperation among Member States and regional organizations, as enshrined in Chapters VIII and IX of the Charter that provides the necessary foundation for cooperation and collaboration between regional organizations and the UN system;

**NOTING FURTHER** that the UN system and regional organizations have a strategic and critical role to play in facilitating and supporting the ongoing efforts of ASEAN Member States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other agreed multilateral objectives for the common good of the international community through individual and collective actions;

**UNDERLINING** that such cooperation and collaboration shall be based on the distinctive capacity of each organization, infused by a spirit of partnership, and shall be geared towards achieving deliverable outcomes with long-term perspectives;

**UNDERLINING FURTHER** the value of partnership between ASEAN and the UN in providing timely and effective response to global issues of mutual concern, in the context of partnership between the UN and regional organizations;

**RECALLING** that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on ASEAN-UN Cooperation signed on 27 September 2007; UN General Assembly (GA) Resolution 57/35 of 21 November 2002 on

cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; UNGA Resolution 59/5 of 22 October 2004 on further enhanced ASEAN-UN cooperation; UNGA Resolution 61/46 and 61/44 of 4 December 2006 the latter of which granted to ASEAN observer status in the GA; UNGA Resolution 63/35 of 26 November 2008 which welcomed the signing of the 2007 MoU and commended the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the UN and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of ASEAN for their efforts to hold regular meetings, on an annual basis; and UNGA Resolution 65/235 of 22 December 2010 which welcomed the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, encouraged the UN to support the ASEAN undertakings in all of its community-building pillars, and encouraged the UN and ASEAN to explore concrete measures for closer cooperation, particularly in the areas of food and energy security, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, peace and security, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding, climate change and disaster management, as reflected in the statement of the Co-Chairs of the Third ASEAN-UN Summit, had laid the basis for enhancing the partnership between the two Organizations;

**RECALLING FURTHER** that ASEAN and the UN have held three Summits in 2000, 2005 and 2010, that the Summit outcome documents have laid a strong foundation for the strengthening of the partnership between the two Organisations, and that the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM) among the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of ASEAN, the Secretary-General of the UN and the President of the General Assembly has become an annual event on the margins of the UNGA, and **WELCOMING** in this regard the joint press statements of successive AUMMs in the past, most recently on 27 September 2011;

**NOTING** the cooperation between ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and UN Agencies which encompasses all areas related to community building, including key issues related to development, in particular poverty eradication and the Millennium Development Goals, prevention and control of infectious diseases, food security, climate change, environment and biodiversity conservation, disaster management, issues of transnational crimes, transnational issues, trade and investment, peace and security, as well as the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter and international law;

**NOTING FURTHER that** the complexities of regional and global challenges confronting ASEAN and the international community require enhanced capacity in addressing them in the context of cooperation in areas of priorities and mutual concerns such as political affairs, peace and security, promotion of democracy and human rights, rule of law, economic and social development, socio-cultural cooperation, disaster management, culture and education, regional connectivity and integration, and international and regional issues of common concern in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter and international law;

**CONVINCED** that a strengthened framework of cooperation between ASEAN and the UN will reinforce and further enhance and advance the level of, as well as intensify, cooperation between the two organizations;

**DO HEREBY:**

1. Agree to establish a Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN, as described in the Annex to this Declaration.

2. Further agree that this Declaration and its Annex shall be reviewed and revised, as appropriate at least every two years to ensure that the Comprehensive Partnership is responsive to the needs and priorities of ASEAN and the UN, taking into account the changing dynamics of the region and the global environment. The ASEAN-UN Summit will be convened regularly.
3. Acknowledge that the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM) will continue to be the primary policy level mechanism for enhancing ASEAN-UN partnership in between the Summits, including overseeing, directing and reviewing the implementation of this Declaration and its Annex.
4. Request the Secretariat of ASEAN and the relevant entities of the UN system to coordinate the implementation of this Declaration and its Annex through appropriate mechanisms, including regular Secretariat-to-Secretariat (S2S) dialogues.
5. Request the Secretariats of ASEAN and the UN to jointly report on the progress in the implementation of this Declaration and its Annex to the AUMM, and through it to the ASEAN-UN Summit.

Done at Bali, Indonesia, this nineteenth day of November 2011, in duplicate copies in the English language.

**ANNEX TO THE JOINT DECLARATION  
ON COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP  
BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)  
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ASEAN's observer status at the UN, in particular ASEAN's close relationship with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as the regional development arm of the UN and convener of the UN Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), and with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), as well as ASEAN's cooperation with the various UN bodies, specialized agencies, programmes and funds, provide opportunities for the two organizations to elevate the cooperation through a comprehensive partnership.

The partnership is to facilitate closer collaboration between ASEAN and the UN in collectively addressing the emerging global challenges, drawing on the experiences and expertise of ASEAN and the UN. Regionally, the partnership is to support ASEAN's efforts, inter alia, to establish the ASEAN Community, and achieve MDGs.

