



## **ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030**

We, the Heads of State/Government, and other representatives, of the Member States of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (hereinafter referred to as ACD), gathered at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACD Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, to reaffirm our commitment to the objectives and roles of the Dialogue as an Asia-wide platform wherein ACD Member States can shape regional cooperation by exchanging ideas and experiences while maintaining the comfort level among all participants. Recognizing the strategic location, diverse strengths, and rising economic potential of Asia, we are proud to share our aspirations and visions for pan-Asian cooperation in 2030 and the future creation of an Asian community as follows.

1. We affirm the role of the ACD as a regional platform that propels innovative development for Asia, based on the ACD's founding values of, namely, positive thinking, informality, openness, consensus, voluntarism, respect for diversity and comfort levels of Member States, and a proactive and results-oriented nature.
2. By 2030, we envisage Asia as a continent of peace, progress, stability, and shared prosperity, underpinned by inclusive and sustainable development, upholding international laws and principles of the United Nations Charter, and bound by mutual trust, harmony of nations and peoples, a commitment to a lasting spirit of friendship.
3. We aspire to bring together a broader and deeper synergy in Asia. The expansion of ACD Membership from 18 in 2002 to 34 Member States in 2016 reaffirms ACD's relevance as an Asia-wide forum, fostering closer cooperation on common issues and challenges of Asia, such as narrowing the development gap, human development, poverty alleviation, connectivity, the nexus of food, water and energy security, climate change, amongst others.
4. We attach high importance to the inclusiveness and complementarity of ACD in advancing Asia cooperation. As a pan-Asian forum, ACD belongs to all of Asia and therefore, the work of ACD should complement and build upon other existing regional frameworks in the region such as ASEAN, and other ASEAN-led mechanisms, BIMP-EAGA, BIMSTEC, CICA, EAEU, ECO, EEU, GCC, IORA, SAARC, SCO, Mekong subregion frameworks and others to establish a multi-level, multi-sector, rules-based regional architecture. We also welcome collaboration and cooperation between ACD and other major multilateral fora including APEC, ASEM, G20, and WTO to effectively address urgent regional and global concerns in the pursuit of sustainable development for Asia.

5. We acknowledge the importance of promoting connectivity in forging greater understanding and closer relationships between the people of ACD and creating opportunities for all. We aim to create a seamlessly interconnected region where all ACD Member States collaborate closely to achieve vibrant and effective connectivity in all its dimensions including quality infrastructure, sustainability and the development of Asia. The interest of all countries in Asia, particularly LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs are taken into account to narrow the development gap to ensure region-wide equitable and inclusive growth.

6. We envision Asia as a dynamic, innovative continent, where no one will be left behind. Our peoples, all men and women, particularly those in vulnerable situations, have equal rights and access to the necessities for a good quality of life.

7. We are committed to making our continent a global hub where the mobility of ACD citizens would be promoted while their rights are respected. Our workforce should be equipped with both basic and enhanced skills as demanded by the increasingly transnational business activities.

8. We strive to bring our region to the forefront of global sustainability through advanced research and development and innovation. The rich human resources and advanced knowledge from ACD Member States are widely exchanged on various development issues such as climate change, disaster risk reduction and management, science, technology, innovation, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, green growth, water resource management and health.

9. We desire to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development in the region by giving priority to, but not limiting ourselves to, the agreed 6 pillars of cooperation that are in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely, (i) Interrelation of food, water and energy security; (ii) connectivity; (iii) science, technology and innovation; (iv) education and human resources development; (v) culture and tourism; and, (vi) promoting approaches to inclusive and sustainable development, such as the Belt and Road initiative, the Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, poverty reduction and rural development.

10. We aim to enhance engagement of the private sector, especially SMEs, in ACD to allow for stronger linkages among our business people, women and young entrepreneurs; and support start-ups as a new driver of the economy. In addition, we expect to enhance the Public-Private-People Partnership (4Ps) to inspire more innovative participation from all stakeholders in the ACD.

11. We envision an in-depth expansion in investment and business activities in potential business clusters, including but not limited to connectivity, food, tourism, energy, technology and innovation, as well as investment for sustainable development.

12. We support academia to have a concrete role and contribution in the Dialogue. Our universities and research institutions are home to Asian human capital where young leaders and innovators are cultivated. Therefore, the participation of academia in ACD will help support the direction in which we will be heading and how we should prepare the younger generation of ACD citizens for new global challenges.

13. We will seek to expand collaboration and engagement with other partners and including regional and international organizations based on mutual interest, to enhance ACD's international standing and relevance, as well as promote coherence in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

14. We see ACD as an outward-looking platform of Asia in 2030; an important driving force that plays an innovative role on the international stage and in promoting global development and stability. We envisage pan-Asian cooperation through the 6 pillars of cooperation, business participation, the 4Ps, as well as intensified collaboration with external partners which will finally lead to opportunities in social, economic and cultural development for all ACD Member States.

15. We pledge to ACD citizens our determination and commitment to advancing our cooperation. We aim to bring the ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030 into action taking into account the suggested elements in the Blueprint 2017-2021 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Bangkok

10 October 2016