

Joint Statement of the Tenth Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Viet Nam Cooperation Summit

09 December 2020 Via Virtual Meeting

“Enhancing Effective Connectivity for Regional Integration”

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as CLMV), gathered for the Tenth CLMV Summit on 09 December 2020 through Virtual Meeting. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also present at the Summit.
2. We reaffirmed our commitment to deepen the traditional relations of friendship, good neighborliness and mutual benefits among CLMV countries under the light of the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing the Economic Cooperation and Integration adopted at the First CLMV Summit on 28 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
3. We reviewed the implementation of the outcomes of the Ninth CLMV Summit held on 16 June 2018 in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand and exchanged views on the future directions of the CLMV cooperation under the theme: “Enhancing Effective Connectivity for Regional Integration”.
4. We noted with satisfaction that CLMV cooperation has significantly contributed to the ASEAN Community building process through enhancing regional integration capacity, bridging the development gap within ASEAN and improving better livelihoods of our peoples as well as maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
5. We attached the importance to further deepening cooperation in infrastructure, institutional and people-to-people connectivity and enhancing human resources development to overcome the challenges faced by CLMV countries and achieve integrated, sustainable and inclusive development in CLMV countries.
6. We commended the progress in the implementation of the CLMV Action Plan (2019-2020) and also welcomed the successful outcomes of the twelfth CLMV Economic Minister's Meeting held on 24 August 2020 via video conference and recognized the endorsement of CLMV Action Plan (2021-2022) which consists of five areas, namely (i) trade and investment cooperation, (ii) implementation of regional commitments, (iii) pandemic recovery plan, (iv) Framework for CLMV Development, and (v) human resources development.
7. We adopted the Framework for CLMV Development as a unifying strategy for CLMV countries in becoming an Advanced Global Business Hub and consequently achieving a sustainable upper middle-income economy by 2030. The Framework comprises three main components, namely:
 - i. **Connectivity:** the focused areas are transportation and trade facilitation, logistics hub, internet backbones, e-commerce, digital readiness and financial services;
 - ii. **Enablers:** support connectivity by strong legal institutions, competent workforce and access to electricity to create a conducive business environment; and
 - iii. **Sectors with comparative advantage:** strengthening cooperation in agriculture and food, and tourism, aiming at increasing the competitiveness.

8. We tasked CLMV Economic Ministers and Senior Economic Officials to further coordinate with CLMV Senior Officials, ASEAN Secretariat and concerned ministries/agencies in developing the Action Plan of the Framework for CLMV Development and closely work with development partners for seeking funding support.
9. We commended the outcomes of the Fifth CLMV Tourism Ministers' Meeting held on 13 June 2019 in Chiang Rai, the Kingdom of Thailand which adopted the Action Programme on CLMV Tourism Cooperation 2019-2021 and noted with appreciation the progress made in implementing the tourism cooperation among CLMV countries in the areas of travel facilitation, capacity building enhancement, involvement of private sector and local communities and also cooperation with other countries, development partners and international financial institutions. We tasked the Tourism Ministers to effectively implement the Action Programme 2019-2021.
10. We adopted a list of the prioritized projects which appears as annex 1 and tasked the Ministers to instruct Senior Officials to closely coordinate and collaborate with the ASEAN Secretariat and Development Partners, including the international financial institutions and private sector for funding consideration.
11. We commended the outcomes of the CLMV Senior Officials' Meeting and Working Groups' Meetings held on 21-22 August 2019 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, which acknowledged the initiative with the Zero Draft Concept Note on Streamlining CLMV Operational Structure and agreed to task the Ministers and Senior Officials to further discuss the matter and report the outcomes to the Eleventh CLMV Summit in 2022 for consideration.
12. We reaffirmed our commitment to enhance a broad range of regional connectivity and deepen cooperation in accelerating ASEAN's Integration efforts, including the effective and timely implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, as follows:

12.1. Infrastructure Connectivity

Attaching the importance to physical infrastructure connectivity bringing towards the economic integration, we agreed to deepen cooperation in transportation, energy and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) as follows:

- i. Promote quality infrastructure and ensure the environmental, social and financial sustainability of infrastructure projects;
- ii. Accelerate construction of missing links and rehabilitate/upgrade roads along the North-South Economic Corridor (NSEC), the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC) and the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC), including the roads as specified within the framework of ASEAN and other connecting roads in the Mekong subregion, particularly those between and among CLMV countries;
- iii. Expedite the existing transport connectivity projects between and among CLMV countries and conduct feasibility research on new highway/expressway and railway projects connecting the capitals and destinations of tourist attraction in CLMV countries;
- iv. Effectively implement the Multilateral Agreement on Air services between and among CLMV countries;
- v. Seek diversified sources of funds for transport infrastructure development;

- vi. Encourage investment projects on the fields of clean and renewable energy and power transmission lines connecting CLMV countries as well as diversify energy supply and increase the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix;
- vii. Promote cross power trade and power exchange through existing bilateral energy cooperation Agreements and MOUs among CLMV countries;
- viii. Promote the Energy Efficiency and Conservation to reduce the economy's intensity of energy use and put effort to achieve ASEAN target as well as manage natural resources in energy production;
- ix. Encourage greater engagement from industries, academia and other relevant stakeholders in enhancing ICT connectivity and innovation in CLMV countries;
- x. Promote digital infrastructure connectivity and services to encourage online trade and economic activity, and social-cultural exchange;
- xi. Promote cooperation in cyber security including fighting digital crime and information infrastructure development;
- xii. Promote collaboration in technology exchange to overcome the challenges of 4th Industrial Revolution.

