

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Of the Eighth Asia – Europe Meeting

Brussels, 4-5 October 2010

“Greater well-being and more dignity for all citizens”

1. The Eighth Asia-Europe Meeting was hosted by Belgium in Brussels on 4 and 5 October 2010. The meeting was attended by the Heads of States and of Governments of forty-six Asian and European countries, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
2. The overarching theme of the Summit was “Quality of life, achieving greater well-being and more dignity for all citizens”. The President of the European Council chaired the meeting.
3. A warm welcome was extended to Australia, New Zealand and the Russian Federation, who attended an ASEM Summit for the first time and, on this occasion, became ASEM members.
4. Leaders reaffirmed the strategic dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe on the basis of equal partnership, mutual respect and benefit. They noted with appreciation the results of the meetings of the Education Ministers, the Foreign Ministers, the Energy Ministers, the Transportation Ministers, the Finance Ministers and the Culture Ministers held since the Seventh Asia—Europe Meeting and endorsed their recommendations.
5. The meeting established common ground between Asia and Europe on topical issues of mutual interest to both regions as follows :

TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

6. Leaders held a candid, open and fruitful discussion on the present global economic situation. They issued a separate Declaration reflecting their common views.

ADVANCE ON THE PATH OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7. Following up on the Beijing Declaration on Sustainable Development adopted at their meeting in 2008, Leaders considered ways to further advance the common objectives of economic development, social cohesion and environmental protection, the three mutually reinforcing and interdependent pillars of sustainable development leading to greater human well-being.
8. They reaffirmed their commitments to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They underscored the importance of the UN High-Level Plenary Meeting in New York on 20-22 September 2010 and the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development scheduled in Brazil in 2012 (Rio + 20).
9. Taking into consideration the rich variety of cultures represented in Europe and in Asia, they agreed to the following :

Economic development

10. Leaders stressed that the reforms considered necessary in response to the global economic crisis constituted an opportunity to lay the basis for a more sustainable model of development.
11. As a first priority, the demand for goods and services as well as investments have to be encouraged since they are the drivers of economic growth and job creation across countries. To this effect, the progressive liberalization of domestic and international markets must be pursued. Leaders reiterated their resolve to conclude the WTO Doha Development Agenda promptly with an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced outcome consistent with its mandate and based on progress already made, as this would represent a single most important contribution to the objective. Leaders further agreed that all forms of trade protectionism should be rejected and that existing tariff and non-tariff barriers should be rolled back without delay. In order to promote economic growth and development, leaders also reaffirmed the need for a fair and rule-based multilateral trading system under the WTO.
12. Leaders also supported the innovation of products, services and production processes. Innovation, especially the introduction of environmentally friendly, resource-efficient and clean technologies, can help economies restructure themselves in response to the crisis and achieve more sustainable patterns of economic development.
13. Hence, Leaders resolved to foster policies that facilitate the dissemination of these types of technologies, especially to the benefit of developing countries. With this in mind, they tasked Senior Officials for Trade and Investment to convene an informal meeting at an early opportunity and to identify the scope and range of possible new activities. Using the experience of ASEM

partners in promoting sustainable development, these should constitute a comprehensive dialogue with a view to identifying and examining trade and investment barriers as well as market distorting mechanisms that hamper the deployment of new environmentally friendly, resource efficient and clean products and technologies. The dialogue should furthermore focus on possible new incentives with a similar positive effect on the advancement of sustainable development, just as ASEM governments face pressing issues of regulation and public policy. Eventually, the dialogue should help ensure that sustainable development policies, including environmental measures, do not lead to arbitrary or disguised restrictions on international trade. Leaders expressed their expectation that this work would lead to a resumption of the meetings of the Economy and Trade Ministers of ASEM. They also decided that the dialogue should be conducted in close consultation and with the input from both the Asian and European business communities.