Notwithstanding the possibility of exploring areas of cooperation and mutual concerns, ASEAN and the UN dedicate themselves to expanding and deepening cooperation in the following priority areas in order to:

**A. POLITICAL – SECURITY COOPERATION**

**1. ASEAN Community**

- 1.1. Promote cooperation between ASEAN and the UN, including its funds and programmes, for the implementation of the Roadmap for ASEAN Community 2009-2015 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. The UN will also assist in promoting cooperation between ASEAN and the UN Specialized Agencies for the implementation of the above-referenced Roadmap and Master Plan.

**2. Peace and Security**

- 2.1 Strengthen partnership in maintaining regional and international peace and security in Southeast Asia and beyond.
- 2.2 Strengthen regional and international efforts in promoting peace and cooperation through relevant institutions and mechanisms, including the ASEAN Regional Forum.
- 2.3 Share experiences and best practices in good offices and regional and international mediation efforts.
- 2.4 Strengthen collaboration in addressing non-traditional security issues and threats, including efforts to combat transnational crime, corruption, terrorism, trafficking in persons, people smuggling, and illicit drug trafficking.
- 2.5 Enhance cooperation in counter terrorism, including improving capacity and exchanging of information.

- 2.6 Cooperate to provide assistance for ensuring the security of trade and travel in the region as a means of safeguarding economic productivity and uninterrupted travel.
- 2.7 Enhance cooperation and the exchange of experiences and best practices through a series of ASEAN-UN seminars, workshops and trainings on issues such as preventive diplomacy, in particular mediation and conflict prevention, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building, including current demining activities in post-conflict areas, with a view to strengthening the civilian capacities and creating a network of civilian experts in the region.
- 2.8 Continue to strengthen cooperation, particularly in the area of multi-dimensional peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building.
- 2.9 Promote peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter, and international law.
- 2.10 Draw on partnership in the area of peacekeeping operations to strengthen the contribution of ASEAN Member States in this area.

### **3. Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights**

- 3.1 Promote and enhance cooperation on human rights, good governance, democracy and the rule of law through consultation, information-sharing and capacity-building, taking into account the diversities and particularities in ASEAN.
- 3.2 Support the Bali Democracy Forum as a regional initiative that is home-grown and not imposed, based on the principle of equal participation, and contribute to its work on the question of the promotion of democracy and good governance in the region.
- 3.3 Support engagement by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) in consultation and dialogue with the relevant international human rights institutions.

### **4. International and Regional Issues of Common Concern**

- 4.1 Increase dialogue as a means of enhancing understanding of the issues of common interest and concern while emphasizing the importance of mutual respect and understanding in such dialogue.

## **B. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

### **1. ASEAN Connectivity and Integration**

- 1.1. Promote cooperation between ASEAN and the relevant entities of the UN, including its regional commission, funds and programmes, for the implementation of the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration. The UN will also assist in promoting cooperation between ASEAN and the UN Specialized Agencies for the implementation of the above-referenced Master Plan.

- 1.2. Explore ways to enhance economic and financial connectivity, physical connectivity, institutional connectivity and connectivity between people, including cross-border human mobility for the purpose of facilitating trade and supporting economic growth in the region in line with ASEAN economic blueprint and ASEAN Master Plan on Connectivity for regional integration.

## **2. Economy and Development**

- 2.1 Strengthen cooperation in promoting a higher level of economic dynamism, sustained prosperity and inclusive growth through advancing ASEAN's economic relations, in particular trade and investment, within the region as well as with the rest of the world.
- 2.2 Work together to promote development and narrow the development gap by, among others, assisting States to ensure the implementation of internationally agreed development goals and global commitments on financing for development, and rights to development.
- 2.3 Explore ways to avoid future global crises by enhancing dialogue to maintain a global economy that is more inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resistant to economic crises and natural disasters, as well as to increase cooperation to address the multiple impacts of global crises on the most vulnerable groups of society.
- 2.4 Work together to enhance ASEAN resilience to address the impact of global economic and financial crisis.

## **3. Food and Energy Security**

- 3.1 Strengthen cooperation in addressing food and energy security challenges in conjunction with natural resources management, including land, water and energy resources, and the growing nexus between the food and energy prices and their volatility, climate change and bioenergy policy.
- 3.2 Explore ways to promote food and energy cooperation to ensure greater security and sustainability of food and energy, supplies in keeping with the rising demand for both, including assurance of freedom from hunger, adequate nutrition, enhanced connectivity in conventional energy resources, exploitation of unconventional energy resources, energy efficiency improvement, development of renewable energy and universal access to energy services in the region.

## **4. Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Narrowing the Development Gap**

- 4.1 Foster collaboration on the implementation of the Roadmap for the Attainment of the MDGs in ASEAN.
- 4.2 Strengthen cooperation in assisting ASEAN in narrowing the development gaps in the region, including by developing tripartite cooperation involving ASEAN, the UN and developed countries on the basis of global partnership for development.

