

## ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific

### Standing firm amidst swirling currents

**WE**, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and New Zealand, gathered on the occasion of the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference with New Zealand in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 13 July 2023:

**COMMENDING** the significant achievements made in strengthening ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations since New Zealand became one of ASEAN's first Dialogue Partners in 1975.

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to enhancing the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership for mutual benefit, as outlined in the 2020 Joint ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders' Vision Statement on the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations: A Legacy of Partnership, A Future Together.

**RESOLVING** to support the implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Mainstreaming Four Priority Areas of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific within ASEAN-led Mechanisms, adopted at the 40<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 11 November 2022.

**REAFFIRMING** our shared aspiration and common interest to promote and maintain a peaceful, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific region underpinned by ASEAN-led mechanisms and key principles including ASEAN Centrality, inclusiveness, openness and transparency, and which complements the ASEAN community-building process.

**SUPPORTING** efforts in strengthening regional institutions and inter-regional cooperation, for an inclusive and resilient wider Indo-Pacific.

**NOTING** New Zealand's unique approach to partnerships which draws on the values of indigenous Māori culture, including: connectedness to each other and the natural environment (*whanaungatanga*); kindness and the reciprocity of goodwill (*manaakitanga*); working for a collective benefit (*mahi tahi and kotahitanga*); and acting as guardians for the people and the planet (*kaitiakitanga*).

**COMMITTED** to maintain ASEAN as an epicentrum of growth by building the region's resilience against future shocks and emerging challenges, through strengthened cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms, including support for the region's financial stability, health architecture, food security, as well as mitigating the threat of climate change and the geopolitical developments impacting the region.

**COMMIT TO SUPPORTING** the objectives and principles of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which provides a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean regions, while encouraging external partners to work together with ASEAN to undertake practical cooperation on the four priority areas of cooperation outlined in the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, as well as economic and other possible areas of cooperation without creating new mechanisms.

**RECOGNISING** that both the AOIP and New Zealand's strategic approach to the Indo-Pacific share fundamental principles in promoting an open, inclusive, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, with ASEAN at its centre.

**COMMITTED** to enhancing cooperation in areas of shared interest, including to support the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership (2021-2025) and the implementation of the AOIP, which may include, but is not limited to the following:

a. Maritime Cooperation:

- i. Enhance maritime cooperation, including cooperation on maritime security and safety;
- ii. Uphold international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

b. Connectivity:

- i. Strengthen cooperation on the ASEAN Connectivity agenda through participation in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and its successor document;
- ii. Strengthen aviation cooperation, including through swift conclusion of a high-quality ASEAN-New Zealand regional Air Services Agreement;
- iii. Support the development of ASEAN's sustainable infrastructure;
- iv. Support cooperation on the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN), including the possibility of partnerships with ASCN and ASCN Cities in areas of mutual interest;
- v. Enhance people-to-people connectivity, including through culture and tourism;

c. Sustainable Developments Goals 2030:

- i. Strengthen cooperation on food security and supply chain resilience;
- ii. Advance human capital development by supporting cooperation on education, women, girls and youth empowerment, among others;
- iii. Support regional energy transition, sustainable and renewable energy development;
- iv. Cooperate on climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management, including through the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management;
- v. Support narrowing the development gap in ASEAN, including the emerging gap arising from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and promote sustainable and equitable development and inclusive growth across the ASEAN Community, including through provision of capacity building programmes to support the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and its successor document, as well as through aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN, while recognising the relevance of sub-regional development to ASEAN's regional integration and community-building process;

d. Economic and other possible areas of cooperation:

- i. Strengthen regional economic architecture through the effective implementation of the regional free trade agreements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement and the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA);
- ii. Advance efforts to achieve inclusive and sustainable regional and sub-regional economic growth;
- iii. Strengthen capacity building for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including in creative economy sector;
- iv. Promote the development of an inclusive and resilient digital economy;
- v. Continue support for the development of science, technology and innovation, including areas such as marine science;

- vi. Address environmental challenges by supporting cooperation on water management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of marine resources including tackling marine plastic debris, among others;
- vii. Support regional transition to low-emission, climate-resilient economies;
- viii. Address humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the region and support the work of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) in addressing this issue;
- ix. Cooperate on addressing transnational crime; and
- x. Seek to engage, where appropriate, other countries, regional and sub-regional mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions to work with ASEAN on specific areas of common interests to complement the relevant initiatives using through innovative and inter-disciplinary and complementary approaches based on the relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the strength of the ASEAN-New Zealand Partnership, the depth of mutual commitment to our shared aspirations for the region, and the scope for an ambitious future partnership, looking beyond the forthcoming milestone of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations in 2025. In looking to the future, and in emphasising our support for the objectives and principles of the AOIP, we underscored the importance and value of our firm partnership.

**ADOPTED** in Jakarta, Indonesia, this thirteenth of July in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.