14. Leaders took note of the constructive, ongoing activities under the Trade Facilitation Action Plan and Investment Promotion Action Plan and of the dialogue on Intellectual Property Rights. They welcomed in particular the work achieved under the direction of the ASEM Customs Director-Generals and stressed the desirability of further stepping up this kind of cooperation.
15. Leaders emphasized the importance of financial stability and of availability of development finance for developing ASEM partners. They stressed that the financial markets of Asia and Europe could be more integrated and that considerable scope existed for expanding the offer of services to potential traders and investors operating in the two regions. In this context, they welcomed the recommendations of the Twelfth Business Forum held in Brussels on the margin of the Summit.
16. Following up on the First ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Transportation in Vilnius in October 2009, Leaders agreed on the desirability of cooperation to fill in missing links and eliminate bottlenecks, justifying the establishment of an action plan that would also pursue the objective of sustainable development. The accession of the Russian Federation offers in this regard new and important perspectives. Leaders thanked the People's Republic of China for offering to host the Second Transportation Ministers meeting in 2011.
17. Likewise, Leaders underscored the importance of information and communication technologies, in particular broadband networks and applications promoting socio-economic activities, as catalysts for globalization and innovation and as positive agents of sustainable economic development. They called for increased research and development cooperation, for technical

assistance, for transfers of technology and of know how, especially to developing countries, so as to help bridge the digital divide among ASEM partners.

18. Leaders noted that these initiatives would enhance the connectivity between Asia and Europe. In this context, they hailed the efforts to promote ASEAN Connectivity as important intra-regional linkages, opening opportunities for the sharing of experiences and for further cooperation.
19. Leaders supported agricultural policies and programs that ensures the realization of the right to food. They recognized the importance of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, of which the FAO Committee on World Food Security is a central component, in supporting sustainable country-led food security policies and international coordination. They specifically encouraged infrastructure development, responsible investments and intensified scientific research with a view to increasing sustainable agricultural production and fostering rural development, recognized as essential in the fight against hunger and poverty and in which the role of women must be duly recognized. In the interest of ensuring sustainable forms of agricultural production, Leaders stressed the need for well-functioning global and domestic agricultural markets. They called on all partners to phase out export subsidies, including through the WTO Doha-Round negotiations, and to improve market access while also jointly addressing food supply and income enhancement issues as well as environmental challenges.
20. Leaders noted that well-defined regional and sub-regional mechanisms and initiatives hold considerable potential for efficient, result-oriented cooperation on economic development and poverty reduction. They stressed that the Greater Mekong Subregion, the Mekong River Commission and the Ayeyawady – Chao Phraya – Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) constitute frameworks holding strong potential for cooperation activities between Asia and Europe.

Social cohesion :

21. Leaders stressed that social cohesion rests on the widest possible participation of people in the creation of prosperity and on the equitable distribution of income.
22. They agreed to promote decent work by spurring job creation and labor participation. They reiterated their support for the Global Jobs Pact of the ILO adopted in June 2009, which promotes practical measures to help recover from the crisis and stimulates “growth with employment”.

23. Leaders stressed that effective implementation of ILO fundamental principles and rights at work are of crucial importance. Violations cannot be invoked or otherwise used as a legitimate comparative advantage and labor standards should not be used for protectionist purposes, as stipulated in the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. Leaders underlined the importance of strong labor administrations and inspectorates to ensure proper implementation.
24. Leaders concurred that specific attention should be given to migrant labor, including the respect of the human rights of migrant workers, particularly of the most vulnerable ones. Recognizing the link between development and migration, they called for the sharing of best practices and the exploration of comprehensive approaches with a view to developing shared benefits of legal migration among ASEM partners and effectively addressing irregular migration, including enhanced return policies. Leaders agreed that, when accorded the protection of non-discriminatory rights at work according to domestic law and regulations, migrants may effectively contribute to the development of their communities in host countries and in their countries of origin.
25. Leaders stressed that effective dialogue between social partners should be encouraged in order to promote mutual understanding on issues of productivity, working conditions, remuneration and economic change. Such dialogue also contributes to effective national policy design and implementation. In times of crisis, schemes negotiated through social dialogue such as cost-cutting measures reducing working hours have helped in limiting negative effects on overall employment levels.
26. Leaders supported the promotion and implementation of corporate social responsibility through national and international instruments and voluntary initiatives. These help employers develop joint ownership of core labor standards, social stability and social justice with their employees. Alongside, skill development objectives can also be served.
27. Leaders recalled how social safety nets operated in times of crisis as an economic stabilizer and not just as a welfare or redistributive mechanism. Social safety nets can foster equal opportunity, remove barriers to social mobility and produce beneficial effects on the allocation of resources, sustainable economic growth, alleviation of poverty and overall macro-economic stability. They must be developed on a country per country basis, in order to take account of national circumstances and resources. Leaders also noted with interest the gradual development of a global Social Protection Floor, one of the nine joint initiatives of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination, led by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the World Health

Organization (WHO). Such a concept would seek to ensure livelihood security for poor and vulnerable populations and provide access to essential services, fighting persistent poverty effectively. Leaders called for further sharing of experiences and for technical assistance in implementing social welfare policies.