12.2. Institutional and Economic Connectivity for Sustainable Development

With a view to promoting economic connectivity as a driving force for socio-economic development and laying the foundation for ASEAN Economic Community, we affirmed our commitment to facilitate trade, investment, industry and agriculture in a sustainable manner in CLMV countries as follows:

- i. Continue implementing the MOUs on facilitation of cross-border movements of goods, vehicles and passengers between and among CLMV countries under the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) cooperation programme;
- ii. Collaborate in improving quality of logistics system, enhance the cross-border cooperation in logistics between and among CLMV countries and create favorable conditions for promoting trade and investment;
- iii. Continue implementing the existing Agreements between and among CLMV countries to further facilitate trade and investment and accelerate the simplification and harmonization of cross-border procedures and regulations;
- iv. Promote cooperation in the field of digital economy, including e-commerce and support the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in accessing infrastructure, finance, service and capacity building programme;
- v. Regularly organize trade fairs, investment conference, B2B matching and B2G programmes among CLMV countries and stakeholders in the region;
- vi. Continue organizing exchange programmes and best practices on digital ICT policy and regulatory development and smart city development and enhance ICT capacity building, digital skills and spectrum management among CLMV countries;
- vii. Promote and utilize innovative technology in manufacturing/processing, especially food and agro-processing industry through information sharing,

experience exchange, joint research and other capacity building programmes in the industry sector;

- viii. Conduct industrial policy development dialogue and standardization and conformance workshop and encourage development of ecological industrial park between CLMV countries and developed countries;
- ix. Strengthen cooperation in sustainable use and management of natural resources, including water resources; climate change adaptation and disaster management, including flood and drought;
- x. Continue deepening cooperation in sustainable, resilient and smart agriculture and enhance safe, green and environmental friendly agricultural production, consumer protection and ecological agriculture adaptive to climate change, disasters, including promoting the implementation of Participatory Guarantee System (GPS), Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), as well as Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP);
- xi. Strengthening the network of CLMV incubation centers in order to promote start-up, MSMEs and Technology transfer by organizing exchange programs among CLMV and development partners;
- xii. Together seek support fund from development partners and international financial institutions for research projects listed in the Framework for CLMV Development;
- xiii. Enhance cooperation on the recovery of MSMEs, maintain supply chain and relax trade barrier among CLMV countries to become economic resilient in the post of COVID-19.

12.3. People-to-People Connectivity

We appreciated the exchange of scholarships, visits and experiences in many fields of development among CLMV countries and expressed gratitude to the Government of Viet Nam for providing scholarships and other training courses to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. We agreed to further collaborate in people-to-people connectivity, human resource development and tourism as follows:

- i. Continue implementing the scholarship programmes for graduate and post-graduate students and enhance career-orientation for students, especially high school students and capacity building programmes for teachers aiming at improving the quality of curriculum development;
- ii. Promote the University-Business Cooperation (UBC) among CLMV countries in order to mobilize more resources from private sectors;
- iii. Continue studying the establishment of the labor market's demand database and promote mutually-recognized arrangement of qualification among CLMV countries;
- iv. Promote joint programs among CLMV universities, language training institutions, vocational education and training institutions and digital education through system exchange programs between education officials, experts, administrations and students with an aim of increasing relevant and high-quality human resources development, educational and life-long learning approaches, which contributes to bridging the gap in human resources development and building a future generation of competitive workforce in the region that responds to the needs of the

marketplace and social development during the 4th Industrial Revolution era, and the circumstance of emergency;

- v. Conduct exchange programmes for sharing tourist statistics information and promoting mutual cultural understanding, and continue organizing Familiarization (FAM) Trip and Caravan Tours in the CLMV countries;
 - vi. Closely work with private sectors to establish attractive and innovative multi-countries tour packages of tourism attractions in the fields of heritage tourism, community-based tourism, adventure tourism and eco-tourism;
 - vii. Continue organizing and participating in the tourism events, including tourism festivals, tourism exhibition, tourism expo, workshops and seminars in order to promote tourism in CLMV countries;
 - viii. Improve capacity building in tourism sector through exchange programmes, technical assistance and study visits among CLMV countries;
 - ix. Encourage information sharing on travel related health and safety measures and exchange of best practices to respond to future pandemics;
 - x. Promote joint research program among CLMV universities and research institutes.
13. We took note of the Joint Statement on Tourism and Covid-19 by UNWTO and WHO call for Responsibility and Coordination issued on 26 February 2020, which aimed at cooperating with international community to effectively contribute to the containment of Covid-19 and minimize unnecessary interference with international traffic, including negative repercussion on tourism sector.
 14. We expressed deep appreciation to ASEAN member states, Development Partners and ASEAN Secretariat for supporting the development of CLMV countries and called for further assistance in implementing the Framework for CLMV Development, the prioritized projects, the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and CLMV Action Plan (2021-2022).
 15. We tasked the Ministers and Senior Officials to explore ways to strengthen the synergy between CLMV cooperation and the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and other relevant Mekong Sub-region mechanisms in order to ensure the effective connectivity for regional integration.
 16. We tasked the Ministers and Senior Officials to ensure the success of the implementation of this Joint Statement for more practical and effective cooperation.
 17. We welcomed the offer of Myanmar as an incoming chair of CLMV to host the Eleventh CLMV Summit. The specific date and venue will be informed through the diplomatic channel in due course.
 18. The Heads of State/Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam expressed sincere appreciation to the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia for excellent arrangements made for the 10th CLMV Summit through Video Conference.

Adopted on the Day of Ninth in the Month of December in the Year of Two Thousand and Twenty.