



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 13TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS)
FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING
JAKARTA, INDONESIA
14 JULY 2023**

1. The 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was convened on 14 July 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Meeting was chaired by Her Excellency Retno L. P. Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

Review and Future Direction of the EAS

2. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening the EAS as the premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political, and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in East Asia in line with the fundamental EAS documents and based on the established principles, objectives, and modalities of the EAS.
3. The Meeting reaffirmed that the EAS would continue to be an open, inclusive, transparent, and outward-looking forum that is an integral component of the evolving rules-based ASEAN-centered regional architecture anchored in international law, under the guiding principles of the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration, the 2011 EAS Declaration on the Principles of Mutually Beneficial Relations, and reaffirmed in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The Meeting reaffirmed ASEAN's central role in the EAS and underscored ASEAN's commitment to work in close partnership with all participating countries in the EAS, consistent with the principles of the AOIP and in the effort to mainstream and implement its four priority areas of cooperation. The Meeting emphasized the important role of the EAS in strengthening multilateralism and the international order based on international law. The Meeting also underscored the need to promote an enabling environment for peace, stability, and prosperous development for all through ensuring a culture of dialogue and cooperation, instead of rivalry, enhancing mutual trust and confidence, and respect for international law.
4. The Meeting underscored the need to further strengthen the EAS to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness amidst the rapidly evolving regional and global architecture. In this regard, the Meeting recognized the continued importance of constructive dialogue on strategic issues among Leaders at the EAS

in order to reinforce strategic trust and address common challenges based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, and mutual respect.

5. The Meeting welcomed and appreciated the continued efforts to strengthen the EAS, including through the efforts to discuss the Terms of Reference for the group of the EAS Ambassadors in Jakarta, in line with EAS' objective and principles to ensure the effective follow-up and implementation of the Leaders' decisions and initiatives in a timely manner, as well as to provide support for the coordination between the EAS and other ASEAN-led mechanisms. The Meeting also recognized the role of the engagement between Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN and the non-ASEAN Ambassadors of East Asia Summit in facilitating the implementation of the Leaders' decisions and strengthening EAS Cooperation, as well as exchanging information on evolving regional architecture, security policies and initiatives. The Meeting also encouraged the further strengthening of the EAS Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate and support EAS coordination and cooperation.
6. The Meeting supported the work of the EAS this year, including to adopt a single EAS Leaders' statement as the outcome document of the 18th East Asia Summit which emphasize EAS participating countries' commitment to support ASEAN Centrality in the region as an epicentrum of growth by building resilience against emerging challenges and future shocks through cooperation on financial stability, strengthening regional health architecture, and building food and energy security and resilience.

Areas of Cooperation

7. The Meeting appreciated the substantive progress made in the areas of EAS cooperation under the Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative (2018-2022), which has been extended until December 2023 and underscored the need to accelerate efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Plan of Action before its expiry.
8. The Meeting adopted the successor EAS Plan of Action (2024-2028), which is streamlined and structured to focus on the implementation of the EAS Leaders' initiatives as stipulated in the Leaders' Statements and Declarations. The new EAS Plan of Action (2024-2028) aims to strengthen the relevance, coherence, and effectiveness of the EAS as the Leaders-led forum for promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region. The Meeting welcomed the inclusion of the AOIP in the Plan of Action, noting its significance as the first such reference in an EAS document adopted by Foreign Ministers.

Environment and Energy

9. The Meeting welcomed the virtual convening of the 13th EAS High-Level Seminar on Sustainable Cities (HLS-SC) on 1 March 2023, in conjunction with the Zero Carbon International Forum. The theme of the Seminar for this year is closely linked to the ASEAN SDG's Frontrunners Cities Phase 2 initiative, demonstrating steady progress of actions of ASEAN cities towards achieving sustainable development, particularly on the initiatives related to combatting marine plastic debris and strengthening climate resilience in the region.

