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JOINT STATEMENT
9th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting
15 May 2022, Bali, Indonesia

The 9th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting was held on 15 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

RECOGNISING the efforts by the ASEAN Plus Three countries in coordinating and responding to COVID-19 in the region from early 2020 and the agreement by the Special Video Conference of the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting for Health Development (APT SOMHD) on COVID-19 on 3 February 2020 to utilise existing regional health mechanisms at the time to respond to COVID-19;

NOTING that the smooth and timely delivery of medical supplies, such as diagnostic tools and life-saving devices, medicines, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been proven critical to save the lives of patients, health workforce and frontline personnel in ASEAN, China, Japan, and Republic of Korea;

UNDERLINING the crucial role of COVID-19 vaccines in preventing against severe disease, hospitalisation and death as well as to achieve herd immunity, while also reaffirming our commitment made at the 2021 Special Video Conference of the ASEAN Health Ministers on ASEAN COVID-19 Response After One Year to control the current pandemic and to prepare for future public health emergencies, among others, through timely and equitable access to affordable, safe and effective vaccines, and treatment;

RECOGNISING the agreement made by the Special Video Conference of ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers in Enhancing Cooperation on Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response on 7 April 2020 to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation with relevant sectors in providing technical assistance to medical personnel and relief supplies to medical facilities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' resolve at the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 14 April 2020, to enhance national and regional capacities to prepare for and respond to pandemics, including protection of healthcare workers and frontline personnel, and provision of adequate medicines and medical supplies;

RECALLING the reaffirmation of the 24th ASEAN Plus Three Summit on 27 October 2021 on the crucial role of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic in the region and mitigating its socio-economic impacts through the support and contribution of the Plus Three countries to the ASEAN Member States, as well as ASEAN's initiatives in addressing COVID-19;

RECOGNISING the consideration made by the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 14 April 2020 and the 24th ASEAN Plus Three Summit on 27 October 2021 in setting up an APT Reserve of essential Medical Supplies

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(APT RMS) for public health emergencies, noting the consultation made on the Concept Note of the APT RMS within the framework of APT SOMHD;

RECOGNISING the struggle, hardship, and sacrifice of health workforce in overcoming the pandemic;

ACKNOWLEDGING that prompt mobilisation and task shifting of human resources for health is crucial to address the surge in demand of health and medical professionals to effectively bridge the gap of human resources for health.

NOTING the ASEAN Plus Three Public Health Emergency Tabletop Exercises supported by a simulated system platform held last year contributed to better coordination and capacity building for health emergencies in the region and the establishment of the Global COVID-19 Data Analysis and Risk Assessment Platform provided to gather COVID-19 information for health sectors in the region

HIGHLIGHTING the need for assisting the ASEAN Member States in swiftly mobilising medical supplies for public health emergencies response.

UNITED by the commitment to pursue *Advancing the Achievements of ASEAN Health Development*;

AFFIRMING our commitment to continue *Optimising the Mobilisation of Essential Health Resources in Responding to Public Health Crisis*, the Meeting discussed and exchanged views on the preparation and response to future health challenges; and agreed as follows:

1. Support the establishment and operationalisation of ASEAN's current initiatives for prevention, preparedness, detection, and response to public health emergencies, such as the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), fostering ASEAN's solidarity and centrality and the implementation of ASEAN Strategic Framework for Public Health Emergencies;
2. Build a stronger and resilient regional health system through optimising the existing ASEAN Plus Three health mechanisms, such as ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting for Health Development (APT SOMHD); ASEAN Emergency Operations Centre (ASEAN EOC) Network for public health emergencies; ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (ASEAN+3 FETN); ASEAN Plus Three Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Network to strengthen to the global health architecture, while also exploring new initiatives in line with the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda 2021-2025;
3. Increase the utilisation of existing respective Plus Three countries' trust funds by the ASEAN Health Sectoral Body, such as ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF), ASEAN Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF), and Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), and tapping into the identified ASEAN regional funding and resource mechanisms, such as COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund for concrete actions in COVID-19 recovery and future public health emergencies, including the expeditious

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implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan;

4. Call on relevant sectors to strengthen the cooperation in facilitating continued flow of medical supplies and provision of relief supplies to medical facilities during emergency situations in the region through bilateral and multisectoral cooperation as well as by utilising the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies (RRMS) and other existing APT mechanisms;
5. Call on relevant sector to support the development of more robust and resilient regional health systems and build a regional supply chain and self-reliance for Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostic tools (VTD) that are effective, safe, and accessible for normal and emergency situations such as through:
 - a) Encouraging the sharing of information and experiences through holding dialogues among ASEAN Plus Three countries;
 - b) Supporting the development of local manufacturing in ASEAN Member States as well as explore the establishment of regional research centre and building networks;
 - c) Fostering coordination and engagement of ASEAN Plus Three countries with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;
6. Strengthen the capacity of the health workforce in ASEAN through health workforce capacity development initiatives by working together with the Plus Three countries to synergise expertise, knowledge, and resources of ASEAN and Plus Three countries;
7. Further enhance cooperation in the priority areas of collaboration agreed through the implementation of the respective Work Programmes of the four (4) ASEAN Health Clusters;
8. Encourage further consultations on strengthening the cooperation for medical supplies and provisions of relief supplies during emergency situation in the region;
9. Look forward to facilitating COVID-19 information sharing and Risk Assessment in the region;

We look forward to further exchanges of views and collaboration in health development at our next Meeting in Lao PDR in 2024.