



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
SUMMIT  
JAKARTA, INDONESIA  
6 SEPTEMBER 2023**

1. The 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit was held on 6 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia. The Summit was attended by ASEAN Member States, H.E. Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the ROK, and the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as an Observer. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We reiterated our support for Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth" and were encouraged by the progress made in the realization of ASEAN's priorities in 2023, aimed at strengthening ASEAN as an organization that is robust and agile, equipped with strengthened capacity and institutional effectiveness to address today's challenges and to remain relevant for its people, the region, and the world while continuing to serve as the region's epicentre of growth and prosperity.
3. We noted with satisfaction the good progress of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations over the past years and reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the partnership and cooperation. In this regard, we welcomed the substantive progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership (2021-2025). We also agreed to further strengthen cooperation in line with the Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership in 2019 and the Joint Statement of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit on Advancing ASEAN-Republic of Korea Cooperation for People-centered Community of Peace and Prosperity in 2021.
4. We underscored the importance of multilateralism, regionalism and upholding international law in contributing to global and regional peace, stability and prosperity. ASEAN welcomed the ROK's unwavering support for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and ASEAN efforts in mainstreaming the AOIP. We encouraged the ROK to undertake substantive, practical and tangible

cooperation with ASEAN in the four priority areas outlined in the AOIP, through practical projects to promote mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual benefit through ASEAN-led mechanisms. We adopted the Joint Statement of the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit on Cooperation on the AOIP and looked forward to the effective implementation of the Joint Statement to reinforce ASEAN-ROK cooperation. To this end, we welcomed ROK's support and active contribution to the ASEAN – Indo-Pacific Forum: Implementation of the AOIP held in Jakarta, 5-6 September 2023.

5. We welcomed the ROK's commitment to fostering a free, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region through its Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS), which seeks to enhance complementarities with the objectives and principles of the AOIP, including respect for ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms. We also welcomed the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI), which aims at fostering a more comprehensive partnership between ASEAN and the ROK spanning political-security, economic and social-culture cooperation, and looked forward to the implementation of its eight core lines of effort for mutual benefits. We appreciated the ROK's plan to increase its contribution to ASEAN-related cooperation funds to US\$48 million per annum by 2027 to support more cooperation projects. ASEAN welcomed ROK's proposal for the establishment of an ASEAN-ROK CSP and looked forward to receiving the ROK's Concept Note with a view to pursuing the CSP in 2024, in conjunction with the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations.
6. We reiterated the commitment to further strengthening cooperation to address non-traditional security issues, including transnational crime, counterterrorism, trafficking in person and illicit drugs trafficking, cyber security and maritime security through ASEAN-led mechanisms. We welcomed the resumption of the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus ROK Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD + ROK) Consultation on 7 July 2023 via videoconference after its postponement since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the convening of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus ROK Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC + ROK) that was held on 22 August 2023 in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia. We also took note of the extension of the implementation period of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)-ROK Work Plan for Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Transnational Crime (2019-2023) to 2025 and looked forward to its robust implementation. We appreciated the ROK's active participation and contribution to a number of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meetings and activities, including its co-chairmanship of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of ICTs (ISM on ICTs Security) for the inter-sessional years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.
7. We also welcomed the enhanced defence cooperation between ASEAN and ROK through the ADMM-Plus, including its co-chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Cyber Security with Malaysia in the 2021-2024

cycle, as well as ROK's action plan for ASEAN-ROK Defense Cooperation. We noted ROK's proposal to hold the ASEAN-ROK Defense Ministers' Meeting to follow up on the ASEAN-ROK Defense Ministers' Informal Meeting held in November 2021. We noted with satisfaction the launch of the ASEAN Cyber Shield Project for nurturing cyber security experts and building cyber security response capabilities. On promoting humanitarian assistance in mine action, we appreciated the ROK's support to the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) through its three-year project titled Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States.

8. We acknowledged the ASEAN-ROK economic relations that have been further strengthened, as reflected by the positive figures of the bilateral trade and investment. According to the ASEAN statistics, the ROK was ASEAN's fifth largest trading partner and sixth largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2022, the two-way merchandise trade between ASEAN and the ROK reached USD 222.8 billion, and FDI inflows from the ROK to ASEAN amounted to USD 12.7 billion. We agreed to intensify region-to-region trade and investment relations, including through the effective implementation of the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area (AKFTA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement. We looked forward to the ratification of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement (AKTIGA) by all parties. We noted the preliminary findings from the Joint Review Study of the AKFTA, the ASEAN-Korea Digital Trade Research. Where the Studies are finalized, their findings may serve as a reference for the upgrade of the AKFTA, including the further liberalisation of the Sensitive Track under the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement, and to identify areas of mutual interests for practical cooperation on digital economy, taking into account recent developments in ASEAN in the area of digital transformation.
9. We also agreed to further promote capacity building, the transfer of knowledge and advanced technologies to ASEAN businesses, including start-ups and MSMEs through the ASEAN-ROK Startups Partnership. We welcomed the activities of the ASEAN-Korea Business Council (AKBC) and ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) in supporting trade and investment flow, and deepening business-to-business cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK. We appreciated various cooperation projects by ASEAN-ROK Financial Cooperation Centre including ASEAN Green Map and looked forward to further mutually beneficial financial cooperation. We also welcomed the ROK's continued support in the areas of the ROK's expertise, particularly in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), such as digital transformation, e-commerce, science, technology and innovation, smart infrastructure, and future industries. We noted the ongoing development of the ASEAN-ROK Smart Mobility Strategy and its potential contribution to creating a thriving e-mobility eco-system in the region. We looked forward to the possible adoption of the said Strategy at the

