ADOPTED

ASEAN PLUS THREE LEADERS' STATEMENT ON MARITIME TRADE AND LOGISTICS CONNECTIVITY

WE, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, gathering at the 29th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit on 17 November 2026, in Manila, the Philippines;

RECOGNISING the important role of APT members as a major driver of global trade and economic growth, supported by highly integrated production networks, regional supply chains, maritime trade routes, ports, shipping and logistics networks;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the importance of stable, secure, inclusive, reliable, efficient, sustainable and resilient maritime trade and logistics connectivity, as well as optimising cost and increasing efficiency in cross border trade in facilitating the continued flow of goods, services and essential supplies, supporting regional economic integration and contributing to inclusive and sustainable growth and development;

NOTING that recent external shocks, including geopolitical developments, disruptions affecting major maritime trade routes and vulnerabilities in global supply chains, have highlighted the importance of strengthening regional resilience and preparedness against disruptions affecting maritime trade and logistics connectivity;

EMPHASISING the importance of peace, stability, maritime safety and security, and respect for international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and **REITERATING** our commitment to an open, free, fair, inclusive, transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, to avoid supply chain disruptions as foundations for safe and unimpeded maritime trade and logistics connectivity in the region;

RECALLING the *ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Maritime Cooperation* adopted by the 48th ASEAN Summit on 8 May 2026 in Cebu, Philippines;

RECALLING the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Enhancing Supply Chain Connectivity adopted on 9 October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which reaffirmed ASEAN's efforts to enhance regional connectivity and strengthen the resilience, efficiency and sustainability of regional supply chains;

RECALLING the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP), adopted on 26 May 2025, which reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to advancing regional connectivity,

including through its Strategic Areas on Sustainable Infrastructure, Seamless Logistics and Supply Chain, and Regulatory Excellence and Cooperation;

REAFFIRMING our support for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), its principles, and its four priority areas;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to upholding a free, open, fair, inclusive, transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core and to advancing WTO reform while enhancing regional connectivity and economic integration through practical cooperation, in accordance with applicable domestic and international law; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of digitalisation, innovation, sustainable infrastructure and human resource development in enhancing the efficiency, safety, security and resilience of maritime trade and logistics connectivity.

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. **STRENGTHEN** maritime trade and logistics connectivity by enhancing cooperation in ports, shipping, logistics, intermodal and multimodal transport networks, including through streamlining administrative procedures and ensuring the effective implementation of regulations, particularly those related to regional ports, with a view to facilitating the efficient, reliable, safe and secure movement of goods across the region.

2. **PROMOTE** practical cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing among APT countries to enhance maritime trade and logistics connectivity and preparedness for disruptions to maritime trade, transport and supply chains.

3. **ENHANCE** regional preparedness and resilience against disruptions to maritime trade and supply chains, including through, where appropriate and on a voluntary basis, risk assessments, early warning and information-sharing arrangements, contingency planning and coordination through relevant existing mechanisms, with a view to supporting the continued movement of goods and supplies.

4. **PROMOTE** resilient regional supply chains by enhancing coordination and information-sharing related to maritime trade and logistics connectivity, and by exploring, where appropriate, measures to diversify supply sources, routes and modes of transport, and to reduce vulnerabilities to disruptions.

5. **ENHANCE** trade by promoting cross-border digital trade facilitation and paperless trade and enhancing interoperability in line with relevant domestic regulations, supporting smart logistics solutions and innovation, and improving

the efficiency of customs and logistics procedures, in accordance with APT countries' rights and obligations under the WTO Agreements and other international agreements.

6. **PROMOTE** the development and application of digital solutions, technologies and innovation for secure and resilient digital trade and logistics systems, including through enhanced cybersecurity, data protection and the use of relevant international standards, while taking into account the security implications of new technologies and the respective circumstances, laws and regulations of APT countries.

7. **STRENGTHEN** food value chains and cold chain management systems, including storage, temperature-controlled transport, and digital traceability solutions, to enhance the resilience, efficiency and reliability of regional food supply chains.

8. **SUPPORT** the development of sustainable, resilient and quality infrastructure and practical connectivity projects, including through capacity-building and technology cooperation, and **ENCOURAGE** closer engagement among APT countries and relevant public and private sector stakeholders to promote investment, and innovative and practical solutions for strengthening maritime trade and logistics connectivity and supply chain resilience, in line with respective national priorities, laws and regulations, and in line with the availability of resources.

9. **PROMOTE** environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient maritime connectivity, including through encouraging the use of low carbon transportation in the logistics industry and smart port technologies, as well as cooperation on green and low-carbon shipping, sustainable and resilient port infrastructure, energy efficiency and climate mitigation and adaptation measures for maritime transport and logistics, as well as cooperation to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities and protect marine-dependent livelihoods to climate change and external shocks, and to promote the protection, conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems and resources.

10. **ENHANCE** human resource development and capacity-building in maritime trade, maritime safety and security, port and maritime supply chain resilience, including cold chain development, and logistics connectivity, including through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) taking into account the different levels of development and respective circumstances of APT countries, **ENCOURAGE** the sharing of best practices and experiences, and **EXPLORE** cooperation, where appropriate, to facilitate the recognition of relevant skills, qualifications and competency certificates in line with applicable national laws and regulations and relevant international conventions and

standards that all APT countries are parties to, including applicable IMO and International Labour Organization (ILO) instruments that all APT countries are parties to.

11. **ENCOURAGE** cooperation in capacity-building activities, including training on port and maritime supply chain resilience, operation of green port infrastructure, logistics connectivity and preparedness for supply chain disruptions, taking into account the different levels of development and respective circumstances of APT countries.

12. **TASK** relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, particularly those with relevant ASEAN Plus Three mechanisms, to follow up on the concrete implementation of this Leaders' Statement through existing mechanisms and within their respective mandates, including by identifying and pursuing, as appropriate and in line with available resources, practical cooperation, capacity-building and other initiatives in support of maritime trade and logistics connectivity, aligned with ASEAN priorities.

ADOPTED in Manila, the Philippines, on this Seventeenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six, in a single original copy in the English Language.