

## **DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT AND REVIEWING THE ASEAN ORGANS**

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 November 2014

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;

**REITERATING** our resolve to take all appropriate measures to fully and effectively implement the ASEAN Charter;

**RECALLING** the Chairman’s Statement of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan which reiterates the importance of ASEAN’s centrality in the evolving regional architecture as well as ASEAN’s capacity to realize the ASEAN Community in 2015 and beyond;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to strengthening ASEAN’s institutional capacity to support the ASEAN Community building, through streamlining and improving its work processes and coordination among ASEAN Organs and Bodies, enhancing the conduct of ASEAN’s external relations and strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat;

**COMMENDING** the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs (HLTF) Representatives for their relentless efforts in coming up with valuable recommendations for strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and reviewing the ASEAN Organs, which have been submitted to the ASEAN Coordinating Council;

**ENDORISING** the decision of the ASEAN Coordinating Council approving the Report and Recommendations of the HLTF;

### **DO HEREBY AGREE:**

1. To enhance the capacity of ASEAN in seizing opportunities presented and addressing challenges confronting our region;
2. To maintain ASEAN as an outward-looking organization and enhance ASEAN’s external relations, including ASEAN’s centrality in the evolving regional architecture;
3. To strengthen the capacity of and coordination among ASEAN Organs, including improving the work processes across the three community pillars in order to accelerate ASEAN’s community-building and integration efforts;

4. To ensure that the ASEAN Secretariat be provided with adequate financial resources and competent manpower so that it can fully support ASEAN's community-building and regional integration efforts;
5. To task the ASEAN Coordinating Council and the ASEAN Community Councils, with the support of the relevant senior officials and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, to implement the HLTF Recommendations, noting the recommended time-bound targets; and
6. To task the Secretary-General of ASEAN to report annually the progress of implementing the HLTF Recommendations.

**ADOPTED** in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, this Twelfth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fourteen.