

Statement by the Prime Minister At the 11th ASEAN-United Nations Summit

Mr. Chairman,

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres,

Your Majesty and Excellencies,

Our meeting today takes place in the midst of a major crisis of mankind.

ASEAN and the United Nations, therefore, have an important task to confront multi-dimensional challenges and join forces to support and strengthen multilateralism and regionalism, which are mutually reinforcing and help promote the region's stability and prosperity.

Throughout the past 75 years, the United Nations has been the key pillar in maintaining peace, promoting development, and tackling problems for the well-being of over 7 billion people worldwide. I therefore commend the UN Secretary-General's active role in reforming the United Nations to be stronger in order to respond to non-traditional threats, including climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly making COVID-19 vaccines and medicines as global public goods.

3. I am pleased that we have the new Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations 2021-2025, which is more action-oriented and comprises, for the first time, important cross-cutting issues, be they gender mainstreaming, climate action, cooperation in public health emergencies, or human rights.

In this regard, I would like to propose 3 areas which the United Nations can support ASEAN in addressing the unfinished business and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, as follows:

First, refocusing and reprioritising areas of cooperation by focusing on strengthening human security so that ASEAN remains resilient in responding to emergencies and challenges. Emphasis should also be on promoting gender equality. Thailand, together with the ASEAN Secretariat and UN Women, will organise an activity to launch the ASEAN Gender Outlook in Asia at the end of this year.

Second, providing opportunities by encouraging volunteerism within the ASEAN Community so that the general public participate in localising sustainable development and building ownership. This could be done by sharing and exchanging experiences through South-South and tripartite cooperation.

Finally, developing partnership by supporting robust partnership with a shared responsibility. I am pleased that on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Global Compact, the Global Compact Network Thailand on 31 August 2020 declared the commitment to comply with the 10 Universal Principles of the UN Global Compact and be an important partner of the Government in the country' recovery from the COVID-19 and in the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

All of these 3 areas will support the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and recommendations of the UN Secretariat General's Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on South-East Asia, which at the same time will advance the Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On this note, I would like to propose cooperation through activities of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

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On 24 October last month, we commemorated the United Nations Day, which was of utmost significance this year as it marks not only the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, but also the day that the ratifying state to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons[1] reached 50 states. This demonstrates that the solidarity and political will of Member States are a crucial force that will save us from emerging threats and timely respond to the changing world and new challenges, without leaving anyone behind.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to multilateralism, universal principles, international cooperation, and our determination to work with ASEAN Member States and the United Nations closely and actively.

Thank you.