



DOHA DECLARATION

16th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue

“Partners in progress”

Doha, 1 May 2019

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other Heads of Delegation of the Member States of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, the State of Kuwait, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nepal, the Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Singapore, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Having met in Doha, Qatar, for the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting on the 1st May 2019, under the theme: “Partners in progress”;

EMPHASIZING that communication and cooperation with the other states as well as the international organizations will definitely enhance the position of the Asian countries and will enable them to take advantage of the international expertise in different fields so that ACD Member States shall make best use of this expertise;

RECOGNIZING that our region has maintained overall stability in recent years and that Asia is becoming a major driving force of global economic growth and a key partner in achieving the global partnership in development, adopting policies of good-neighborliness, friendship, dialogue, cooperation and common development.

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of moderation as a balanced approach that can contribute to economic sustainability, inclusive development, as it promotes dialogue, mutual respect, understanding and harmony;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significance of regional cooperation as an essential mechanism to accelerate realization of the three pillars of sustainable development, which include, economic and social development, and environmental protection, as well as stability in the Asian region with its vast and diverse natural and human resources, rich historical heritage and economic and social potential.

REFERRING to the agreed six consolidated pillars of ACD cooperation areas amongst ACD Member States, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to translate the ACD vision into tangible actions through the agreed six pillars and welcomed the report from all Prime Movers and other members on the planned activities and their anticipated outcomes;

CALLING for strengthening regional cooperation, including all programs and initiatives to facilitate and expand regional trade, transit, increase investment and promote infrastructure development;

We:

1. Welcome the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting under the theme "Partners in progress ";
2. Recognize the importance of global achievement of the 2030 sustainable development Agenda and its SDGs;
3. Express the continuation of the dialogue to enhance cooperation in Asia in light of guaranteeing peace, prosperity, solidarity, mutual respect and tolerance as well as upholding and supporting the dialogue between the member states in order to reach understanding and desired aspirations;
4. Reaffirm our intent for ACD to play an important and a constructive role for Asia to find the synergy and encourage the Secretary General to promote dialogue between other sub-regional organizations;
5. Reaffirm the commitment to the ACD and its original guiding principles as a top-down, continuously evolving forum in which ACD Leaders and Ministers could gather informally to exchange ideas, visions and experiences on pan-Asian cooperation, while respecting the comfort level among participants. We reaffirm our commitment to the WTO rules and regulations, which is an engine of economic growth aimed at generating employment and reducing poverty in the developing world;
6. Reaffirm the need to enhance unity, expand cultural exchanges and deepen pragmatic cooperation to promote common sustainable development and prosperity and contribute even more to peace, stability and development in the world;
7. Emphasize our strong denunciation and rejection of all forms of racism, ethnic/religious discrimination, extremism and terrorism, confirm the importance of communication and regional/global cooperation to take necessary measures for combating these challenges, call on all member states in Asia Cooperation Dialogue to act together to prevent and suppress terrorist activities, to take serious and effective measures to promote tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, particularly through education, media and civil society, to protect all individuals

and communities against hate and violence effectively implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS), and safeguard international peace and security;

8. Welcome the adoption on 28 September 2018 at the margins of the General Debate of the 73rd session UNGA the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, which is open to join it on voluntary basis;

9. Strengthen cooperation to prevent cyber security, organized crime and human trafficking and enhance the promotion and protection of human rights;

10. Express satisfaction for the achievements of the ACD in realizing the desired cooperation, harmony and complementarity, and to complete what has been achieved through the appeal to build on these achievements and to redouble efforts to consolidate relations among Member States and open new horizons, with the aim of moving to a higher and high level of partnerships over the coming years, which will benefit the countries and the peoples of the Asian continent;

11. Recognize the important role of MSMEs as the engine to generate the growth and prosperity across Asia in a sustainable manner;

12. Welcome the initiative to host the ACD Business Forum to establish ACD business platform for private sector to strengthen SMEs across Asia;

13. Realize that strengthening of partnerships and development of innovative sources of financing can play a role in complementing sources of financing for sustainable development. ACD Member States need significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and effective use of financing in their efforts to promote sustainable development;

14. Recognize the importance of promoting free and open trade and investment among and between Asian countries, and of removing obstacles to this goal, as well as the need to work together to develop robust mechanisms for the mutual promotion and protection of ACD investments. We will continue to cooperate closely on these issues in order to enhance Asian economic integration and to promote joint Asian investments;

15. Strengthen cooperation to address the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters;

16. Emphasize taking all appropriate steps and actions to address the challenge of water and food shortage, in order to remove obstacles to achieve sustainability in water and food security and self-sufficiency, and to support research and development in the areas of green energy and agricultural technology to mitigate price volatility in food markets;

17. Ensure strengthening of cooperation on culture and tourism among member states given the natural beauty, deep history and cultural diversity of the Asian continent as one of the main cradles of global civilization. Encourage cultural exchanges and cultural dialogue by taking into consideration their positive impact on the promotion of cross-cultural interaction;

18. Recognize the potential for collaboration in the health sector;

19. Realize the prospect of future collaboration in the sport sector;

20. Express appreciation to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait for his initiative in proposing the establishment of the ACD Development Fund as innovative financing mechanism

to address the need for funding of projects under the pillar of the Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development;

21. Reaffirm our support for the vision of pan Asian cooperation in 2030 and the future creation of an Asian Community and decide to consider the establishment of a High-Level Working Group to study ways and means for implementation;