10. The Meeting recognized the importance of a sustainable recovery that supports both economic growth and climate and sustainability goals, as well as the efforts by EAS participating countries to implement the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The Meeting discussed ways and means to address the impact of climate change, including through the adoption of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, sharing of best practices, and providing resources and technical expertise for regional initiatives including the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change.
11. The Meeting also encouraged EAS participating countries to strengthen cooperation on addressing air pollution, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation, particularly its impacts on climate change, sustainable cities, marine pollution and conservation, and a one-health approach related to environmental health matters. The Meeting took note of the need to address transboundary haze pollution and also encouraged EAS participating countries to support the establishment and operationalization of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution (ACCTHPC) for the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP).
12. The Meeting reaffirmed the rights and commitments of EAS participating countries under the Convention on Biological Diversity, towards the realization of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), including through support for the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.
13. The Meeting took note of the progress made under the EAS Leaders' Statement on Sustainable Recovery, which was adopted at the 16th East Asia Summit in October 2021, particularly the importance of a sustainable recovery that is comprehensive, inclusive, and resilient, as well as the need of promoting economic policies and growth including trade and investment, that contribute to the sustainable development and tackling climate change.
14. The Meeting took note the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change and the need to ensure energy security and resiliency in the EAS region. The Meeting has committed to take concrete actions to facilitate energy transitions through financing, technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, deployment, and capacity building and human resource development, taking into consideration respective national circumstances, capabilities, and priorities. The Meeting took note the necessity of enhancing energy cooperation through "Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)" initiative in the pursuit of their various and practical pathways depending on the circumstances of each country towards net-zero emissions/carbon neutrality.
15. The Meeting affirmed the necessity of adequate financing to support the acceleration of energy transitions in the region for realising sustainable economic growth and addressing climate change. The Meeting noted Japan's 'Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI)' which offer support for energy transitions in Asia, including financial supports for demonstration projects to introduce technologies and continuous discussion in the "Asia Transition Finance Study Group".

Education

16. The Meeting encouraged and affirmed the advancement of long-term and mutually beneficial education cooperation among the EAS participating countries, particularly in enhancing youth and people-to-people exchanges through scholarship programs, life-long skills development, and digital literacy. The Meeting welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025 and its alignment with the 14 priority areas of education cooperation under the Manila Plan of Action. The Meeting commended the implementation of inclusive and quality education programs and activities by EAS countries, especially in the areas of TVET, people-to-people exchanges including through scholarship programs, strengthening the competency of teachers in information and communications technology (ICT), and promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

Finance

17. The Meeting reiterated the need to work together to strengthen the global economic recovery. The Meeting expressed support for the further strengthening of the region's resilience to external shocks through closer regional financial cooperation and exchanging views on macro-economic and financial developments. Considering the scarring effects of COVID-19, as well as the geopolitical dynamics, the Meeting encouraged the EAS participating countries to strengthen financial cooperation.

Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases

18. The Meeting reaffirmed the role of EAS cooperation in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing and responding to future health threats. The Meeting acknowledged the support and contribution of the EAS participating countries to ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's initiatives in addressing COVID-19, among others, the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED); the COVID-19 and Other Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases ASEAN Response Fund; the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (RRMS); and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan with the support of ASEAN Centres, including the ACB and the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue. The Meeting expressed support in scaling up, sustaining, and exploring complementarity of areas of cooperation between these and other ASEAN-led mechanisms and initiatives, including enhancing efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), strengthening coordination between finance and health authorities, that enhance ASEAN's capacity and capability to better prepare, prevent, detect, and respond to all hazards and emerging and resurgent health threats.
19. The Meeting acknowledged the significance of Strengthening Collective Capacity in Epidemics Prevention and Response based on EAS Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Collective Capacity in Epidemics Prevention and Response adopted at the 15th EAS on 14 November 2020 which recognizes the unprecedented and severe challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to adopt an effective and comprehensive response to promote the health, well-being, livelihoods, and safety of our peoples and mitigate the adverse impacts

on the socio-economic and socio-cultural development of EAS participating countries.

20. The meeting noted the process of consideration for the proposal of Russia to establish a 'Regional Mechanism of Emerging Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control among EAS participating countries' to realize the decisions of the EAS Leaders and to further advance cooperation in this area, building on the progress achieved at the meeting of the heads of agencies of the EAS member states, responsible for the control of infectious diseases on 16-17 October 2019, which was initiated by Thailand and Russia, as well as at the EAS Health Experts Meeting on 14 October 2020 co-sponsored by Indonesia, China, Vietnam and Russia.
21. The Meeting emphasized the importance of strengthening collective efforts, among the EAS participating countries to mitigate the multifaceted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate cooperation in the region towards a resilient recovery. As the region gradually transitions from the Reopening to Recovery and Resilience phases, the meeting took note of the significant progress made in the implementation of the ACRF across its five broad strategies on health systems, human security, economic integration, digital transformation, resilience, and sustainability.
22. The Meeting acknowledged the significance of mental health as a crucial public health concern, particularly magnified by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting emphasized the need for increased collaboration in the field of mental health. The meeting recognized the commendable progress made in developing the 2nd Workshop on Mental Health Cooperation and Joint Action Plan under the joint leadership of Brunei Darussalam and Australia. This action plan aims to advance regional and international cooperation in strengthening mental health systems, program, and interventions, guided by the EAS Leaders' Statement on Mental Health Cooperation adopted in October 2021. To further support mental health cooperation, mental health initiatives have been incorporated into the ASEAN Health Cluster 1 Work Programme 2021-2025.
23. The Meeting noted the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative at the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia on 10 May 2023, and noted the importance of implementing One Health Approach, bolstering regional preparedness and capability in preventing and addressing public health threats, and further strengthening the resilience of the regional health system against future pandemics and epidemics through collaborative efforts among the human, animal, and environmental sectors. The Meeting decided continues to support the development of a multi-sector joint action plan. This plan will outline specific strategies and activities to effectively implement the declaration, ensuring the resilience and security of the health system.

