

# Press Statement

by H.E. Sonexay SIPHANDONE, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR, as ASEAN Chair 2024  
At the Press Conference on the Outcomes of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits and  
Related Summits

11 October 2024, National Convention Centre, Vientiane

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- **Good afternoon, Members of Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**
- It is my great pleasure to welcome members of Lao and Foreign media to the Press Conference on the outcomes of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits and Related Summits under the theme “**ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience**”, held on 9-11 October 2024.
- I would like to briefly inform the media on the outcomes of the Summits held in the last three days as follows:
- We have successfully convened 16 Summits:
  - **Within ASEAN**, we have convened two back-to-back Summits: the 44<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and the 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits.
  - On this occasion, the ASEAN leaders had interfaces with Representatives of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Representatives of ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), Representatives of ASEAN Youth, separately.
  - At the margin of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) and other related events have been held.
  - **For External relations front**, 10 ASEAN Related Summits were held, which include ASEAN Plus One Summits with Dialogue Partners, ASEAN Plus Three Summit, and the East Asia Summit.
  - Additionally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Zero Emission Community Leaders Meeting and numerous bilateral meetings have also been convened.
- In every Summit, we have comprehensive, candid, constructive, and fruitful discussions.
- At the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits, the Leaders reviewed progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and strengthening of cooperation with External Partners.
- The ASEAN Leaders were pleased with the progress made in implementation of the 9 priorities of Lao PDR’s ASEAN Chairmanship 2024, aiming at enhancing regional integration and connectivity in the area of economy; forging an inclusive and sustainable future; transforming for the digital era; developing Strategic Plans to implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, namely ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Strategic Plan, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan, ASEAN Social-Cultural Community (ASCC) Strategic Plan and ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan; strengthening of ASEAN Centrality; enhancing climate and environmental resilience; promoting culture and arts; advancing the role of women and children; and strengthening health resilience.
- We agreed to expedite the End-of-Term Review of the implementation of APSC, AEC and ASCC Blueprints, as well as ASEAN Connectivity. The best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, when adopted, lay the solid foundation for the development of Strategic Plans to implement the ASEAN Community Vision

2045 with the objective to build a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN Community.

- We were pleased with progress made in the implementation of the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN.
- We reiterated the importance of further enhancing cooperation with external partners, while strengthening ASEAN's unity and ASEAN Centrality in the ASEAN-led mechanism and in the evolving regional architecture. We welcomed the supports of ASEAN's external partners in the strengthening of ASEAN Community and the implementation of priorities of Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship.
- We reviewed the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) of the ASEAN leaders on Myanmar and agreed to uphold the ASEAN's commitment to assist Myanmar in finding a peaceful, durable, Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led political solution through the implementation of the 5PC.
- During the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits, we adopted and noted of 56 outcome documents which include:
  - ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Development of Strategic Plans to Implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.
  - ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for the Future Ready ASEAN and ASEAN-Centred Regional Architecture.
  - ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Enhancing Supply Chain Connectivity.
  - ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture.
  - ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity.
  - Vang Vieng Declaration on Promoting the Small and Medium-sized Cultural Enterprises Aligned with the Green Growth for Sustainable Development.
  - ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, which will serve as one of main references in addressing the crises in Myanmar.

- **Members of the Media,**

- The ASEAN Summits with Dialogue Partners and External Partners, including China, Republic of Korea, Japan, India, Australia, the United States of America, Canada, and the United Nations were held separately. Each Summit, the leaders of ASEAN and Dialogue Partners and External Partners reviewed their respective cooperation over the past years and agreed to further enhance a more effective and efficient, and mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas.
- The ASEAN Plus Three Summit and the East Asia Summit were also convened.
- The key outcomes of the ASEAN Summits with external partners are as follows:
  - **The 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit**, we welcomed the conclusion of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) 3.0 Upgrade Negotiations, which will serve as a strong foundation to promote and enhance the economic cooperation between ASEAN and China, and we also adopted five outcome documents namely, the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Combating Telecommunication Network Fraud and Online Gambling, ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Deepening Cooperation in People-to-People Exchanges, ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Promoting the Development of Smart Agriculture, Joint Statement on Facilitating Cooperation in Building a Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Ecosystem, and Joint Statement on the Substantial Conclusion of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) 3.0 Upgrade Negotiations.
  - **The 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit**, we commemorated the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations and agreed to elevate the Dialogue Relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through the adoption of the Joint

Statement of the Establishment of the ASEAN-ROK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

- **The 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan**, we reiterated our commitment to implement initiatives and ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action in strengthening the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership which was elevated last year.
  - **The 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Australia**, we reaffirmed our commitment in strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the years to come as well as implementing the 2 outcome documents of the ASEAN Special Summit to Commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Relations in Melbourne, Australia 2024 and ASEAN-Australia Plan of Actions.
  - **The 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-India Summit**, we adopted two outcome documents namely: 1). Joint Statement on Strengthening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region in the Context of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) with the Support of India's Act East Policy (AEP) and 2). ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation. Additionally, we welcomed the designation of the year 2025 as ASEAN-India Year of Tourism.
  - **The 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-U.S. Summit**, we adopted the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Promoting Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence.
  - **The 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-U.N. Summit**, we reaffirmed our commitment to promote multilateralism, including the commitment to materialize ASEAN-U.N. Comprehensive Partnership. We also view that the complementarities between ASEAN Community Vision 2025 as well as ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be further promoted.
  - **The ASEAN-Canada Special Summit on Enhancing ASEAN Connectivity and Resilience**, the Leaders adopted the ASEAN-Canada Joint Leaders' Statement on Enhancing ASEAN Connectivity and Resilience to further strengthen the ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership.
  - **The 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three**, we reiterated the importance of ASEAN Plus Three mechanism in enhancing cooperation in East Asia region and reaffirmed our commitment to the effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan and other cooperative activities. In this regard, the Meeting adopted the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Strengthening the Connectivity of Regional Supply Chains.
  - **The 19<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS)**, the Summit reiterated the importance of the EAS as the premier leader-led forum for constructive dialogue and cooperation on various areas, including strategic, political and economic matters of common interest and concern, and reiterated our commitment to strengthen the EAS framework for cooperation.
- Further information or details of the outcome of all Summits can be found in the outcome documents and the Chairman's Statement.

### **Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- During the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, we adopted and noted more than 90 outcome documents and had frank, candid, and constructive discussions on regional and international issues of common interest and concern.
- Overall, these Summits concluded with fruitful outcomes.
- The success of the Summits as well as the success of the Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship is possible thanks to the invaluable support and close cooperation from ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners, External partners, friendly countries, regional and international organisations, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

- On behalf of the Government, the National Steering Committee of the Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship and all Lao people, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for all cooperation and support extended to us and look forward to the same spirit of cooperation until the conclusion of the Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2024 and in the years ahead.
- On behalf of the government, I would like to express my congratulations and appreciation to all officials, soldiers, police officers, business sectors and Lao people for your active contributions in accordance with your respective duties and responsibilities that significantly contributed to the success of the Summits.
- Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship will continue until 31 December 2024. At the closing Ceremony, the Lao PDR handed over the ASEAN Chairmanship to Malaysia, which will officially begin on 1 January 2025.
- I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere thanks to all members of media for covering the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits and Related Summits as well as other ASEAN related meetings and events held in the Lao PDR throughout the ASEAN Chairmanship year, thus promoting the Visit Laos Year 2024.
- Thank you.