



## **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

### **THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN PLUS THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING**

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 27 July 2024

1. The 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Saleumxay Kommasith, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR.

#### **Review and Future Direction of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation**

2. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress in APT cooperation over the past year and discussed its future direction. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthening and deepening the APT process which plays a key role and as a main vehicle in East Asian community-building efforts and in promoting peace, stability, and security in the East Asian region with ASEAN as the driving force. The Meeting also recognised the importance of the APT to ASEAN's efforts towards realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021 -2025), and deeper regional integration in East Asia.
3. The Meeting noted the importance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. The Meeting is determined to further promote and mainstreaming AOIP in concrete and practical projects and activities within the APT framework.
4. The Meeting appreciated the notable progress made under the current APT Cooperation Work Plan (2023-2027), particularly in the areas of transnational crime, non-traditional security, maritime cooperation, trade and investment, tourism, science, technology, and innovation, public health, education, social welfare, poverty alleviation, environment, civil service, labour, culture, media, and sustainable development. The Meeting also highlighted the importance of continuing maritime cooperation and looked forward to the further implementation

of the Cooperation Work Plan in an effective and timely manner to enhance the APT cooperation.

5. The Meeting shared views on the need to further strengthen dialogue and cooperation to combat transnational crime and in border management, through existing mechanisms under the APT Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3) Consultation. The Meeting noted last year's adoption, under this framework, of the first APT Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2024-2027), which covered three priority areas, namely trafficking in persons, terrorism and cybercrime; and of the first ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting Plus Three Work Programme (2023-2024) to enhance practical cooperation on immigration, consular affairs and border management. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the full and effective implementation of the Work Plan and Work Programme. The Meeting also reaffirmed a strong commitment to combating illicit drugs under the framework of the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters Plus Three (ASOD + 3) Consultation.
6. The Meeting commended the progress made in the implementation of the APT Economic Cooperation Work Programme 2023-2024 and the positive outcomes of economic cooperation under twelve areas, among others, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) development, private sector engagement and stakeholders' dialogues, trade facilitation, digital economy, and green circular economy. The Meeting reiterated the importance of strengthening economic relations among APT countries with ASEAN playing a central role by keeping the markets open to strengthen the connectivity, resiliency, and sustainability of regional logistics systems and supply chains as well as maintain the flow of essential goods and services. The Meeting emphasised the need to strengthen APT collaboration to navigate the challenging global environment through stronger and more impactful cooperation, especially in the areas of sustainable development, digital transformation, supply chain connectivity, and pursuing cooperation in areas of mutual interest. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN+3 Start-up Program for Promoting Sustainable Development.
7. The Meeting reaffirmed a strong commitment to strengthening and maintaining a free and fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, equitable, rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core and to working towards necessary reform of the WTO to improve all its functions. The Meeting welcomed the progress in the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement and looked forward to the implementation of the RCEP Agreement in a transparent manner, to the increased utilisation of the Agreement by ASEAN private sectors in the region, especially

micro, small, and medium businesses and its contribution to stronger and more resilient supply chains.

8. The Meeting underscored the importance of the ASEAN+3 Finance Process in enhancing regional economic and financial stability. The Meeting commended the continued commitment of the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to significantly bolstering the regional resilience of ASEAN+3 through the establishment of the Rapid Financing Facility (RFF) with the incorporation of eligible freely usable currencies as its currencies of choice, as a new facility under the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM). The Meeting welcomed the outcomes of the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting held on 3 May 2024, which determined to strengthen the regional financial cooperation, including through the Regional Financing Arrangement (RFA) Future Direction/CMIM, ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI), Disaster Risk Financing (DRF), and ASEAN+3 Future Initiatives.
9. The Meeting commended the progress made in the implementation of the APT Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) on Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016- 2025. The Meeting called for the enhancement of APT cooperation in ensuring food security, including through the effective implementation of the APT Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS), to overcome possible food shortages as well as to strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of regional food supply chains and logistics systems. The Meeting welcomed the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of APTERR Council which bolstered regional food security cooperation through the APTERR mechanism. The Meeting emphasised the significance of strengthening cooperation to attain resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems by promoting green and circular agricultural practices, harnessing digital technologies, and advancing agricultural decarbonisation.
10. The Meeting noted the convening of the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting in August 2023. The Meeting recognised the urgency to accelerate just and inclusive energy transition towards carbon emissions reduction of the energy sector while ensuring energy security by optimally taking into account all energy resources and technologies in accordance with national and regional circumstances. The Meeting also shared the common view that energy transition and carbon emissions reduction in the transport sector should allow for various pathways, such as zero emission vehicles towards achieving net zero emissions/carbon neutrality, depending on domestic circumstances of each country while realising economic growth. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the adoption of the APT Leaders' Statement on Developing Electric Vehicle Ecosystem at the 26<sup>th</sup> APT Summit in September 2023 and looked forward to the effective implementation of the Statement.