14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM+ROK), which will be held in Lao PDR in November 2023.

10. We encouraged the ROK to explore potential areas of cooperation with ASEAN and appreciated ongoing cooperation in various projects and activities, particularly in emerging areas such as digital trade, sustainable economy, sustainable development and prosperity, supply chain resilience, human resource development, food security and food safety, science and technology, good governance and civil service, amongst others. We also appreciated the ROK's plan to launch the 30 million USD ASEAN-ROK Digital Innovation Flagship Project under the KASI and as part of ROK's implementation of the AOIP to support ASEAN's digital connectivity and transformation through digital technology cooperation based on data and artificial intelligence.
11. We commended the ROK for its commitment to strengthening cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI) through initiatives with mutual benefits such as the ASEAN-ROK STI Training Programme, ASEAN-ROK Online STI Workshop, ASEAN-ROK Awards for Excellence in STI, Workshop on the Implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Energy Security, Agriculture, Cyber Security and Creative Industry/Emerging Diseases. We agreed to continue building closer cooperation in STI through mechanisms such as the ASEAN-ROK Joint Science, Technology and Innovation Committee (AKJSTIC). We looked forward to the establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Science and Technology Cooperation Center (AKSTCC) and the implementation of digital cooperation projects ranging from High Performance Computing, data infrastructure establishment for AI education, AI start-up competitions and the comprehensive utilisation of AI across different fields.
12. We encouraged ASEAN and ROK to further explore potential areas of cooperation in promoting sustainable forest management through existing mechanisms such as Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (AFoCO). In this connection, we commended the implementation of the project titled "Capacity Building on Enhancing Resilience to Forest Fire, and Local Livelihood and Market Linkages" with a total budget of USD 8,502,562, which is implemented by the AFoCO Secretariat and the Non-Timber Forest Products Asia (NTFP-EP Asia). The project aims to achieve the conservation of natural resources, enhancement of local livelihood, and promotion of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the region.
13. We appreciated the ROK's continued support and cooperation in enhancing regional connectivity and narrowing the development gap within ASEAN, including through the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025). We welcomed the rolling-out of intra-ASEAN Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Student Mobility Programme

through the ASEAN-ROK TVET Mobility Programme. We also welcomed the ROK's support for ASEAN's efforts in supporting sub-regional development cooperation, including through the Mekong-ROK and the BIMP-EAGAROK Cooperation framework. In this regard, we appreciated the ROK's plan to increase its contribution to the Mekong ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) to USD 10 million per annum as well as to the BIMP-EAGA-ROK Cooperation Fund (BKCF) to USD 6 million per annum by 2027 respectively. We also took note of ROK's efforts to expand its partnership in the Mekong region, including with the Mekong River Commission (MRC). We looked forward to the early conclusion of a more liberal and mutually beneficial ASEAN-ROK Air Services Agreement (AK-ASA) that would further enhance air transport connectivity between and beyond ASEAN and the ROK and facilitate tourism, and support trade of goods and services in the effort to boost economic recovery.

14. We welcomed ROK's support in establishing the ASEAN Smart City Professional Program (ASPP) that would help create a regional community of young leaders advancing smart cities through provision of short-term training and master's degree course scholarships as well as conferences and webinars. Focusing on data-driven smart city planning, the ASPP is expected to support ASEAN's endeavour in advancing smart and sustainable urban development.
15. We encouraged further cooperation in health, following the successful convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-ROK Health Ministers' Meeting on 15 May 2022, in Bali, Indonesia. We appreciated the ROK's close cooperation and support for ASEAN in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and looked forward to the ROK's continued support to ASEAN's Community-building efforts. We appreciated the ROK's commitment to strengthening health system for sustainable Universal Health Coverage and health security for resilient health systems, which are aligned with ASEAN Post 2015 Health Development Agenda 2021-2025. We encouraged the ROK for capacity building programmes for health workforce, including in biomanufacturing, and cooperation for the operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) particularly on laboratory capacity and ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Centre (ABVC) hosted by Indonesia, to support detection and surveillance capacity.
16. We reaffirmed commitment to further strengthening people-to-people and cultural exchanges through TVET, scholarships, workshops and activities through relevant sectoral bodies, including the ASEAN-Korea Centre and the cultural centres in Seoul, Busan, Gwangju, and Bangkok. We took note of the successful convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Committee Meeting for ASEAN-ROK Cultural Heritage Cooperation in May 2023 and looked forward to sustaining collaboration in the protection, preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, and to celebrate ASEAN-ROK cultural dynamism through media and film development with joint initiatives such as the ASEAN-ROK Music Festival and

