



## ASEAN-AUSTRALIA JOINT LEADERS' STATEMENT ON STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN RESPONSE TO CRISES

Jakarta, 7 September 2023

**WE**, the Member States of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Australia, gathered on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-Australia Summit on 7 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia;

**NOTING** the ongoing cooperation between ASEAN and Australia on food security, as well as our ongoing work under the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including through the flagship *Aus4ASEAN Futures Initiative*, which offers a flexible mechanism to support ASEAN on food security priorities, such as bringing Australian technical expertise and institutions to Southeast Asia;

**WELCOMING** Indonesia's 2023 ASEAN Chair Year theme 'ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth' and its recognition of our ambitions to work together in pursuit of prosperity and opportunity;

**RECOGNISING** Australia's role as a long-standing and reliable agricultural exporter and the importance of the ASEAN market to Australia's food export, as well as Australia's contribution to supporting food security in Southeast Asia through agricultural research partnerships, development assistance, and the transfer of Australian agronomic knowledge and expertise;

**RECOGNISING** global food insecurity is a result of the rising geopolitical tension and conflict, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the threat of climate change, as well as increasingly frequent disasters caused by natural hazards, among others, and hence further recognise the importance of joint efforts and mutual support in the region and beyond,

### DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. **ENDEAVOUR** to maintain and support ASEAN as the epicentrum of global growth and to increase concerted efforts between ASEAN and Australia in safeguarding food security in times of disruption.

2. **WELCOME** the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises adopted on 5 September 2023.

3. **COMMIT** to collaborating on rapid actions to strengthen food security and nutrition in response to crises, including by ensuring unimpeded physical flow of agrifood products and addressing the immediate bottlenecks in the availability of essential farm inputs, including the supply of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and their raw materials, food storage and logistics facilities, and refraining from imposing unnecessary trade barriers, restrictions, and other trade-distortive measures on agrifood trade.

4. **FURTHER** commit to enhancing ASEAN-Australia cooperation to ensure long-term resilience and sustainability of agri-food systems, while recognising the diversity of agricultural production practices and environmental conditions, including by strengthening resilience against climate change and increasingly frequent natural disasters.

5. **WELCOME** Australia's announcement of an additional AUD 1 million for the ASEAN-CGIAR Innovate for Food Regional Program which will enhance research and innovation for food security, and note with appreciation Australia's announcement of an additional AUD 1 million to expand the Meryl Williams Fellowships to build the capacity of women, including those in ASEAN, in agricultural science to enhance food security.

6. **TASK** the relevant sectoral bodies of ASEAN to follow-up and implement this Joint Statement with Australia, in order to ensure regional food security and food availability and rapid response in times of crises.

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