11. The Meeting commended the APT's continued commitment to strengthening cooperation in science, technology, and innovation (STI) for the region. The Meeting noted the completion of STI initiatives under APT, which includes the ASEAN+3 Center for the Gifted in Science; ASEAN+3 Student Camp and ASEAN+3 Teacher Workshop for the Gifted in Science; ASEAN+3 Junior Science Odyssey; ASEAN+3 Young Scientists Forum; and Davinci Science Box.
12. The Meeting commended the continued efforts of APT to push forward the digital transformation agenda. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of focusing on enhancing APT's capacity to facilitating free flows of data across borders, development of digital connectivity, and strengthening of consumer and business trust in the digital economy. The Meeting acknowledged the continued support of APT on the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan and the ASEAN Digital Master Plan 2025, through capacity-building activities on the use of digital technologies and the mid-term report on the APT research project for closing the digital divide in MSMEs.
13. The Meeting commended the progress of the implementation of the MPAC 2025, as well as the Plus Three countries' ongoing support for ASEAN's implementation of the MPAC 2025, including on the Enhancement of ASEAN Tourism Digital Platforms, the Diagnostic Tool to Assess MSMEs' Digital Readiness and the ASEAN-ROK Technical and Vocational Education and Training Mobility Programme. The Meeting encouraged continued efforts in exploring potential collaboration through implementing practical projects to strengthen connectivity cooperation.
14. The Meeting noted that ASEAN is currently working on developing the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan, which will outline the next phase of the ASEAN Connectivity agenda, and looked forward to future collaboration in this regard. The Meeting noted the Lao PDR's proposal for an APT Leaders' Statement on Strengthening the Connectivity of Regional Supply Chains to be adopted at the 27<sup>th</sup> APT Summit in October 2024. The Meeting looked forward to the development and finalisation of the proposed statement in time for its adoption at the 27<sup>th</sup> APT Summit.
15. The Meeting commended the efforts of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre to promote trade, investment, culture, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges between and among ASEAN and the Plus Three countries. The Meeting was pleased to note that the three Centres had established regular consultation meetings and called for the Centres to enhance linkages among them by exploring possible joint projects in areas of common interest.
16. The Meeting emphasised the importance of cultural, sports and tourism exchanges and people-to-people links to heighten awareness and foster intercultural

understanding and ASEAN identity in the region. In this regard, the Meeting encouraged the effective implementation of the projects under the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan on Cooperation in Culture and the Arts 2022-2025 and the ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2021-2025. The Meeting also looked forward to greater cooperation in the fields of culture, sports, tourism and arts to promote active exchange among APT countries through various channels. In addition, the Meeting encouraged greater collaborations to leverage digital transformation for the media and information sector under the newly extended Work Plan on Enhancing APT Cooperation through Information and Media 2018-2025.