22. Express appreciation to the State of Kuwait for continuous support to the ACD Secretariat as it appears in the Letter of Intention, and express further appreciation to the Secretary General; and the Secretariat for their continuing duties. We appreciate Thailand's efforts to ensure smooth and continued functioning of the Secretariat. We welcome the proposal of Thailand to convene an open-ended High-Level Working Group (HLWG) in July 2019 to define the Secretariat's operations, including mechanism for selection of Secretary General;

23. Appreciate Qatar Foundation for hosting the ACD Education Workshop in March 2019 and we welcome the initiative of the State of Qatar in providing the opportunity to teach Arabic for non-Arabic native speakers within the ACD member states, and we invite other ACD Member States to start such initiatives, from the premise that learning language is a way to bridge cultural gaps in linguistic communications among all humans. We also appreciate Tokai University to agree to host the next ACD High-Level Round Table Meeting of ACD University Network in 2019;

24. Recalling the decision taken during the Bangkok summit for the establishment of the ACD University Network, we take note of the efforts for the establishment of ACD-MBA with collaboration of 6 universities, which are Asia-e-University, Siam University, Daffodil International University Bangladesh, RIMT University Punjab, Universitas Surabaya (Ubaya), and The Our Lady of Fatima University. We take note of the setting up of the Centre for ACD-University Network at Siam University, Thailand to facilitate further academic cooperation among ACD Universities;

25. Encourage enhancement of participation and effective engagement of all governments, educational sector, private sector and other relevant participants to implement sustainable development and to take appropriate and effective measures to strengthen coordination and cooperation in order to integrate sustainable development into public and private investment, decision-making and the planning of humanitarian and development actions;

26. Underscore the need to promote cooperation and partnership synergy between ACD and other regional organizations or dialogue fora in Asia. We welcome the proposal of the Kingdom of Bahrain to host the ACD Meeting with other Secretaries General of regional organizations/fora in Asia as the first interphase between ACD and potential development partners. The report of the said meeting can be considered by our Ministers before further implementation;

27. Confirm the importance of enhancing cooperation in the fields of energy security, energy accessibility, energy affordability and energy sustainability for the benefit of producers and consumers alike, particularly through the ACD's Energy Action Plan, and strengthening connectivity and energy security in Asia, and encourage all member countries of the ACD to work together in line with this plan;

28. We highly welcome the generous offer of the State of Qatar to host the 3rd ACD Summit on 2020. We express appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 17th Ministerial Meeting as the ACD Chair. We note with appreciation the offer of People's Republic of Bangladesh to host the 3rd Tourism's Ministers Meeting in Dhaka in December 2019. We also note with appreciation the offer of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the ACD Ministerial Meeting on renewable energy, to be held in Indonesia in the 2nd half of 2019, the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the High-level Working Group on Financial and Banking Cooperation, the first meeting of the ACD think tanks and economic, political and international study centers in Thran, and Business and Investment Forum for the private sectors of ACD member states in Zanzan City, the meeting welcomed the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's successful formation of a Joint Working Group on connectivity and announcement to convene its inaugurated meeting in the second half of 2019, the People's Republic of China for offering to host the Seminar on SDG 6 Implementation of ACD Countries and Progress Monitoring and the Joint Research on Belt and Road Initiative and Smart Grid in Asian Countries in 2019. We also encourage more Member States, especially Prime and Co-Prime Movers to host activities to demonstrate the tangible result of our cooperation. We emphasize, that successful integration between the ACD Member States will contribute to the achievement by 2030 of the seventh goal of the United Nations agenda for sustainable development 2030 ("Ensuring access to affordable, reliable and modern energy for all"). We point out the importance of the creation of conditions for securing the sufficient supply of energy resources for the national economies. We take note of the strengthening of transport interconnectivity of the Asian States, as well as their active participation in the build-up of Eurasian transport and logistic architecture, based on the international transport corridors "North-South" and "East-West";

29. We congratulate the Kingdom of Cambodia on the success of the 2nd ACD Tourism Ministers Meeting in Siem Reap during 10-16 June 2017 to reinforce our tourism cooperation in the ACD. We also appreciate the Philippines for hosting the ACD Conference on Energy Security and Sustainability in August 2017, the Kingdom of Thailand for hosting an International Training Course on Sufficiency Economy in conjunction with the Working Group on Sustainable Development meeting in August 2017 and the ACD Workshop on Energy under the theme "ACD Action Plan: Towards Global Energy Challenges" in Bangkok on 4 November 2017, the People's Republic of China for hosting Symposium on "Asia Cooperation Dialogue and the Building of an Asian Community of Shared Future" in Guangzhou, on 8 December 2017, the State of Kuwait for hosting the 2nd ACD Working Group on Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Kuwait City during 12-13 March 2018, the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting Conference/Festival: Hamedan 2018 ACD Capital of Tourism 27 – 29 August 2018 and the People's Republic of China for hosting Asian Energy Transition and Security Cooperation Forum and High Level consultation meeting of the Prime and Co-Prime Movers of Interrelation of Food, Water and Energy Security Pillar on 13-14 September 2018 and the High Level Workshop on Water Resources Integrated Management for Asian Countries during 14-27 March 2019;

30. Reaffirm the decision to recognize 18th June as the ACD Day and encourage Secretary General, with the contribution from member countries, to celebrate the Day to promote friendship and amity among our nations;

31. We welcome the request from Palestine to become a member of ACD;
32. Express appreciation to the Government of the State of Qatar for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement in hosting the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting and its sideline events.

Adopted in Doha, the State of Qatar, on 1 May 2019