- 4.3 Establish joint cooperation in preparing a report on ASEAN's progress with the MDGs and on analysis of gaps in achievement among ASEAN member states.
- 4.4 Support and contribute to the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration encompassing physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity.
- 4.5 Further strengthen efforts in poverty alleviation towards narrowing the development gap within ASEAN, underscoring the importance of better coordination and the participation of all key stakeholders including the public and private sectors, civil society and the UN's regional commission, funds and programmes, and UN Specialized Agencies in the attainment of the MDGs.
- 4.6 Strengthen cooperation in addressing issues related to rapid urbanization including disparities within cities and development gaps between mega-cities and large cities on the one hand and small towns and rural areas on the other.

## **C. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION**

### **1. Human Development and Community Building**

- 1.1 Foster cooperation in providing equitable access to human development opportunities by promoting and investing in education, capacity building, entrepreneurship and applied science and technology.
- 1.2 Contribute to realizing an ASEAN Community that is people oriented and socially responsible with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the nations and peoples of ASEAN.
- 1.3 Continue collaboration in the protection, preservation, and development of the ASEAN cultural heritage and cultural diversity, including in the promotion of the regional cultural creativity and industry.
- 1.4 Explore ways to promote ASEAN awareness at the national, regional and international levels, as well as through cooperation or collaboration with ASEAN Foundation.

### **2. Social Welfare and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

- 2.1 Strengthen collaboration for enhancing the well-being and livelihood of the peoples in the region through rural development, poverty eradication, and ensuring social welfare and protection.
- 2.2 Continue cooperation in addressing public health development concerns including by tackling HIV/AIDS and other emerging communicable diseases.
- 2.3 Foster cooperation on the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women as well as to increase the participation of youth in the productive workforce and entrepreneurship.
- 2.4 Strengthen cooperation in the promotion and protection of the rights of women, children, the elderly, persons living with HIV and persons with disabilities.

- 2.5 Respect the principles contained in the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, in accordance with national laws, regulations and policies of ASEAN Member States.

### **3. Climate Change**

- 3.1 Enhance cooperation towards strengthening international efforts, recognizing the central role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to address climate change and respond to its impacts on socio-economic development, health, environment and water resources, including activities on building adaptive capacities and supporting mitigation and adaptation actions as well as incorporate such actions into national development strategies and policies in line with sustainable development.
- 3.2 Pursue the realization of priorities set out in the Bali Road Map under the UNFCCC, including the Bali Action Plan, to ensure the continued implementation of international efforts in addressing climate change to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention in stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and recognizing the needs of developing countries for financing, technology transfer and capacity building.

### **4. Disaster Risk Management**

- 4.1 Continue closer collaboration to jointly respond to catastrophic events and to strengthen coordination on disaster risk management, including as part of rehabilitation and reconstruction process, with a view to building disaster-resilient nations and safer communities in the region.
- 4.2 Support cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States and with relevant UN agencies on disaster risk management, including through the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2010-2015 and the operationalization of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), under the ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan on Disaster Management 2011-2015.
- 4.3 Mainstream disaster risk reduction into national development and recovery policies and formulate and implement risk reduction measures that link climate change adaptation and key sectors, such as productive, infrastructure education and health sector, and urban development to ensure sustainable and inclusive development as incorporated in the Hyogo Declaration and Framework for Action.

### **5. Culture and Education**

- 5.1 Promote regional peace, economic development, social progress and cultural development in the region through advancing educational, scientific and cultural linkages.



- 5.2. Explore new areas for co-operation in the field of culture and education in the form of specific joint activities, including holding a joint conference/training, joint studies and technical assistance.
- 5.3. Explore cooperation on matters of common interest by sharing best practices and exchanging information and documents to the fullest extent possible.
- 5.4. Note progress and encourage further cooperation of the ASEAN University Network (AUN), in increasing students' mobility and exchanges, creating a network among universities in ASEAN Countries as well as in enhancing people-to-people contact.

#### **D. COOPERATION BETWEEN SECRETARIATS**

##### **1. Cooperation in Capacity Building**

- 1.1 The ASEAN Secretariat and the Secretariat of the UN shall cooperate in the study of issues, problems and policies relating to their respective organization's work programs.
- 1.2 The two Secretariats should liaise closely with each other in Jakarta and New York as well as through the regional commission and regional offices of the United Nations in Bangkok.

##### **2. Coordination Mechanism**

- 2.1 The ASEAN Secretariat and the Secretariat of the UN shall exchange information on their programs, activities and projects of mutual interest, and consult on a regular basis so as to benefit from each other's experiences and thinking.
- 2.2 The ASEAN Secretariat and the Secretariats of the UN system shall agree to undertake periodic consultations at the appropriate level in order to identify, conduct and evaluate joint activities.
- 2.3 To facilitate communication and coordination, the ASEAN Secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat shall establish, where required, direct lines of communication between sectoral experts at the working level.

#### **E. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW MECHANISMS**

1. The ASEAN Secretariat and the Secretariat of the UN shall be entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating the implementation of the Partnership and to report accordingly to the AUMM, and through it to the ASEAN-UN Summit.
2. The primary policy level mechanism for reviewing the implementation of the Comprehensive Partnership will be the meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers with the Secretary-General of the UN and the President of the UN General Assembly (ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting, AUMM).

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