17. The Meeting acknowledged the efforts of the APT in optimising the mobilisation of essential health resources in responding to public health crisis based on the joint commitments from the 9<sup>th</sup> APT Health Ministers' Meeting in May 2022, which included the priority health areas, among others, on supporting the operationalisation of ongoing initiatives on prevention, preparedness, detection and response to public health emergencies; building a stronger and resilient health system; increased utilisation of existing respective trust funds and technical support for public health cooperation, including promotion of universal health coverage, utilising digital health for healthcare, prevention, and control of communicable and noncommunicable diseases; traditional and complementary medicine; healthy and active ageing, promotion of mental health; human resources for health; enhancing equitable access to vaccine, therapeutics, and diagnostics; responding to communicable and emerging diseases and food safety, as well as issues related to combating antimicrobial resistance through One Health approach, and disaster health management.
18. The Meeting noted the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaborative activities to be undertaken in promoting healthy and active ageing as complemented by the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI). The Meeting also noted the efforts to strengthen the healthcare and welfare systems in addressing ageing-related challenges under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative.
19. The Meeting noted the commitment of the APT health sectors in continuing efforts on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III), including successor strategies, to further enhance the ASEAN Member States and Plus Three countries' capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats amid an evolving global health architecture. In this regard, the Meeting reaffirmed support in the establishment and operation of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) as a centre of excellence and regional resource hub for public health emergency preparedness and response in ASEAN which is strongly connected with similar centres with other

regions and countries. The Meeting encouraged further consultation on setting up APTRMS to complement the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies (ARRMS). The Meeting welcomed construction of the ASEAN Plus Three Public Health Emergency Tabletop Exercises to better coordination and capacity building for health emergencies in the region.

20. The Meeting welcomed the schedule of the 10<sup>th</sup> APT Health Ministers' Meeting on 9 August 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, and looked forward to the renewed, deepened or expanded cooperation to further enhance health development that are aligned with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Post-2025 Strategic Plan, and the health priorities of Plus Three countries.
21. The Meeting underlined the importance of fostering cooperation on social welfare and development as highlighted during the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development Plus Three and the 17<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development Plus Three in 2023. The Meeting recognised the crucial role of the social welfare and development sector in strengthening social protection systems, with particular attention given to strengthening strategic cooperation in enhancing the well-being of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups through gender-responsive and social-inclusive approach.
22. The Meeting reaffirmed ASEAN and the Plus Three countries' strong commitment to promoting social welfare and development cooperation, through the programmatic implementation of key ASEAN declarations and regional frameworks, including the (i) Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection in ASEAN; (ii) Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN; (iii) ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, (iv) ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework; and (v) Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Importance of the Family Community Development and Nation-Building, and (vi) Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community, among others.
23. The Meeting reaffirmed commitment of the APT to explore and undertake concrete action to strengthen the partnership with ASEAN on social welfare and development to respond to impact of emerging global trends, including digitalisation, demographic shifts, and the impact of climate change, among others, with enhanced engagement of women, children, people with disabilities, older persons, and other vulnerable groups.
24. The Meeting reiterated the APT commitment to advancing cooperation in promoting sustainable, inclusive and innovative development, as well as in

strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Meeting called for the development of collaborative projects to protect and conserve the environment and biodiversity, to promote sustainable use of natural resources including sustainable forest management and water resource management, to address the impact of climate change and the issue of marine plastic debris, and to address air transboundary pollution through the support of the establishment and the operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACCTHPC) and the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), in collaboration with other relevant ASEAN centres such as the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre.

25. The Meeting welcomed the continuous contribution of the Plus Three countries to reduce marine debris through the APT Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative and support to the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States 2021-2025. The Meeting welcomed in particular activities of the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to address the marine plastic issue, as well as collective efforts towards the achievement of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).
26. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to forging closer cooperation in poverty alleviation for sustainable development. Following the adoption of the Joint Statement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Villages Network (AVN) during the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit in May 2023 and notation of the AVN Framework during the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, the Meeting looked forward to exploring ways to further support the sustainability of the ASEAN Villages Network, through, among others, the development of infrastructure and human resources, capacity building programs, and technical exchange activities, guided by the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development, Poverty Eradication 2016-2025 and the ASEAN Masterplan on Rural Development 2022-2026, and the regional mechanism of the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) Plus Three. The Meeting welcomed the successful conduct of the First Meeting of the AVN on 25-26 July 2023, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and via video conference which served as a kick-off event to foster synergy on the roll-out of the Network with the overarching goal of ASEAN Community-building that encompasses the implementation of the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development and the attainment of global sustainability objectives.
27. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to promoting and protecting the human rights of vulnerable groups, achieving gender equality, and the empowerment of women. The Meeting commended the continued efforts of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection

of The Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to forge ahead with the implementation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (AGMSF) 2021-2025 across the three ASEAN Community pillars. In accelerating the implementation of the AGMSF, the Meeting acknowledged with appreciation the Policy Recommendations on Integrating Gender Mainstreaming in ASEAN that was noted by the ASEAN Leaders during the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit.

