

## **JOINT STATEMENT OF THE TENTH ASEAN PLUS THREE HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING (10<sup>TH</sup> APTHMM)**

**9 AUGUST 2024, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR**

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**The 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting was held on 9 August 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR**

**RECALLING** the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting on 23 April 2004 where the ASEAN and Plus Three Health Ministers committed in mutual efforts to ensure health for our peoples, regardless of gender, race, religion, language or social and cultural backgrounds, address the health challenges and opportunities in a rapidly globalising region where we are more interconnected and interdependent than ever;

**FURTHER RECALLING** the progress of the cooperation by the ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers since the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting in 2004 to surmount the health challenges posed by globalisation, fight the transboundary spread of diseases, and place health at the centre of development, so that universal health coverage and the health security of our peoples are ensured, through facilitation of access to safe, effective and quality health care, among others;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the gains from the implementation of the Joint Statement of the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting in May 2022 that focused on *Optimising the Mobilisation of Essential Health Resources in Responding to Public Health Crisis*, and the ongoing cooperation of the Plus Three Countries through the ASEAN Health Sector mechanisms and platforms;

**APPRECIATING** the resources mobilised provided by the utilisation of the trust funds from the respective Plus Three Countries for the approved projects of the ASEAN Health Sector through the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF), Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), and ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF);

**NOTING** the ASEAN Plus Three leadership in advancing universal health coverage as well as the regional health resilience including security and self-reliance in vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics (VTD) that are effective, safe, and accessible during emergency and non-emergency situations;

**RECOGNISING** the ongoing joint efforts on ASEAN Plus Three health cooperation to enhance the capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats amid an evolving global health architecture, and the 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 to further strengthen ASEAN Plus Three capabilities to prepare for, detect and respond to public health emergencies and emerging diseases;

**AFFIRMING** our commitment to *Strengthening ASEAN Health Security through Digital Innovations for Cross-Border Health Emergencies in the New Context Post Pandemic* through the following agreed measures:

1. Continue to deepen our cooperation on areas identified in the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (APT SOMHD), including: prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; healthy and active ageing; mental health; regional resilience and health security, including disease surveillance and vaccine security and self-reliance; ending HIV and AIDS; human resources for health; universal health coverage; traditional and complementary medicine; combating antimicrobial resistance; initiatives on One Health, and disaster health management;
2. Maximise ASEAN and ASEAN Plus Three mechanism in addressing health emergencies and strengthening health systems in the context of future pandemics through initiatives including but not limited to the ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (ASEAN+3 FETN), ASEAN+3 Universal Health Coverage Network, ASEAN Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Network, and the ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Centre (ABVC), and ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED);
3. Explore the new areas of cooperation to further enhance the health-security capacities and capabilities of ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three through leveraging digital innovations such as interoperable health information system, big-data analytics for disease surveillance, health-related cyber security, knowledge management and health data management and governance to facilitate the timely sharing of pandemic-related data and resources across borders, thereby improving our ability to respond swiftly to public health emergencies and emerging diseases;
4. Encourage collaborative research and development efforts to harness emerging technologies and innovations that address regional health priorities, including infectious disease control, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics (VTD) development, health service delivery, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, food and nutrition, security and healthy diet;
5. Continue building the capacity of the health workforce through competency building initiatives, including training programs, knowledge sharing and technical exchanges on the existing and the above-mentioned new areas of cooperation, as well as other areas of cooperation agreed by ASEAN and Plus Three Countries;
6. Enhance the regional coordinated actions and shared responsibility in responding to cross-border health emergencies and establish mechanisms for joint exercises and simulations to test and improve our collective preparedness with the support from Plus Three Countries; and,
7. Affirm our overall support to the exercise in envisioning the ASEAN Health Sector Post-2025 priorities aligned with the ASEAN Vision 2045, and the ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan, as well as strengthening ASEAN health security encompassing communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, and public health emergencies through digital innovations and regional cooperation, recognizing that

our collective efforts will contribute to a safer, healthier, and more resilient future for all.

We look forward to further exchanges of views and collaboration in health development at our next Meeting in Malaysia in 2026.