ASEAN-ROK Film Community Programme 2022-2025. We appreciated the ROK's support for the expansion of scholarship programmes through the ASEAN-ROK project on "Higher Education for ASEAN Talents: Scholarship Opportunity for ASEAN Faculty Members in the ROK (HEAT)." We looked forward to more programmes such as the ASEAN – ROK Youth Summit, which provides opportunities for networking and exchange of ideas. To further raise awareness on ASEAN-ROK cooperation among junior officials, we also encouraged the ROK's support and contribution to ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme (AJFP). Recognizing the importance of exchanges among the youth in promoting mutual understanding, we noted with satisfaction the successful resumption of the ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop this year by the ASEAN-Korea Centre, which was held in Da Nang, Vietnam on July 22-26, 2023.

17. We acknowledged the importance of accelerating the regional cooperation on social welfare and development, particularly in fostering knowledge exchange and learning in promoting the rights and welfare of the most vulnerable groups, especially persons with disabilities and older persons, in view of the growing issues on disability rights and ageing which was reaffirmed by the ROK at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD+3) on 25 May 2023.
18. We welcomed the successful convening of the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM Plus ROK) held in Bangkok (hybrid) in October 2022, and the adoption of the Joint Statement on the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management. We appreciated ROK's continued support for the implementation of the ASEAN-ROK Work Plan on Disaster Management 2021-2025, as well as the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025, especially through the ongoing flagship projects, namely Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building Program for AMS (D-CAB) and the ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND). We looked forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> AMMDM Plus ROK to be held in Ha Long, Viet Nam, in October 2023.
19. We welcomed the ROK's support for various cooperation programmes through the annual conduct of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change. We also welcomed the launch of 'Partnership for ASEAN-ROK Methane Action (PARMA)'. We noted ROK's proposal for the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Project on Carbon Neutrality and Green Transition. We agreed to cooperate on the establishment and operation of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC) in Brunei Darussalam and to strengthen cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in the Philippines.

20. We took note the need to strengthen cooperation on sustainable marine economic development by combatting marine plastic debris, through the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris and the ASEAN Framework on Marine Debris. We also noted with satisfaction the progress of the programmes and projects conducted by the Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (AFoCO) to strengthen forest cooperation and taking concrete actions to promote sustainable forest management and address the impacts of climate change.
21. We encouraged the strengthened cooperation in education, labour, employment and human resource development (HRD), as well as the nurturing of a regional workforce that is future-ready, competitive, and resilient through the ongoing implementation of the: (i) ASCC Research and Development Platform on the Future of Work and Education; (ii) ASEAN-ROK TVET Mobility Programme; Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) Programme as well as relevant initiatives in the ASEAN TVET Council (ATC) Work Plan 2021-2030 including the annual convening of the ROK-ASEAN Policy Sharing Workshop in the Employment and Labour Sector and the ASEAN+3 HRD Forum.
22. We expressed our appreciation to the commitment of ROK in advancing sports cooperation in the region through the implementation of exchange programmes for capacity development for sports officials and professionals. Therefore, we looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN-Korea Football Interpersonal Exchange and Leadership Development (FIELD) Programme, which aims to improve the expertise and capacity of football human resources in ASEAN Member States towards the advancement of ASEAN football industry.
23. We looked forward to the ASEAN-Korea Day, which will be held on 1 November in Viet Nam to better connect peoples and businesses, and leading up to the milestone of commemoration of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations in 2024.
24. We recognized the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability, friendship, prosperity and cooperation. We reaffirmed our shared commitment to safeguarding and promoting peace, security, and stability in the South China Sea, particularly given the recent development, therefore reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would increase tension, complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability, and reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. We emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC)

that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea. We underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety and committed to maintaining and promoting an environment conducive to the negotiation of the COC that is consistent with International Law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

25. We expressed grave concern over the launch of ballistic missiles, and usage of ballistic missile technology, by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The recent surge in the DPRK's intercontinental ballistic missile testing and ballistic missile launches and resulting tensions in the Korean Peninsula are a worrisome development that threatens peace and stability in the region. We urged all concerned parties to resume peaceful dialogue and continue working towards the realization of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. Efforts toward this end, including diplomatic efforts for the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties, remain our priority. We reiterated our commitment to the full implementation of all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We emphasised the importance of addressing issues of human rights and humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions and detainees issues. ASEAN Leaders welcomed the ROK's Audacious Initiative, which aims to achieve a denuclearised, peaceful and prosperous Korean Peninsula that contributes to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. We reiterated our readiness to play a constructive role, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue amongst the concerned parties.

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