28. The Meeting committed to maintain sustainable peace in the region through, among others, the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action (RPA) on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). The Meeting commended the convening of the ASEAN Women, Peace and Security Summit: High Level Dialogue to Advance the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security in July 2023, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and video conference, which provided a strategic avenue for ASEAN and its partners to reaffirm their commitment and support to the implementation of the ASEAN RPA on WPS. The Meeting looked forward to strengthening and continuing cooperation for capacity building for empowering women in the context of WPS.
29. The Meeting looked forward to the comprehensive end-term reviews of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action the Elimination of Violence Against Women (ASEAN RPA on EVAW) and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (ASEAN RPA on EVAC), as well as the development of the successor Regional Plans of Actions under the leadership of the ACWC. The Meeting reaffirmed that these regional frameworks are crucial to strengthening shared commitments to protecting women and children from all forms of abuse and violence.
30. The Meeting recognised the continued commitment of the APT to further enhance cooperation in education, and underscored the importance of education for human resource development as well as social and economic well-being in post-pandemic recovery. The Meeting encouraged the enhancement of cooperation in the Campus Asia Plus Program and welcomed the initiatives of the Working Group on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education among APT countries such as the development of APT Joint Guidelines for New Form of Mobility in Higher Education. The Meeting also noted other relevant initiatives such as MEXT scholarships, ASIA KAKEHASHI Project+ (Plus), and Sakura Science Exchange Program, ASEAN China-Young Leaders Scholarship (ACYLS) programme, Higher Education for ASEAN Talents (HEAT) Scholarships, the ROK TVET Mobility Programme, among others.
31. The Meeting commended the longstanding efforts of the APT Senior Officials' Meeting on Youth and relevant ASEAN entities to provide greater access for youth in APT countries to participate and remain engaged in the ASEAN Community building and people-to-people exchange, through various annual youth



exchanges, capacity building, and community immersion programs, such as China-ASEAN Youth Campus and the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) and the ROK's Youth Camp for ASEAN and Friends' Engagement (YCAFE).

32. The Meeting commended the steady progress of implementation of the APT Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3) Work Plan 2021-2025. The Meeting also noted the initiatives supported by the APT Cooperation Fund that sought to strengthen the overall capabilities of the ASEAN Civil Services, including the ongoing Baseline Study on Governance Systems among APT countries and the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Public Service Delivery. The Meeting looked forward to the active participation of the Plus Three countries at the Heads of Civil Service Meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> ACCSM+3 in Brunei Darussalam in August 2024. The Meeting encouraged closer APT cooperation in raising the standards of civil service in the ASEAN region in areas of mutual interests including e-governance, human resource management and human resource development, productivity in the public sector, good governance, public sector reform, local administrative capacity building and cooperation, and research and innovation.
33. The Meeting commended the strengthening of the APT cooperation in the labour sector through the continued implementation of the first APT Senior Labour Officials' Meeting (SLOM+3) Work Plan 2021-2025 by engaging in practical activities and projects that covered the areas of human resources development, inclusive growth, sustainable development as a response to the ASEAN economic integration, social dialogue, occupational safety and health in the workplace, and social protection. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the 13<sup>th</sup> APT Labour Ministers' Meeting (13<sup>th</sup> ALMM+3) in October 2024, in Singapore, and welcomed the Plus Three active participation in the Meeting. The Meeting encouraged APT closer cooperation in fields of skills development, employment and social protection.
34. The Meeting encouraged the enhancement of cooperation on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance, particularly to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025, the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region, and other relevant ASEAN Declarations, and to contribute towards building resilience to disasters in the ASEAN region and realising ASEAN's aspiration to be a global leader in disaster management in line with the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, through promoting exchanges of information, best practices and experiences on disaster management, and strengthening ASEAN's capacity for disaster risk assessment and monitoring, prevention and mitigation, and response and recovery, including through

strengthening the capacity of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).

