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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 23 November 2020

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/75/L.25](#) and [A/75/L.25/Add.1](#))]

75/15. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling the aims and purposes of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as enshrined in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967,¹ in particular the maintenance of close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes,

Noting the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which came into force on 15 December 2008,² particularly on upholding the Charter of the United Nations and international law,

Noting with satisfaction that the activities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling all previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations,³

Recalling also the fiftieth anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2017, under the chairmanship of the Philippines, and its resolution [71/317](#) of 19 July 2017 on the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations,

Emphasizing the significance of the year 2020 to the comprehensive partnership between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as it marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, during which States

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1331, No. 22341.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 2624, No. 46745.

³ Resolutions [57/35](#), [59/5](#), [61/46](#), [63/35](#), [65/235](#), [67/110](#), [69/110](#), [71/255](#) and [73/259](#).



Members of the United Nations have strongly reaffirmed their commitment to reinvigorated multilateralism to tackle global challenges and strengthen United Nations partnership with regional and subregional organizations,

Emphasizing also the significance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women⁴ and the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security, and welcoming in this regard efforts and commitments by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and to advance the women and peace and security agenda,

Recognizing the unprecedented challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its adverse impacts on global and regional health, economies, financial markets, trade and social development, while underscoring the importance of intensified international cooperation and multilateral efforts in handling disease outbreaks,

Recognizing also efforts by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to maintain unity in responding to the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic and to enhance cooperation with external partners, including the United Nations, and the international community in the fight against COVID-19, as well as mitigate the multifaceted impact of the pandemic towards sustainable recovery, and acknowledging in this regard the Chairman's statement on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations collective response to the outbreak of COVID-19 of 15 February 2020, the declaration of the special Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit on COVID-19 held on 14 April 2020⁵ and subsequent measures, including the establishment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations COVID-19 Response Fund and the adoption of the Comprehensive Recovery Framework and Implementation Plan,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,⁶

Noting with satisfaction the progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (2016–2020), with more than 96 per cent of the agreed action lines having been addressed as of October 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing meaningfully to the realization of the common goals between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for peace, stability and sustainable development,

Welcoming the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (2021–2025), which will continue to guide both sides in further strengthening the comprehensive partnership in the years to come through expanded areas of cross-sectoral cooperation,

Welcoming also the participation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the high-level meetings between the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the collaboration between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to promote dialogue and cooperation among regional organizations in Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming further the briefing by the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the United Nations Security Council, under the Presidency

⁴ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁵ A/74/811, annex.

⁶ See A/75/345-S/2020/898, sect. II.

of Viet Nam for the month of January 2020, on the topic “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security: cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations”, on 30 January 2020 in New York,

Recalling the First to Eleventh Summits of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations and the commitment of the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to further deepen the comprehensive partnership between the two organizations,

Welcoming progress in the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations 2025: Forging Ahead Together and its three Community Blueprints, and the three Midterm Reviews of the Implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community Blueprints 2025,

Welcoming also positive progress of the Initiative for Association of Southeast Asian Nations Integration Work Plan III and the Master Plan on Association of Southeast Asian Nations Connectivity 2025, adopted at the twenty-eighth Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit, held in Vientiane in September 2016, and welcoming further the adoption of the Hanoi Declaration on the Adoption of the Initiative for Association of Southeast Asian Nations Integration Work Plan IV and the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Master Plan on Association of Southeast Asian Nations Connectivity 2025, at the thirty-seventh Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit, held by videoconference in November 2020,

Recognizing the efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to strengthen its institutions, and in this regard recalling the establishment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community on 31 December 2015,

1. *Welcomes* the progress towards achieving the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community Vision 2025, which will ensure lasting peace and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress in the region;

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to further strengthen the partnership between the two organizations, as described in the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 27 September 2007;

3. *Recognizes* the efforts of the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to further intensify and strengthen the level of and framework for cooperation between the two organizations through, inter alia, the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations, issued on 19 November 2011 at the Fourth Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations, held in Bali, Indonesia, and looks forward to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025);

4. *Encourages* the United Nations, including the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other relevant United Nations agencies, to continue to work closely with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community Vision 2025, to promote complementarities and partnership between the two to ensure that regional integration efforts in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations reinforce the attainment of the Sustainable

⁷ Resolution 70/1.

