



ASEAN Inter - Parliamentary Organization

The 23rd General Assembly

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DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE 35TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING JULY 2002, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

The Twenty-third General Assembly:

Noting the importance of the closer coordination and cooperation between AIPO and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to the building of a Southeast Asia of peace, stability, equitable development, and prosperity

Hereby decides to take note of the Report on the 35th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and other related Meetings held on 29 July – 1 August 2002 in Brunei Darussalam submitted by Brunei Delegation as follows:

THE 35TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING (AMM), 29^{TLL}-30TH JULY 2002.

1. The Meeting endorsed the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan together with the programmes and projects focusing on four priorities areas namely Human Resource Development (HRD), infrastructure, information communication technology and regional economic integration. The Work Plan would serve as a roadmap to implement the Hanoi Declaration on Narrowing the Development Gap for closer ASEAN Integration. The Meeting welcomed the initiative of the six older ASEAN Members to launch joint IAI projects to help narrow the development gap within ASEAN. This would be a significant step in demonstrating ASEAN's

commitment in helping its new members (CLMV) in the integration efforts under the IAI.

2. The Meeting endorsed the nomination of His Excellency Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, as the new Secretary-General of ASEAN for five years beginning 1 January 2003.
3. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers reaffirmed that the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea would further promote peace and stability in the region and agreed to work towards Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. In this regard, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers agreed to work closely with China with a view to adopting the Declaration.
4. The Meeting issued a Joint Communiqué of the 35th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. The Joint Communiqué outlined the political and security issues, ASEAN economic and functional cooperation and ASEAN external relations with dialogue partners.

THE ASEAN + 3 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, 30 JULY 2002

5. The Foreign Ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues affecting the region and noted that the overall security environment in the region remains stable despite existing challenges. The Foreign Ministers renewed their commitment to work together to meet those challenges, especially in promoting peace, stability, and economic progress in the region. The Foreign Ministers were also briefed on the latest situation in the Korean Peninsula. The Foreign Ministers also agreed to regularize the ASEAN+3 Directors General Meeting as a coordinating mechanism to ensure coherence, efficiency and progress of ASEAN+3 process.
6. The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction on work being undertaken by the East Asia Study Group in coming up with a practical number of concrete measures for cooperation among the ASEAN+3 countries as well as the study on the implications of an East Asian Summit.
7. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation to China, Japan and Korea for their support to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), in particular, in the areas of Human Resources Development, Information Technology and the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC).

THE 9TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM, 31 JULY 2002.

8. The Ministers reviewed the overall security environment of the Asia Pacific and were encouraged by significant developments especially positive signs of recovery and growth in the global economy.

9. In assessing regional and international security developments, the Ministers believed that the terrorist acts of 11 September 2001 in the United States had tremendous impact on the overall security environment. The Ministers recalled the statement of October 2001 issued by the ARE Chair on behalf of ARE participants and emphasised the need for the ARF to find ways and means to cooperate further in the fight against terrorism.
10. One particular area, which was of great importance in the fight against terrorism was the collective decision made on measures against terrorist financing. The Meeting issued a "Statement on Measures Against Terrorist Financing", which outlined freezing terrorist assets to prevent terrorist and their associates from accessing or using financial systems and to stop abuse of informal banking networks.
11. The Ministers also welcomed, in particular, the establishment of an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CT-TC).

POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (PMC), 31 JULY 2002.

12. The Post Ministerial Conference 10+10 discussed among other things the regional and international issues, political and security cooperation against terrorist, the Middle East situation, transnational crimes, environment and HIV/AIDS.

PMC 10+1 ASEAN-AUSTRALIA

13. The highlight of PMC 10+1 ASEAN-Australia was the signing of A Memorandum of Understanding on the ASEAN - AUSTRALIA Development Cooperation Programme (AADCP) during the ASEAN PMC 10+1 Session with Australia on 1 August 2002. Signing on behalf of ASEAN was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, while on behalf of Australia was His Honourable Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia.

PMC 10+1 ASEAN-US

14. 14. During the ASEAN PMC 10+1 Session with the US, a landmark event that took place was the signing of an Anti Terrorism Declaration by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam on behalf of ASEAN with the US Secretary of State, His Excellency Mr. Colin Powell.

DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT AMM

15. The proposed dates for the 36th AMM/ 10th ARF/PMCs will be from 16-20 June 2003 and to be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.