Disaster Management

24. The Meeting emphasized the need to foster closer collaboration in disaster management by incorporating climate change adaptation and disaster resilience in supporting regional capacities in disaster management and emergency response and addressing their disruptions to socio-economic development. The Meeting reiterated its support to the implementation of the "ASEAN Declaration on

One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region” to increase the speed, scale, and solidarity of ASEAN’s response. The Meeting reaffirmed continued support for the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2021-2025) as well as strengthening the capacity of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) as the primary ASEAN regional coordinating agency on disaster management and emergency response.

25. The Meeting encouraged strengthening engagements between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) of non-ASEAN EAS participating countries, through active participation in ASEAN-led activities including the biennial ASEAN Disaster Resilience Forum (ADRF), the biennial ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) and the annual ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM). The Meeting also encouraged EAS participating countries to promote cooperation in disaster management including through the realization of the 2014 EAS Statement on Rapid Disaster Response to respond effectively to disasters in the region while respecting ASEAN Centrality. In this connection, the Meeting looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN Disaster Management Week. The series of meetings under the theme “Disaster Resilience in ASEAN – Now and Beyond”, includes One ASEAN One Response Roadshow, ASEAN Inter-regional Dialogue on Disaster Resilience (AIDDR), the 1st ADRF, the Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the ACDM, and the annual SPDDM to be held on 21-24 August 2023 in Singapore.

ASEAN Connectivity

26. The Meeting reaffirmed the important role of connectivity in enhancing regional competitiveness and resilience against external shocks amidst ongoing recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the development of tangible connectivity projects to further support ASEAN’s implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. The Meeting also encouraged greater engagement with the private sector in efforts to promote and enhance ASEAN Connectivity. The Meeting also encouraged further cooperation in cutting-edge areas such as smart mobility, smart cities, and intelligent transport systems (ITS).
27. The Meeting also underscored the need for timely and effective mobilization of resources to support regional connectivity, including in areas such as transport and supply chain. The Meeting looked forward to the implementation plan being developed based on the Framework on ASEAN Supply Chain Efficiency and Resilience that would outline potential practical actions for further collaboration between ASEAN and the non-ASEAN EAS participating countries.
28. The Meeting further reaffirmed the importance of promoting greater synergies among the various connectivity strategies within and beyond the region and emphasized the need for continued engagement between the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the non-ASEAN EAS participating countries including through the annual ACCC Consultation with

Dialogue Partners and Other External Partners, and the upcoming 14th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium.

Economic Cooperation and Trade

29. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable, and transparent multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, notably through working toward positive outcomes at the Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference. The Meeting underscored the importance of strengthening economic relations among the EAS participating countries with ASEAN playing a central role. The Meeting encouraged increased dialogue on deepening cooperation among EAS participating countries in the areas of digitalization, green economy, and supply chain connectivity to ensure regional resilience against future economic shocks and narrow the development gap in the region. The Meeting welcomes the progress made since entry into force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement in January 2022 including the entry into force for several remaining RCEP Participating Countries as well as the upcoming signing of the upgraded ASEAN Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) by all Parties.
30. The Meeting recalled the EAS Leaders' Statement on Sustainable Recovery, which sets out our shared vision to promote a more holistic and comprehensive response to the pandemic that enables swift economic progress and ensures sustainable and inclusive development.

Food Security

31. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to implement the 2013 EAS Declaration on Food Security to explore ways to increase the level of food security cooperation in the EAS, and stressed the need to further enhance food and nutrition security through the implementation of the new ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS) 2021-2025. The Meeting noted the Development of the ASEAN Action Plan on the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture and the finalization of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises in 2023 to take practical and concrete measures in unifying the roles of all relevant sectors in supporting food security, including by strengthening regional food supply chains and logistics systems to ensure regional and global food security and nutrition. The meeting recognized the importance of Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) to continue stress the importance of allowing grains to continue to reach those most in need.

