

## Statement on Food Security in the ASEAN Region

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, have met in Cha-am, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand, at the Fourteenth Summit to sustain food security in the region:

**Reaffirming** the conclusions of the World Food Summit in 1996, which adopted the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, and the objective confirmed by the World Food Summit: five years later, of achieving food security for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries; the Declaration adopted at the FAO High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate change and Bioenergy held in June 2008 as well as our commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

**Guided** by the ASEAN Charter which aims to ensure sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations and to place the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the peoples as the focus of the ASEAN Community building process;

**Recalling** the Bali Concord II establishing an ASEAN Community based on three pillars, namely ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community within 2020 and the decision of the ASEAN Leaders at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines to accelerate the realization of an ASEAN Community by 2015;

**Cognizant** of the recent sharp increase in international food prices and global financial crisis, which has brought adverse impacts on food security and serious concern on possible socio-economic impacts of ASEAN Member States;

**Noting** with satisfaction the progress of initiatives and cooperation on food security guided by the 1979 Agreement on the ASEAN Food Security Reserve, the Vientiane Action Programme (2004-2010), and the newly adopted ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint ;

**Determined** to make ASEAN dynamic, resilient and cohesive regional organization for the well-being of its Member States and people with a balance given between economic growth and social development in order to reduce and not to create negative impacts to food security;

**Emphasising** the need of enhanced ASEAN cooperation as a means to ensure food security through sustainable food production, post-harvest, marketing and trade in the region, especially by strengthening ASEAN initiative/ measures already existed as well as a strategic pursuit of actions to be developed/ enhanced based on strong commitments and ownership among all Member States.

Do hereby pledge to embrace food security as a matter of permanent and high priority policy, review our commitment to achieving objectives of the World Food Summit, the Millennium Development Goals, and commit ourselves to the following measures:

1. Adopt the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) with assurance of resources required to undertaking such a Plan;
2. Task the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) with support from the ASEAN Secretariat to implement the SPA-FS and identify ways in which the Leaders can support the implementation of measures to realise the objective of this Statement. AMAF shall also collaborate with other relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;
3. Strengthen the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB), and reinforce existing ASEAN initiatives related to food security particularly the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) Project and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) towards an ASEAN long-term food security mechanism with full cooperation of the Plus Three countries;
4. Support development of agricultural productivity through greater investment, improved research and development, enhanced agricultural innovation and knowledge management, and strengthened farmers' organisations;
5. Consider the development of bio-fuels through science and technology advancement without adverse impacts to regional food security;
6. Share information, experiences and best practices in the implementation of the national food security programmes among ASEAN Member States;
7. Encourage the close collaboration and create network among the public and private sectors and civil society in addressing food security challenges;
8. Support the implementation of the Bali Roadmap as entailed in the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference serving as Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Kyoto Protocol with the view to contribute to regional food security.
9. Work in partnership with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and the UN for cooperation on agriculture and food, particularly on agricultural research and development, transfer of agricultural and food production technology, improvement on infrastructure, development of food security early warning systems, and other measures outlined in the AIFS and SPA-FS,

10. Cooperate with the UN specialized bodies to achieve the World Food Summit Plan of Action, and the objective confirmed by the World Food Summit: five years later as well as the Declaration of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy;

Adopted in Cha-am, Thailand on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of March in the Year Two Thousand and Nine.