Co-Chairs’ Statement of the 8th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue  
Vancouver, Canada,  
2-3 June 2011

1. The Eighth ASEAN-Canada Dialogue was held on 2-3 June 2011 in Vancouver, Canada. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Peter McGovern, Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia and Chief Trade Commissioner, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, and H.E. Chitriya Pinthong, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SOM Leader of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Meeting was attended by representatives from Canada, all ASEAN Member States, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

2. The Meeting stressed the timeliness of the 8th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue at an important junction of the bilateral relationship. ASEAN-Canada relations will reach 35 years of friendship and cooperation in 2012 and the convening of the Dialogue provided an opportunity for both sides to discuss ways and means to strengthen and elevate ASEAN-Canada relations. Both sides viewed this auspicious occasion as a significant milestone and in this context, agreed on a draft consolidated list of activities to commemorate the 35th anniversary of ASEAN-Canada relations. The draft list of activities will be submitted for consideration at the Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) + 1 Session with Canada scheduled for July 22, 2011 in Bali.

3. The 8th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue was the first Dialogue convened since the adoption of the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership 2010-2015 at the PMC + 1 Session with Canada in July 2010 in Ha Noi. The Plan of Action aims at promoting and enhancing ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations by assisting ASEAN in its community building efforts for an ASEAN Community by 2015. The Plan of Action covers areas of cooperation including political, security, economic and socio-cultural issues. Canada and ASEAN welcomed the early implementation of several components of the Plan of Action including in the areas of human rights, rule of law, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, trade and investment, food security, science and technology, as well as health and pandemic preparedness. The meeting provided guidance for future cooperation under the Plan of Action by exploring ways to further strengthen cooperation in these and other areas such as capacity building, education, energy security, climate change, disaster risk management, regional connectivity, among others.
4. ASEAN and Canada were pleased with the accession of Canada to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia at the PMC+1 Session with Canada on 23 July 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. Canada welcomed ASEAN’s invitation to accede to the Third Protocol amending the TAC. Both sides agreed to work jointly toward Canada’s accession as quickly as possible.

5. ASEAN briefed Canada on the recent developments in ASEAN, including the outcome of the 18th ASEAN Summit, the significant progress made under the three pillars of ASEAN Community, ASEAN Connectivity and the evolving regional architecture, the update on the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and ASEAN’s bid for World Cup in 2030. Canada extended its well wishes for ASEAN 2030 World Cup bid.

6. Canada welcomed the outcomes of the 18th ASEAN Summit held in May 2011 in Jakarta, including the emphasis being placed on civil society engagement toward a people-oriented ASEAN. Canada congratulated ASEAN on its progress and achievements gained in the building of the ASEAN Community. Canada reaffirmed its support for ASEAN’s efforts in implementing the ASEAN Charter, strengthening regional integration, building an ASEAN Community by 2015, the implementation of its Blueprints, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan Phase II.

7. Canada briefed ASEAN on the recent developments in Canada, including the results of the 2011 Canadian federal election, its economic development, current foreign policy priorities and the Canada’s ASEAN Network. ASEAN welcomed Canada’s recognition of the increased importance of Asia and expressed appreciation for Canada’s increasing interests and engagement with ASEAN.

8. The Meeting noted that economic relations between ASEAN and Canada have grown and expanded positively through the years. Based on ASEAN statistics, total trade between ASEAN and Canada stood at US$ 9.03 billion in 2009. Foreign direct investment (FDI), inflow from Canada to ASEAN Member States was US$ 310 million in 2009, accounting for 0.8% of total FDI in the region. Total Canadian FDI into ASEAN from 2007 to 2009 was US$ 1.5 billion. In the same period of 2009, the total tourist arrivals in ASEAN from Canada reached 1.41 million. For its part, Canada recalled that at approximately $13.9 billion in bilateral merchandise trade, ASEAN Member States represented Canada’s 7th largest trading partner in 2010. Emphasizing the growing commercial ties, Canada also informed the meeting that Canadians invest more
in the ASEAN region than in either China or India, registering about $7.9 billion in stock.

9. The Meeting welcomed closer consultations between Senior Economic Officials from ASEAN and Canada and the agreement reached at the Third ASEAN-Canada Senior Economic Officials Consultation on the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment. Both sides look forward to the adoption of this Joint Declaration at an ASEAN Economic Ministers-Canada Consultations to be scheduled at a mutually convenient date.

10. The Meeting took note of the presentations by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and welcomed their interests in expanding their constructive roles and cooperation in development in the region through various research and projects, especially in accordance with the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action. ASEAN welcomed IDRC’s new multi-year project, which is soon to be formally announced, called “ASEAN-Canada Research Policy Programme”.

11. The Meeting also had an extensive exchange of views and discussion on various regional/global and economic issues of common interest, namely evolving regional architecture, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, food and energy security as well the global economic and financial crises. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation and partnership in these areas.

12. The Meeting took note of Indonesia’s briefing on the preparations for the ASEAN PMC+1 Session with Canada scheduled to be held on 22 July 2011 in Bali, Indonesia.

13. The Meeting agreed to convene the 9th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue in Thailand in 2012.