Maritime Cooperation

32. The Meeting expressed support for strengthening maritime cooperation among the EAS participating countries in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the 2015 EAS Statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation, in a collective and comprehensive approach, at the same time emphasizing the need to enhance complementarity with other ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-

Plus), and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), with a view to avoiding duplication efforts.

33. The meeting noted the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/77/248 emphasising, in the Preamble, the universal and unified character of the 1982 UNCLOS, and reaffirming that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained.
34. The Meeting recognized the need for strengthening maritime cooperation and took into account the cross-cutting nature of maritime cooperation through activities such as the 10th EAMF, hosted by the Philippines on 6-7 December 2022 in Manila, EAS Workshop on Maritime Cooperation with the theme “Technical and Scientific Cooperation Towards Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Oceans” held in Manila, Philippines on 30 August-1 September 2022, and the EAS Hackathon on Combatting Marine Plastic, co-organized by Australia, India, and Singapore held on 13-16 December 2022 in Jakarta, the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Workshop on Marine Plastic Debris in Bali, 14-15 June 2022, and the upcoming EAS Workshop on Developing Coastal Economy with speakers from Australia, China, India, Indonesia and Russia to be held in Bali, 4-5 August 2023.

Other Areas

35. The Meeting emphasized the growing importance of security in the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and reaffirmed the need to enhance cooperation to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible, peaceful, interoperable, and cooperative ICT environment, including through capacity-building measures. In this connection, the Meeting encouraged the EAS participating countries to further enhance cooperation in this area based on the guidance provided by the 2015 EAS Leaders’ Statement on Issues Related to Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies and the 2018 EAS Leaders’ Statement on Deepening Cooperation in the Security of Information and Communications Technologies and of the Digital Economy.
36. The Meeting acknowledged the importance to follow up the relevant EAS Leaders’ Statements and Declarations, including the 2020 EAS Leaders’ Statement on Women, Peace and Security; the 2019 EAS Leaders’ Statement on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime; the 2019 EAS Leaders’ Statement on Combating the Spread of Illicit Drugs; the 2018 EAS Leaders’ Statement on Countering the Threat of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Returnees; the 2018 EAS Leaders’ Statement on the Safe and Security Use, Storage, and Transport of Nuclear and Other Radioactive Materials; the 2017 EAS Leaders’ Statement on Chemical Weapons; the 2017 EAS Leaders’ Statement on Countering Ideological Challenges of Terrorism and Terrorist Narratives and Propaganda and the 2016 EAS Statement on Non-Proliferation.
37. As the tourism sector is one of the main contributors to economic growth, employment, social benefits, and livelihoods of local communities, the Meeting commended the relentless efforts by this sector in implementing timely and innovative measures. In this regard, the Meeting encouraged all EAS participating countries to implement the EAS Leaders’ Statement on Economic Growth through

Tourism Recovery which was adopted at the 16th EAS on 27 October 2021, through the existing ASEAN tourism mechanisms in line with the post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism. The Meeting also supported the development of an Action plan to implement the ASEAN Framework on Sustainable Tourism Development in the post-COVID-19 Era.

Maintaining the Region as the Epicentrum of Growth through ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific

38. The Meeting supported ASEAN to lead the shaping of the region's economic and security architecture and ensure that geopolitical and geostrategic dynamics will continue to bring about peace, security, stability, and prosperity for the people in the Southeast Asia as well as in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.
39. The Meeting recognized the strategic importance of ASEAN as an Epicentrum of Growth for the wider region's security, stability, and prosperity. ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms remain inclusive platforms that facilitate constructive dialogue and concrete cooperation, therefore contributing to the development of the evolving regional architecture. The Meeting was determined to further promote the AOIP and mainstream and implement it in concrete projects and activities, in priority areas identified in the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), economic and other areas of cooperation.

Regional and International Issues

Evolving Regional Architecture

40. The Meeting was concerned with the intensifying geopolitical tensions in the region and beyond, and committed to cooperating for regional security, sustainable development, and economic growth, and an open, stable, prosperous, and inclusive people-centered ASEAN Community. The Meeting reaffirmed our commitment to support the ASEAN Charter and the TAC and Bali Principles to the conduct of inter-State relations in the region. We reaffirmed our support and our commitment to building open, inclusive, and transparent regional architecture that upholds international law with ASEAN at its center.

