



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF
THE 6TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING
26 July 2016
Vientiane, Laos**

“TURNING VISION INTO REALITY FOR A DYNAMIC ASEAN COMMUNITY”

1. The 6th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was convened in Vientiane, Laos on 26 July 2016. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Saleumxay KOMMASITH, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR.

Review and Future Direction of the East Asia Summit

2. The Ministers reaffirmed the important role of EAS as a Leaders'-led forum to discuss broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.

3. The Ministers reiterated the importance of ASEAN's central role in the evolving regional architecture. They reaffirmed that EAS would continue to be an open, inclusive, transparent and outward-looking forum that will strengthen global norms and universally recognised principles with ASEAN as the driving force, and working in partnership with other participants of the East Asia Summit.

4. The Ministers were pleased with the progress made in the implementation of the decisions and proposals made at the 10th East Asia Summit held in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015, especially initiatives to strengthen the EAS and its work processes. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the establishment of the EAS Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat and noted with appreciation that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN and Ambassadors of non-ASEAN EAS members in Jakarta have convened two meetings since April 2016.

5. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the 5th EAS Workshop on Regional Security Architecture co-chaired by Lao PDR and China in Beijing, China on 27-28 June 2016 and looked forward to continue the deliberation of the regional security architecture in future EAS workshops and other mechanisms, including through the 6th EAS Workshop in 2017 in Thailand.

Priority Areas of Cooperation

6. The Ministers welcomed the extension of the Plan of Action (POA) to implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative until the end of 2017, which focuses on EAS cooperation in the six priority areas, namely energy, education, finance, global health including pandemics, environment and disaster management, and ASEAN connectivity as well as other

areas of cooperation. In this regard, the Ministers took note of the progress report of the implementation of the POA.

Energy

7. The Ministers noted the progress in the implementation of the programme for EAS energy cooperation, particularly in the work streams of Energy Efficiency and Conservation; Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes; and Renewable and Alternative Power Generation under the EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force (ECTF) as adopted by its 21st Meeting on 15 July 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and 2nd Clean Energy Forum on 18-19 November 2016 in Haikou, China.

8. The Ministers underlined the importance of clean energy promotion, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean technology applications including enhancing the use of natural gas as of an abundant and environmentally-friendly fuel.

Education

9. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the Special EAS Senior Officials' Meeting on Education on 2 December 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, and noted with appreciation the completion and evaluation of the EAS Education Plan of Action 2011-2015 and looked forward to the development of a post-2015 vision and action plan on education. The Ministers also welcomed and encouraged further alignment between EAS and ASEAN education cooperation activities, including through quality assurance and qualifications referencing.

10. The Ministers welcomed the Third EAS Education Ministers Meeting (3rd EAS EMM) that was held on 26 May 2016 in Selangor, Malaysia and took note of the continued implementation of the 15 projects under the Plan of Action, acknowledging the commitment and efforts of the EAS participating countries in the implementation of the initiatives and achieving meaningful results.

11. The Ministers welcomed the opening of a third school for Buddhist Studies and Comparative Religion from the academic year 2016-17 at the Nalanda University and expressed satisfaction at the growth of the University as a non-state, non-profit, secular and self-governing international institution of excellence with a continental focus.

Finance

12. The Ministers reiterated the importance of financial stability in supporting economic growth by consistently monitoring risks and vulnerabilities. The Ministers expressed support for the further strengthening of the region's resilience to external shocks through continued regional financial cooperation and closer collaboration with international financial institutions.

Global Health including Pandemics

13. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the goal of an Asia-Pacific free of malaria by 2030. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the Asia Pacific Leaders' Malaria Elimination Roadmap and ongoing efforts to implement the proposed actions in the Roadmap.

14. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of promoting sustainable and resilient health systems and global achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, including universal health coverage, and recognised the public health challenges caused by infectious diseases and emerging threats including antimicrobial resistance (AMR) which underscore the human and economic losses.

Environment and Disaster Management

15. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the Senior Officials' Meeting for the Fifth EAS Environment Ministers' Meeting (EMM) on 11 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and looked forward to the convening of the 5th EAS Environment Ministers' Meeting back-to-back with the 14th ASEAN Ministers' Meeting on Environment (AMME) in 2017.

16. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) held in Paris, France from 30 November to 12 December 2015 and looked forward to timely entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

17. The Ministers looked forward to cooperating closely in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction both at the national and regional level.

18. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance cooperation in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) and mitigation through regional mechanisms, including through the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). The Ministers also welcomed the convening of the 5th ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Session on EAS Cooperation in Disaster Management on 28 April 2016 in Semarang, Indonesia, the convening of the Fifth EAS Earthquake Relief Executive held by China and the U.S on 25 July 2016 in Cebu, Indonesia. They also welcomed convening of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi in November 2016.

19. The Ministers welcomed Indonesia's initiative to convene an International Table-Top Exercise (TTX) on 15-17 November 2016 in Ambon, Indonesia, to test the EAS Rapid Disaster Response Toolkit (EAS Toolkit) which was launched at the Indonesia-Australia EAS Rapid Disaster Response Workshop in June 2015 in Bali, Indonesia. The Exercise aims to strengthen the coordination mechanisms in managing offers and requests for international disaster assistance by referring to the EAS Toolkit, within the One ASEAN One Response context.

ASEAN Connectivity

20. The Ministers noted the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and looked forward to the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025. In this regard, the Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 7th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium entitled "*Intensifying Partnerships to Realise the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025*" to be held on 20 October 2016 in Vientiane, Laos. The Ministers recognised the role of ERIA in promoting regional economic integration, and urged ERIA to continue with this role in coming years.

21. The Ministers welcomed the cooperation between ASEAN and OECD in the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) agenda through the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Program, including the Southeast Asia Regional Forum and the Regional Program Steering Group Meeting held in Vietnam from 14 to 15 June 2016.

22. The Ministers welcomed the continuous support of EAS participating countries to ASEAN Connectivity. The Ministers also welcomed China's Road and Belt Initiative, India's offer of a line of credit to ASEAN countries for projects that support physical and digital connectivity, Japan's Initiative of Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II (AADCP II) with a view to promoting quality infrastructure investment in the region.

Other Areas of Cooperation

Countering terrorism and violent extremism

23. The Ministers strongly condemned terrorist attacks in recent months that had caused significant loss of life. They discussed the need for countries to support efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism, and they affirmed their continuing commitment to the principles announced by EAS Leaders in their 2015 Statement on Countering Violent Extremism and their 2014 Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria.

Maritime cooperation

24. The Ministers underscored the importance of enhancing regional cooperation in promoting maritime safety and security, including through the proposed EAS Maritime Security Cooperation Seminar in Australia in November 2016, co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia.

25. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 5th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) back to back with the 7th ASEAN Maritime Forum, to be held in Brunei.

ICTs

26. We recognised the importance of security of and in the use of information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), and also affirmed the need to enhance cooperation to promote a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative ICT environment and prevent conflict and crisis by developing trust and confidence between states and by capacity building.

Regional and International Issues

27. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security and freedom of navigation in and over-flight in the South China Sea. Several Ministers remain seriously concerned over recent developments in the South China Sea. The Ministers welcomed the joint statement issued by foreign ministers of ASEAN Member States and China on the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the

Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and emphasised the need for ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. The Ministers stress the importance for the parties concerned to resolve their disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), and welcomed ASEAN Member States and China's efforts to work towards the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

28. The Ministers shared concern over current developments in the Korean Peninsula, including the nuclear tests on 6 January 2016, rocket launch on 7 February 2016 and ballistic missile launch on 9 July 2016, by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) which are in violation of the UNSC resolutions. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of peace and security in this region and reiterated ASEAN's support for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. The Ministers also urged the DPRK to comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions, including the UNSC Resolution 2270 and called on all parties to exert common efforts to maintain peace and security in the said region and create an environment conducive to the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks to make further progress in denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.

29. The Ministers discussed the preparations for the upcoming 11th East Asia Summit to be held on 8 September 2016 in Vientiane, Laos.

30. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the 7th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in the Philippines in 2017.