Development Goals and vice versa, through implementation of the Complementarities Road Map (2020–2025), the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, the annual High-level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as other concrete activities and projects under the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership (2021–2025);

5. *Welcomes* the launch of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue in Thailand on 3 November 2019 in order to encourage research and studies, build capacities of States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as well as enhance cooperation on sustainable development between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and external partners, including the United Nations and related agencies;

6. *Commends* the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for their efforts to hold annual meetings during the regular sessions of the General Assembly, with a view to further enhancing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations partnership, including by reviewing, overseeing and directing the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to continue regular meetings of senior officials, ministerial meetings and summits, and in this regard welcomes the convening of the Eleventh Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations by videoconference on 15 November 2020;

8. *Recalls* the successful convening of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations leaders' gathering with the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank in Bali, on 11 October 2018, which reaffirmed the importance of the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in promoting multilateralism, further enhancing existing cooperation and forging close cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in improving the lives of its peoples;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations to provide strengthened support, including through exchanges of relevant experiences, information, best practices, lessons learned and capacity-building, based on mutual respect, for the relevant Association of Southeast Asian Nations mechanisms and Association of Southeast Asian Nations-led arrangements, as appropriate;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of enhancing regional security and cooperation and the peaceful settlement of disputes to promote peace, stability and prosperity, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia⁸ and international law;

11. *Supports* the convening of workshops and seminars between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations to promote dialogue on regional and global security issues, including conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy, disarmament and non-proliferation, cybersecurity, peacekeeping operations, transnational crime, illicit trafficking in wildlife and timber, counter-terrorism and

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1025, No. 15063.

the prevention of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, based on mutual trust, shared interests and mutual respect;

12. *Encourages* cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to exchange expertise, best practices, lessons learned and experiences and promote capacity-building in countering terrorism and radicalization to terrorism and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, as well as in addressing the growing threats of transnational crime and cross-border challenges, which require comprehensive approaches, including through effective regional cooperation, in order to foster a more secure, interconnected and prosperous Association of Southeast Asian Nations community;

13. *Also encourages* cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the field of human rights, particularly through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, based on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Human Rights Declaration, the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Human Rights Declaration, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁹ and other international human rights instruments and mechanisms to which all of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are parties;

14. *Acknowledges* the importance of maritime cooperation, including maritime security cooperation, between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including in the form of training workshops and the exchange of relevant experiences, information, best practices and lessons learned, to further promote the rule of law and the implementation of relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,¹⁰ and other international instruments, and underscores the need to further strengthen such cooperation in order to address related issues and challenges;

15. *Reiterates* the importance of regional integration and enhancement of connectivity in the South-East Asian region and their potential contribution to regional and global peace, prosperity and sustainable development, and in this regard encourages cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations to narrow the development gap within and between the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and also encourages support by the United Nations in the implementation of the Master Plan on Association of Southeast Asian Nations Connectivity 2025;

16. *Encourages* continued efforts and enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations towards deepening economic integration both within the region and in the global economy so as to promote mutual benefits through capacity-building and advisory services in the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Economic Community Blueprint 2025 in areas such as trade, investment, the development of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, regulatory frameworks, global supply chains and resource management;

17. *Also encourages* continued partnership of the United Nations in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Smart Cities Network, which is part of the integration efforts of the Association that synergize development efforts, promote greater cooperation among member cities, the private sector and external partners, spearhead smart city development and sustainable urbanization, with the goal of

⁹ Resolution 217 A (III).

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

improving the lives of the citizens of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations using technology and digital infrastructure as enablers, and facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;

18. *Welcomes* the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-led arrangements, in particular the meeting of the Ministers of Defence and its relevant mechanisms such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Peacekeeping Centres Network, as well as expert working groups on peacekeeping operations of the Association on various important issues related to peacekeeping operations, including improvement in the meaningful participation of women peacekeepers from States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at all levels and in key positions;

19. *Encourages* efforts to develop effective partnerships and promote closer cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, by engaging in joint peacekeeping and peacebuilding-related activities under the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025), and by continuing to pursue, inter alia, the United Nations Triangular Partnership Project among participating States members of the Association, and in the context of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative;

20. *Also encourages* collaboration between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Mine Action Centre, including the sharing of expertise and best practices, training and capacity-building activities, in addressing the humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war;

21. *Further encourages* closer cooperation on disaster risk reduction, emergency response and management between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in order to ensure an effective response to and management of natural disasters, through the adoption and implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management 2021–2025, and to enhance the capacity of and technical support to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management;

22. *Takes note with appreciation* of the ongoing work of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management in addressing disaster management, emergency response and humanitarian assistance in the region;

23. *Encourages* closer cooperation on the culture of peace agenda between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including through the six thrusts of the 2017 Association of Southeast Asian Nations Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society;

24. *Also encourages* further cooperation and collaborative efforts between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on addressing environmental sustainability, climate change, biodiversity conservation, including through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Centre for Biodiversity, and the protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, including the prevention and reduction of marine plastic debris, and acknowledges continued cooperation undertaken through the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change (2016–2020);

25. *Further encourages* the exploration of measures by the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to further the effective and timely

implementation of joint activities under the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership (2021–2025);

26. *Encourages* the conduct of the secretariat-to-secretariat annual review on the implementation of the comprehensive partnership to identify challenges and discuss practical modalities for the two secretariats to effectively contribute to enhancing United Nations and Association of Southeast Asian Nations cooperation, and takes note with appreciation of the secretariat-to-secretariat engagements, which contribute to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership (2021–2025);

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-seventh session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”, the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations”.

*30th plenary meeting
23 November 2020*