



**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY (ASCC)
COUNCIL**

30 March 2022

1. The 27th ASCC Council Meeting was held on 30 March 2022, via video conference under the ASEAN Chairmanship of Cambodia.
2. The Meeting extended full support to Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship with its theme of "ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together", which underscores ASEAN's spirit of "Togetherness" as one community and the common will in our collective endeavour to address and overcome challenges facing our region. The Meeting looked forward to the realisation of the priorities identified, including those under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Pillar, namely: (i) Enhance ASEAN values, awareness and identity; (ii) Promote human resource development and women empowerment; (iii) Enhance health, well-being, and social protection for the peoples of ASEAN; and (iv) Strengthen ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community's institutional capacity and effectiveness.
3. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress of the continued implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 in building a community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic. The Meeting also commended ASCC Pillar's endeavour to continue to enhance the quality of life of ASEAN peoples amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, through incorporating and aligning the Blueprint's implementation into the respective post-2020 ASCC Sectoral Work Plans and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan (ACRF) as recommended in the Mid-Term Review of the ASCC Blueprint 2025. The Meeting notes the updates given at the 5th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on the Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society; the Report of the 17th Coordinating Conference on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOC-COM); and updates on the Consolidated Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
4. The Meeting commended the development of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Safe School Reopening, Learning Recovery and Continuity, as part of the efforts to recover the provision of education services for children which have been disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic. The Meeting also acknowledged that the pandemic has provided a lesson learned for ASEAN on the importance of promoting digitalisation in education. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the development of the Declaration on Digital Transformation of Education System throughout ASEAN. The Meeting

highlighted that these efforts would complement the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan.

5. The Meeting underlined the importance of continued empowerment of youth and women to support sustainable development in the ASEAN region. The Meeting looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Year of ASEAN Youth 2022, the ASEAN Declaration on Building More Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Future: Unlocking Women's Entrepreneurship in ASEAN, and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Promoting Women, Peace, and Security. The Meeting looks forward to the rollout of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework, and the adoption of the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025, and the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports 2021-2025 by the Ministers of Youth and Sports respectively. Further, in recognition of the potential of the creative economy as a significant contributor to post-pandemic recovery and the impact of the pandemic on the cultural and creative industries, the Meeting also looked forward to the Leaders' adoption of the Siem Reap Declaration on Promoting a Creative and Adaptive ASEAN Community to Support the Cultural and Creative Economy and also noted the ongoing discussions on the set up of the proposed ASEAN Centre for Cultural and Creative Industries.
6. The Meeting also emphasised the significant role of sports in ASEAN community building and supported the development of the ASEAN Declaration on Leveraging the Role of Sports in ASEAN Community-Building and Achieving the SDGs and the ASEAN Declaration on Fostering ASEAN Identity Through the Safeguarding of Traditional Sports and Games in the Modern World. The Meeting also noted the development of the ASEAN-FIFA Collaboration Plan 2021-2022, and the Joint Statement of ASEAN Sports Ministers on Cementing the Foundation of ASEAN Athletes at the Southeast Asia Games.
7. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to further enhance health and well-being of ASEAN peoples through supporting the development of the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development and the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending Inequalities and Getting Track to End AIDS by 2030. The Meeting also commended ASCC Sectoral Bodies efforts in strengthening social protection for ASEAN peoples through the development of the ASEAN Declaration on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers in ASEAN, the Regional Guidelines on Role of Social Workers in the Social Protection Sector, the Roadmap for the Elimination of Bullying of Children in ASEAN and the Guidelines for Operationalising the ASEAN Regional Framework on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in Disaster Management.
8. The Meeting also noted with satisfaction the ongoing efforts in strengthening ASEAN's commitment to address climate change issues and welcomed the development of the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to UNFCCC COP-27, the ASEAN Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2030, and the 6th ASEAN State of Environment Report. The Meeting further noted the ongoing discussion on the initiative to establish an ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC)

which is expected to be climate change knowledge hub, think-tank and strategic coordinator. The Meeting welcomed several initiatives on disaster management which are in line with the implementation of ASEAN SHIELD, including the development of the TOR of the ASEAN Disaster Resilience Platform to ensure a whole-of-ASEAN approach in disaster management, and the development of the ASEAN Framework for Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management.

9. The Meeting noted the assessment report of the ASCC pillar on Timor-Leste's membership application prepared by the ASEAN Secretariat, which is developed based on information from the ASCC Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) questionnaire as well as from the virtual interfaces held in September 2020 and November 2021. The Meeting also noted that the report shall be enhanced based on the findings of the actual physical FFM to Timor-Leste, to be conducted when cross-border travel permits preferably no later than the third quarter of 2022.
10. The Meeting noted the ongoing developments towards the setting-up of an expert panel to develop the feasibility study of the proposed ASEAN Aid. The Meeting also noted the progress in the development of the Feasibility Study on the Proposed ASEAN Institute for Policy Studies, and the ongoing implementation of ASCC Research and Development Platforms, and underlined the importance of these initiatives to enhance the institutional capacity of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. The Meeting also appreciated the work of ASCC Secondment Officers at the Permanent Missions to ASEAN. The Meeting encouraged further secondment of ASCC Officers to the Permanent Missions and looked forward to seeing ASCC Secondment Officers from all ASEAN Member States in Jakarta.
11. The Meeting reiterated the importance of the public health emergencies preparedness and response and urged relevant sectoral body to expedite the deliberation with a view to reach the consensus of Host Country for the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED).
12. The Meeting conveyed deep appreciation to Cambodia for the effective Chairmanship and excellent arrangements for the 27th ASCC Council Meeting and looked forward to the 28th ASCC Council Meeting in October 2022.