South China Sea

41. The Meeting discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which concerns were expressed by some Ministers on the land reclamations, activities, serious incidents in the area, including actions that put the safety of all persons at risk, damage to the marine environment, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions, and may undermine peace, security, and stability in the region. The Meeting reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability, and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation, and that safeguards the rights and interests of all parties in the South China Sea. The Meeting further reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Meeting 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.

42. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea and recognised the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability, and prosperity. The Meeting underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety. The Meeting welcomed on-going efforts to promote the implementation of the DOC, including confidence building measures and exploring practical maritime cooperation initiatives. The Meeting welcomed the progress achieved so far in the ongoing negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), including the completion of the second reading of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text (SDNT) and encouraged continued positive momentum in this regard. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the Guidelines for Accelerating the Early Conclusion of an Effective and Substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea at the PMC Plus One Session with China on 13 July 2023 and encouraged efforts to make full use of the Guidelines. The Meeting further looked forward to the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Meeting emphasised that the COC should be consistent with 1982 UNCLOS, including on the rights of other countries under 1982 UNCLOS. The Meeting emphasised the need for practical measures that could reduce tensions and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings, and miscalculation. The Meeting stressed the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence amongst parties, and we reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, which is of universal character and sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.
43. The Meeting further reaffirmed that the 1982 UNCLOS sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector and that its integrity needs to be maintained.

Korean Peninsula

44. The Meeting expressed grave concerns over launch of the ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 12 July 2023. The Meeting stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue among all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. The recent surge in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (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. The Meeting urged all concerned parties to resume peaceful dialogue and continue working towards the realisation of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. The Meeting 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. 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 emphasised the importance of addressing issues of humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the immediate resolution of the abductions and detainees issues.

Ukraine

45. With regards to the war in Ukraine, as for all nations, the Meeting continued to reaffirm its respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Meeting discussed the war in Ukraine, and views were expressed on the recent developments and the need to address the root causes. The Meeting reiterated its call for compliance with the UN Charter and international law. The Meeting underlined the importance of an immediate cessation of hostilities to stop the war and the creation of an enabling environment for peaceful resolution. The Meeting also called for the facilitation of safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for those in need in Ukraine, and for the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel, and persons in vulnerable situations. The Meeting underscored the commitment of EAS Participating Countries to redouble efforts to mitigate the economic and financial impacts to the ASEAN region, including on issues of energy and food insecurity. The Meeting underlined the shared interest of EAS Participating Countries to cooperate to maintain peace and stability in Southeast Asia and to maintain and strengthen the region as the epicentre of growth for the region and the world.

Development in Myanmar

46. The Meeting discussed the development in Myanmar and reaffirmed our united position that the 5PC remains our main reference to address the political crisis in Myanmar. The Meeting strongly condemned the continued acts of violence, including air strikes, artillery shelling, and destruction of public facilities and urged all parties involved to take concrete action to immediately halt indiscriminate violence, denounce any escalation, and create a conducive environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogue.
47. The Meeting commended the AHA Centre for its partial delivery of aid to 400 households of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Hsiseng Township, located in the Southern Shan State, on 7 July 2023. The Meeting appreciated the support of the relevant stakeholders in ensuring safe delivery. The Meeting called on further facilitation to ensure the humanitarian assistance can safely reach the 1,1 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) identified in the Joint Need Assessment (JNA) Report of the AHA Centre. The Meeting appreciated the support from all stakeholders in Myanmar for helping the completion of the JNA by the AHA Centre in an inclusive manner facilitated by the ASEAN Chair. The Meeting called for additional support from the international community for humanitarian assistance to implement the JNA Report.

48. The Meeting appreciated the Chair's efforts in intensifying engagement with all relevant stakeholders in Myanmar to build trust and confidence, create a conducive environment, and bridge gaps and differences leading toward an inclusive dialogue for a comprehensive political solution. The Meeting supported sustaining such engagements to push for the implementation of the 5PC in its entirety, in line with ASEAN Leaders' decision at the 42nd ASEAN Summit. The Meeting called for continued support of the External Partners, including the UN and neighboring countries of Myanmar, to work with ASEAN for concrete implementation of the 5PC.

Other matters

49. The Meeting noted the proposed outcome document of the 18th EAS and also noted with appreciation the work of the Group of the EAS Ambassadors in Jakarta towards finalizing this statement.

50. The Meeting discussed the preparations for the upcoming 18th East Asia Summit to be held in September 2023 in Indonesia.

51. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the 14th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in Lao PDR in 2024.