35. The Meeting acknowledged the important contribution of the East Asia Forum (EAF) as a Track 1.5 level platform for government, business, academia, and think tanks to further deepen East Asia cooperation. In this regard, the Meeting noted with appreciation the convening of the 21<sup>st</sup> EAF, which was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China under the theme “*Joining Hands to Create New Development Opportunities for Shared Peace and Prosperity in East Asia*”. The Forum discussed among others, ways to expand cooperation in emerging industries to foster stronger drivers for regional growth and enhance regional resilience in crises.
36. The Meeting also recognised the important contributions of the Network of East Asia Think-Tanks (NEAT) towards APT cooperation and looked forward to the outcomes of NEAT to be submitted to the 27<sup>th</sup> APT Summit in October 2024, for notation.

### **Regional and International Issues**

37. The Meeting welcomed the Ninth Republic of Korea-Japan-China Trilateral Summit on 27 May 2024 in Seoul, Republic of Korea and their commitment to further advance the trilateral cooperation through striving to institutionalise the trilateral cooperation by holding the Trilateral Summit and Ministerial meetings on a regular basis and continuing to promote the capacity-building of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, identifying and implementing mutually-beneficial cooperation projects centered on six key areas, and promoting ‘Trilateral+X’ Cooperation. ASEAN welcomed the Plus Three countries’ strong support for ASEAN Centrality and Unity.
38. The Meeting discussed the developments in Myanmar during which deep concern were expressed over the escalation of conflicts and humanitarian situation. The Meeting reaffirmed support for the ASEAN Leaders’ Five-Point Consensus (5PC) which remains the main reference to address the political crisis in Myanmar. The Meeting also reaffirmed the relevant Leaders’ decisions. The Meeting condemned the continued acts of violence against civilians and public facilities and called for immediate cessation. The Meeting urged all parties involved to take concrete action to immediately halt indiscriminate violence, denounce any escalation, exercise utmost restraint, ensure the protection and safety of all civilians and create a conducive environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogue.
39. The Meeting welcomed the progress of the provision of ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance under Phase 1 (Life-Saving/COVID-19 response) and Phase 2 (Life-

Sustaining) by the AHA Centre in coordination with Myanmar to implement Point 4 of the ASEAN Leaders' 5PC. The Meeting noted that as of 10 July 2024, the total distributed value under the Phase 2 response is around USD 1.88 million through the provision of food (rice and food packages composed of rice, pulses, oil, salt) and non-food items (family kits and personal hygiene kits) reaching the affected populations in Sagaing Region, Magway Region, southern Shan State and Mon State. In this regard, the Meeting commended the AHA Centre for its continuous efforts in delivering ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar, and welcomed Thailand's humanitarian initiative, which are in line with the 5PC and coordinated with the ASEAN Chair through the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar. The Meeting appreciated the contributions by ASEAN Member States, external partners, and the private sector, and called for all relevant parties in Myanmar to ensure the safe and transparent delivery of humanitarian assistance, to the people in Myanmar without discrimination, towards the more effective implementation of Point 4 of the 5PC. The Meeting called for scaled-up additional financial support from the international community for humanitarian assistance, including to ensure the safety and livelihood of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

40. The Meeting commended the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar for efforts made to promote progress in the implementation of the 5PC in its entirety. The Meeting welcomed his efforts to continue reaching out to parties concerned in a sustainable manner, and to help the people of Myanmar to achieve an inclusive and durable peaceful resolution that is Myanmar-owned and -led for peace, security and stability in the region.
41. The Meeting expressed concern over the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula and stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. Some Ministers expressed grave concern over the recent surge in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) intercontinental ballistic missile testing and ballistic missile launches and the increased tension in the Korean Peninsula, which are a worrisome development that threatens peace and stability in the region. Some Ministers called on the DPRK to comply fully with all relevant UNSC Resolutions and called for peaceful dialogue among the concerned parties, and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace, and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. Many Ministers called for the full implementation of all relevant UNSC Resolutions and noted international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. Diplomatic efforts, including the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties should remain a priority. The Meeting reiterated our readiness to play a constructive role, including through utilising ASEAN-led platforms such as the ARF in promoting a conducive atmosphere for peaceful dialogue amongst the concerned parties. Some Ministers also emphasised the importance of addressing issues of

humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions and detainees issues.

**Other Matters**

42. The Meeting discussed the preparations for the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Summit to be held in October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

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