



## **ASEAN-INDIA JOINT STATEMENT ON MARITIME COOPERATION**

**WE**, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Republic of India, gathered on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit on 7 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to promote the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, guided by the fundamental principles, shared values and norms that have steered the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations since its establishment in 1992, including those enunciated in the Vision Statement of ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit (2012), the Delhi Declaration of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations (2018), the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region (2021), and the Joint Statement on ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2022);

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the deep civilisational linkages and cross-cultural exchanges, facilitated through both land and maritime routes between Southeast Asia and India, encompassing the various seas and oceans of the Indo-Pacific, providing a strong foundation for the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

**REAFFIRMING** the objectives and principles of the AOIP which guide ASEAN's engagement in the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean regions to promote an Indo-Pacific region that embraces ASEAN Centrality, openness, transparency, inclusivity, a rules-based framework, good governance, respect for sovereignty, non-intervention, complementarity with existing cooperation frameworks, equality, mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit and respect for international law, including the UN Charter, the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant UN treaties and conventions, the ASEAN Charter and relevant ASEAN treaties and agreements, while encouraging external partners to work with ASEAN to undertake practical cooperation on the four key areas identified in the AOIP;

**NOTING** the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/77/248 which emphasises, in the Preamble, the universal and unified character of the 1982 UNCLOS, and which reaffirms 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;

**REAFFIRMING** the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, and other lawful uses of the seas and unimpeded lawful maritime commerce and to promote peaceful resolutions of disputes, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). In this regard, we support the full and effective implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and look forward to an early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS;

**APPRECIATING** India's support for ASEAN Centrality and unity in the evolving regional architecture and its commitment to work closely through ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora including the ASEAN-India Summit (ASEAN), East Asia Summit (EAS), Post Ministerial Conference with India (PMC+1), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) as well as support to ASEAN integration and the ASEAN Community building process including Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP);

**NOTING** that both the AOIP and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) share relevant fundamental principles in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of oceans and seas as the key factors in driving growth and prosperity of the region and acknowledging the need to address emerging maritime issues in the region, including trafficking in persons and smuggling of arms and drugs; terrorism; piracy and armed robbery against ships; illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and marine pollution, through enhanced global and regional cooperation;

**APPRECIATING** the importance of Blue Economy as a driver of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in the region;

**REAFFIRMING** the importance of strengthening ASEAN-India maritime cooperation to ensure regional security, stability and growth through ASEAN-led regional architecture and in cooperation with relevant regional bodies,

**Hereby declare to: (ASEAN-IN agreed)**

1. Deepen ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with concrete actions through practical implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity 2021-2025 and its Annex, and the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region which builds upon

relevant shared principles of the AOIP and IPOI.

2. Further strengthen ASEAN-India cooperation on maritime safety and security through confidence-building measures, coordinating and sharing best practices on emergency response, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, early warning systems as well as in the areas of countering piracy, armed robbery against ships, trafficking in persons and smuggling of arms and drugs, and combating IUU fishing.
3. Enhance information sharing and capacity building in maritime domain and strengthen cooperation through specialized bodies in the region.
4. Promote cooperation and coordination between maritime authorities and law enforcement agencies through dialogue, exchange of expertise and capacity building and explore cooperation on sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources.
5. Enhance connectivity between ASEAN and India in line with the “Connecting the Connectivities” approach, including in the maritime domain by exploring synergies between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and India’s connectivity initiatives in the region to ensure seamless connectivity in the Indo-Pacific by collaborating for quality, sustainable and resilient infrastructure.
6. Promote cooperation in Blue Economy in the areas of sustainable development of marine resources, marine biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, combating climate change and marine pollution, promoting green and efficient maritime transport and developing new and renewable energy including marine-based renewable energy, among others.
7. Strengthen collaborative actions between ASEAN and India to prevent and reduce marine debris, including through the implementation of joint actions and partnerships for addressing this challenge, which will contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States.
8. Foster greater engagement of relevant stakeholders including private sector, tourism industry, MSMEs, coastal communities, financial institutions, youth and scientific community and academia in promotion of Blue Economy and development of maritime infrastructure including maritime industries focusing in the areas of fisheries and ship building.
9. Enhance food security and nutrition in the region through sustainable and responsible efforts including sustainable and responsible fisheries, combating IUU fishing and noting India’s initiatives such as Lifestyle for Environment - LiFE and International Year of Millets.

10. Enhance ASEAN-India Space Cooperation through early completion of ongoing activities and explore cooperation with relevant national agencies in newer areas such as wider and more collaborative usage of satellite data including, but not limited to, navigation and earth observation satellites and building digital tools and applications for maritime domain awareness and sustainable development of marine resources, empowering coastal communities, building coastal resilience and disaster risk reduction.
11. Enhance cooperation for development and research of marine technology including digitization, data analytics and data statistics by building linkages between relevant bodies of ASEAN and India as well as under the ASEAN-India Network of Universities.
12. Encourage innovation in Blue Economy through activities like holding hackathons, start-up festivals and joint research for promoting knowledge sharing and capacity building.
13. Encourage sustainable and eco-tourism while promoting cruise and sea-based tourism.
14. Enhance cooperation for conservation and preservation of underwater natural and cultural heritage of ASEAN and India including marine parks of India and those listed as ASEAN Heritage Parks as well as through the ASEAN Cultural Heritage List.
15. Promote the study, as well as the documentation and dissemination of knowledge, about the civilisational linkages between ASEAN and India through exhibitions and digital resources.
16. Task appropriate mechanisms under the ASEAN-India framework to strengthen maritime cooperation.

**ADOPTED** in Jakarta, Indonesia on the Seventh of September in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

