



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF ASEAN-CANADA SUMMIT TO LAUNCH THE  
ASEAN-CANADA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
JAKARTA, INDONESIA  
6 SEPTEMBER 2023**

1. The ASEAN-Canada Summit to Launch the ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership was held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 6 September 2023. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia. The Summit was attended by the ASEAN Member States, and the Honorable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, as well as 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," which aims to strengthen ASEAN as an organisation 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. We congratulated Indonesia for the successful convening of the 56<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings from 11 to 14 July 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
3. We acknowledged several high-level exchanges between ASEAN and Canada especially the convening of the ASEAN-Canada Commemorative Summit on 12 November 2022, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, whereby the Leaders adopted the ASEAN-Canada 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Summit Joint Statement, which agreed to establish an ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership. Cognisant of this, we adopted the Joint Leaders' Statement on the ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership to formally launch the Strategic Partnership. We welcomed Canada's

continued commitment to ASEAN Community building efforts, ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN Community Post 2025.

4. We noted with satisfaction that significant progress has been made in the third year of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2021-2025). We also welcomed the launch of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) in November 2022, as well as Canada's appointment of its first Special Envoy to Indo-Pacific, to support this important undertaking. We underscored the relevance of enhancing cooperation in the four key areas outlined in the ASEAN Outlook in the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) in an inclusive manner through concrete actions to support its implementation, in complementarity with the IPS. Towards this end, we welcomed Canada's support to the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum: Implementation of the AOIP held in Jakarta, 5-6 September 2023.
5. We noted that political engagement between ASEAN and Canada continues to strengthen on multiple fronts, including through Canada's participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with Canada and the ASEAN Plus Canada Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + Canada) Consultation. We took note of the implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Work Plan to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2019-2023) and looked forward to the finalisation of its successor work plan. We acknowledged Canada's current engagement with the ASEAN defence sector through the observership programme in ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), as well as on Maritime Security (MS) during the final year of the 2021-2024 cycle. We further noted Canada's expression of interest in joining the observership programme in the upcoming 2024-2027 cycle.
6. We welcomed Canada's support for the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in the region, including through the Regional Programme on "Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace: Preventing Violence and Promoting Social Cohesion in ASEAN – Advancing WPS in ASEAN," with funding of CAD 8.5 million over 5 years, as well as a series of WPS Dialogues in 2023. We commended the active support and engagement of Canada at the "ASEAN WPS Summit: High-Level Dialogue to Advance the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security," held on 5-7 July 2023, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, which served as a platform to forge ahead with the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace, and Security in ASEAN (ASEAN RPA on WPS), with flagship programmes by the ASEAN Member States with support from partners. We welcomed Canada's engagement on WPS agenda,

including through the localisation of WPS into national action plans and policies and support to women peace builders, among others.

7. We welcomed Canada's support to accelerating gender mainstreaming in the work of ASEAN across ASEAN Community pillars through the implementation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (AGMSF) which was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summits, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, particularly in strengthening women entrepreneurship and women political leadership, and in ending gender-based violence in ASEAN, in close collaboration with the ACWC and ACW and active support to the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Steering Committee (AGMSC).
8. We welcomed Canada's commitment to undertake large-scale Team Canada Trade Missions to the Indo-Pacific region, including in the Southeast Asia region in 2024.
9. We underlined the importance of stepping up efforts to enhance ASEAN-Canada trade and investment through the implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment (JDTI) Work Plan (2021-2025) as well as various activities pursued by the Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC). We recalled the launch of ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement (ACAFTA) negotiations at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM)-Canada Consultation held in November 2021 and welcomed the favourable progress of the ACAFTA negotiations. We looked forward to the continuation of positive development of the negotiations towards a commercially meaningful ACAFTA to all stakeholders, to improve market access for stakeholders from ASEAN and Canada and enhance our shared commitment to a rules-based trading system.
10. We encouraged Canada to continue its support for the Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region, especially on digital transformation and increased access to financing and other funding support mechanisms made available for MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, digital start-ups, and digital transformation, building on the completion of the Canada-OECD Project on ASEAN SMEs (COPAS).
11. We recognised Canada's role as an important player in the global and regional food security and further agreed to support ASEAN's efforts in preventing disruptions in the supply chain in times of crises. In this spirit, we welcomed Canada's interest to establish an Agriculture and Agri-Food Office in Manila, the Philippines and its possible support for the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework (2021-2025) and the ASEAN Regional

Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture. We encouraged Canada to work with ASEAN in reducing the use of harmful agrochemicals and promote the use of viable alternatives, which have been proven to be effective and pose less risk.

