CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 7th ASEAN-UNITED NATIONS (UN) SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 22 NOVEMBER 2015

"OUR PEOPLE, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR VISION"

The 7th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Summit was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General.

2. The UN welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Community under Malaysia’s Chairmanship which marks the culmination of decades of community building efforts by ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the UN’s support to the enhancement of ASEAN’s role in addressing global challenges through the implementation of the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) and encouraged the UN’s contribution towards the realisation of the ASEAN 2025 – Forging Ahead Together.

3. Noting that 2015 marks the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations, the Summit welcomed the formal adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We expressed confidence that both the ASEAN 2025-Forging Ahead Together and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will complement each other, guiding development in Southeast Asia in areas of critical importance to the people and the planet. We will continue to conduct regular reviews and evaluation to monitor the progress and outcome achieved in the implementation of both ASEAN 2015-Forging Ahead Together and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. We welcomed the ASEAN Ministerial Statement on the Occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations, which was adopted in New York on 29 September 2015, reaffirming ASEAN’s support for the central role that the UN plays in the global multilateral system and the UN’s continued contribution to promoting international peace and security, development, and human rights.

5. We expressed commitment to strengthen and broaden ASEAN-UN cooperation with the aim to maintain a stable, peaceful and prosperous Southeast Asia as well as to promote an ASEAN-centred regional architecture as reflected in the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN. ASEAN
welcomed regular interface between the UN Liaison Presence in Jakarta and ASEAN on all areas of cooperation under the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership.

6. We welcomed the formal review of the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership as espoused in the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership 2013-2015 Report jointly submitted by the ASEAN and UN Secretariats and encouraged ASEAN and the UN to take the necessary measures to advance ASEAN-UN cooperation based on the recommendations contained in the Joint Report.

7. We looked forward to the development of a five-year Plan of Action (2016-2020) to implement the Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN, which will take into account the key elements of the ASEAN 2025 ‘Forging Ahead Together and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Summit recognised the importance of the financing for development as one of the means of implementation for the process of development as enshrined in the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development: Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

8. The UN Secretary-General expressed gratitude to the ASEAN Leaders for their significant contribution to global peace and security through the deployment of military, police and civilian personnel from the region to engage in UN Peace Operations around the world.

9. The Summit welcomed the UN’s contribution to the progress made in enhancing the capacity within ASEAN on conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and maintenance of peace and stability through sharing of expertise and best practices, and training via cooperation in relevant ASEAN mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ADMM, ADMM Plus as well as ASEAN-UN collaboration to support the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR). In this regard, the Summit noted the convening of the Fourth ASEAN-UN Workshop: Regional Dialogue II (AURED II) on Political-Security Cooperation in Support of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) held on 24-26 February 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and encouraged the UN to support the work of AIPR in accordance to its Terms of Reference through collaborative projects within the framework of the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action.

10. The Summit underscored the need for collective efforts in combating transnational organised crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the support by the United Nations for ASEAN Member States in their effort to effectively implement the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols.

11. The Summit affirmed the continuing importance of the promotion and protection of human rights at the national, regional and international levels, and of the need to strengthen the collaboration between the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the UN in areas of mutual interest. We encouraged the AICHR and the UN to form a sustainable partnership in enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights through exchanges of best practices and capacity building.
12. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN’s cooperation with ASEAN in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) as well as the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015.

13. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN’s support to ASEAN’s pursuit of economic integration both within the region and into the global economy and efforts to create effective operational and regulatory frameworks, where necessary, for a competitive ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). ASEAN Leaders encouraged cooperation between ASEAN and the UN to address existing development challenges, including rising social and economic inequalities and environmental sustainability, calling on the UN to continue to strengthen its support for regional economic cooperation in areas such as trade, transportation, energy, science, technology and innovation.

14. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN’s support in finalising the Draft Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025) and strengthening the capacity of ASEAN Member States in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS) and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) 2015-2020.

15. We welcomed ASEAN-UN collaboration in supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015) with a focus on matters pertaining to the four key regional strategies drawn from the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, namely enhancing food security and safety, access to healthcare and promotion of healthy lifestyles, improving capabilities to control communicable diseases, and building disaster-resilient nations and safer communities.

16. We encouraged the ASEAN Member States to ratify and implement the Multilateral Environmental Agreements at the regional and international levels, which will help to ensure our people’s access to clean water and clean air, as well as cooperation in knowledge sharing with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the UN. We looked forward to the development of the ASEAN-UN Work Plan on Environment and Climate Change (2016-2020), which will lay out specific measures to be undertaken by both sides to enhance cooperation in this area. We also urged all parties to the UNFCCC to work together to secure a balanced and comprehensive climate change agreement under the Convention, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, to be concluded at COP 21 UNFCCC, in Paris, December 2015.

17. The ASEAN Leaders appreciated the UN’s contribution in the area of disaster risk reduction and management and welcomed its continued support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and encouraged enhanced cooperation in the implementation of the Work Programme for the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).

18. We welcomed the work of the UN Liaison Presence in Jakarta to facilitate ASEAN-UN cooperation on disaster management and humanitarian assistance and
fully supported the development of the next ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management, which will identify the priorities for ASEAN-UN collaboration in disaster management and humanitarian assistance in the 2016-2020 period.

19. The ASEAN Leaders also expressed their support for the World Humanitarian Summit including the processes and events leading up to the event in Istanbul in May 2016.

20. We agreed to strengthen cooperation in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children through information and knowledge sharing and capacity building for ASEAN Member States, as well as through support for the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Actions on Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW), the ASEAN Regional Plan of Actions on Elimination of Violence Against Children (EVAC), and the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and its Plan of Action.

21. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN’s contribution to the Final ASEAN Regional MDG Assessment, which reviewed the status of MDG achievement, identified emerging post-2015 development challenges, and recommended areas of regional support. This assessment will help in identifying key policies and programmes for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in ASEAN.

22. We seriously condemned the recent large-scale terrorist attacks in several parts of the world, which resulted in loss of many civilian lives, and extended our deepest condolences to the Governments and the families of the victims. We expressed grave concern on the violence and brutality committed by terrorist groups and violent extremist organisations, affiliates, splinter groups and individuals in Iraq and Syria and other parts of the world, whose impact increasingly poses a great global threat to all regions of the world and reiterated our commitment in combating terrorism, including our support for UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014), and 2178 (2014) which, among others, called on the international community to prevent and stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

23. We reaffirmed our commitment to the full implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, and the relevant provisions of international law and the UN Charter and to work with the international community in its fight against terrorism, extremism and radicalism and to address its root causes, and to promote tolerance and respect for diversity, including through the promotion of the Global Movement of Moderates. The Summit looked forward to the United Nations Secretary-General’s forthcoming Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism which will be presented to the General Assembly in the near future.

24. We called for a humane and compassionate response by all countries in dealing with the issue of irregular movement of persons. We underlined the need to resolve irregular movement of persons, as well as human trafficking and people smuggling, in a comprehensive and sustainable manner by addressing the root causes and other contributing factors in the spirit of cooperation, international burden sharing and shared responsibility.
25. The Summit reiterated the importance of the existing mechanisms for the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership, namely the Secretariat-to-Secretariat Dialogue (S2S), the ASEAN-UN Preparatory Senior Officials’ Meeting, the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM), and the ASEAN-UN Summit. We called for enhanced interaction between ASEAN and the UN system, including through holding dialogue meetings in the region. In this regards, the Summit looked forward to the engagement between ASEAN and the UN, including through an S2S Dialogue, in the Southeast Asian region in early 2016, especially to discuss the draft five-year Plan of Action (2016-2020).