12. We further welcomed the adoption of ASEAN-Canada Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises that will complement ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises, adopted by ASEAN Leaders during the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, 6 September 2023. We also welcome Canadian and ASEAN efforts in combatting illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region. When left unchallenged, IUU fishing undermines fisheries management and can be a significant obstacle to achieving food security.
13. We welcomed Canada's support for ASEAN's regional efforts in strengthening policies to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers through the extension of the Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (TRIANGLE in ASEAN) Phase II until 2024. We acknowledged the support of the TRIANGLE in ASEAN Project to the annual conduct of the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour, the development of the ASEAN Declaration and Guidelines on Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members in Crisis Situation, the ASEAN Declaration and Guidelines on Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers, and the ASEAN Guidelines on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers. We encouraged TRIANGLE in ASEAN to strengthen protection of migrant workers in hard-to-reach sectors. We welcomed Canada's support to leverage efforts in promoting and protecting child migrant's rights through the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Implementing the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration (ASEAN RPA on CCM).
14. We welcomed Canada's support through the Canadian Trade and Investment Facility for Development (CTIF), including support to develop a regional marketing campaign to be launched by 27 September 2023 during the World Tourism Day as well as a multi-channel communications plan to promote intra-ASEAN travel succeeding the launch of the Intra-ASEAN Tourism Recovery Campaign. As the tourism sector continues recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, revitalising intra-ASEAN travel is an immediate priority. The promotion of intra-ASEAN travel corresponds to Pillar 2 (promoting safe and seamless intra-regional and international travel) of the post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism.
15. We also welcomed Canada's support in taking swift action to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthen health systems, and promote health security. In this regard,

we encouraged Canada to support the operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) which will ensure successful regional prevention, preparedness, and response to future public health emergencies.

16. We expressed our appreciation for Canada's sustained support in bolstering health security initiatives under the ongoing Mitigation of Biological Threats (MBT) Programme with the assistance of the Weapons Threat Reduction Program (WTRP) of Global Affairs Canada, which include, among others, the MBT funding support in the consultative meetings on the development of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN One Health Network and the ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action (JPA) for the implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiatives, as recently adopted by the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit. We look forward to the next programme phase of the MBT, which is aimed at scaling-up biosafety and biosecurity initiatives and mechanisms in the region.
17. We welcomed greater cooperation with Canada in the area of education and human capital development, including through the Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) programme, which has provided 473 scholarships for students from the ASEAN Member States to study and conduct research in Canada since its inception in 2018 and will be expanded through the Indo-Pacific Strategy. We further encouraged Canada to explore a possibility to upgrade the SEED programme into a degree level.
18. We also welcomed possible collaboration in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and empowering older persons in view of the ageing population in the region, and to explore further potential cooperation in technical assistance and exchange and to enable full and equal participation and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities and older persons under the framework of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025 and the Regional Plan of Action on Implementing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN. We looked forward to further cooperation with Canada in realising good governance and raising the profile of ASEAN's civil service through the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM).
19. We highlighted the need to strengthen ASEAN-Canada cooperation to address transboundary haze pollution through the support of the establishment and the operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution (ACCTHPC) in the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP).

20. We further highlighted the need to promote regional cooperation on climate change as path of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through collaboration with the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC), the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogues (ACSDSD) in Thailand, as well as the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC) in Brunei Darussalam, once established, and support the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region, the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris through collaboration with the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME). We also looked forward to exploring concrete ideas and alternative approaches, including the Bio-Circular-Green Economy and other sustainability models.
21. We welcomed Canada's continued support for the implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2021–2025), including through the project on "Improving ASEAN's Humanitarian Capacity in Multi-hazards" (2022-2026), which will contribute to the strengthening of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).
22. We also expressed support for ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap, in promoting sustainable, equitable development and in promoting complementarity and synergy between ASEAN and other existing sub-regional cooperation mechanisms, including the Mekong sub-region mechanism. We looked forward to Canada's support for the effective and substantive implementation of the initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025).
23. We looked forward to enhancing cooperation to strengthen ASEAN Connectivity for mutual benefits, including through the financing of high-quality sustainable infrastructure projects to achieve the objectives of ASEAN's implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 in its strategic areas of sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and people mobility. We further welcomed the promotion of links and synergies between the MPAC 2025 and other relevant connectivity strategies within and beyond the region. We further looked forward to the implementation of connectivity agenda in ASEAN including through Canada's expansion of the mandate of FinDev Canada, its development finance institution (DFI), to include the Indo-Pacific, supported by a significant recapitalization. This will encourage and enable the financing of high-quality, sustainable infrastructure projects which

could help contribute to achieving the objectives of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025) and its successor documents

24. We also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action Trust Fund earlier this year, with the release of the first tranche of the Trust Fund from Canada amounted to CAD 500,000 and looked forward to its effective utilisation. We shared the significance of developing practical programmes and pursuing activities that are tangible, sustainable, mutually beneficial, regional in nature and adaptable to current challenges.

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