28. Leaders stressed that the inclusiveness of labor markets crucially depends on education, job training and skill development strategies, including vocational training. Partnerships with the private sector may, where applicable, facilitate the preparation of the workforce for future opportunities in strategic sectors such as low-carbon emission industries and green technologies, but also in growth sectors such as health care and elderly care. As labor markets evolve over time, lifelong learning and career development tools, through investments in education and training which government policies should encourage, will help workers move into new opportunities.
29. Leaders further emphasized that access to basic education should be guaranteed for its benefit to the development of the individual and in fighting poverty. In this regard, they recognized the important challenge faced by some Asian ASEM partners with overwhelmingly young populations. They agreed to enhance efforts for the effective abolition of child labor, to share experiences and to provide, where possible, technical assistance with a view to supporting and strengthening education services which prepare for the labor market.
30. Leaders recognized that a number of ASEM partners face the challenge of rapidly ageing populations. Existing old-age protection systems face reforms that, depending on circumstances, may concern retirement age, fiscal policies, labor markets or pension/provident fund governance in order to preserve social and financial sustainability. Again, social dialogue is of crucial importance in order to define reforms that can be widely accepted.
31. Leaders instructed their Ministers of Labor, meeting in Leiden, the Netherlands, in December 2010, to further develop common strategies on these issues and to implement them, fostering cooperation among governments, dialogue between social partners and involvement of civil society organizations.

Environmental protection :

32. Leaders underlined the necessity to address global climate change and recognized in this regard the centrality and legitimacy of the UNFCCC process. They shared the goal of reaching urgently a fair, effective and comprehensive legally binding outcome under the mandate of the Bali Roadmap agreed in 2007, noting that the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012. They agreed that the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol Conferences of Parties in Cancun, taking

into account the work done so far, should concretely address the remaining gaps on all major issues.

33. Leaders agreed that deep cuts in global emissions are required, recognizing the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below two degrees Celsius, and to take action to meet this objective consistent with science and the principles of the UNFCCC. They also reaffirmed the basic principle that countries should contribute to the collective effort on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, bearing in mind that social and economic development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries and that a low-emission development strategy is indispensable for sustainable development.
34. Leaders welcomed the commitments of the EU partners, Japan, Australia and New Zealand to provide fast-start financing with new and additional resources over the 2010-2012 period and to transparent reporting at the UNFCCC Conference in Cancun. They called on developed countries to follow up, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and of transparency in implementation of these actions, on their commitment to the goal of mobilizing jointly 100 billion US dollars per year by 2020 in order to address the needs of developing countries.
35. Leaders stressed that energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy across all sectors of the economy are major contributions to addressing climate change while at the same time fostering security in energy supplies. They called for making full use of international cooperation, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UNFCCC, to exchange best practices between developed and developing ASEM partners and stimulate the development, transfer, deployment, dissemination and adaptation of advanced, affordable, safe and environmentally-sound energy technologies and know how, including aspects of policy and regulation.
36. Leaders stressed the challenge of ensuring sufficient, reliable and environmentally responsible supplies of energy at prices reflecting economic fundamentals as highlighted by the ASEM Ministerial Conference on Energy Security in Brussels in June 2009. They underlined the benefits that can be derived in this respect from transparent, competitive and environmentally sustainable markets, from consistent legal frameworks at national and international levels and from diversification of sources, routes and types of energy supplies as well as from emergency mechanisms. The global nature of these challenges and the growing interdependence between producing, consuming and transit countries would require strengthened dialogue and partnership involving ASEM partners and other stakeholders.

37. Leaders stressed the importance of sustainable forest and water resources management and the need to cooperate by exchanging scientific research and by pooling experiences and best practices. They requested their Ministers to conduct a concrete and result-oriented dialogue on these issues in the early part of 2011. They recalled that the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2011 as the International Year of Forests. Leaders expressed their support for the UN Collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in developing countries. They noted the contribution of the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Action Plan (FLEGT) of the European Union and of parallel Asian initiatives, in cooperation with partners, in addressing illegal logging and introducing transparency in forestry operations. They noted China's initiative to establish an ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center in Hunan Province.
38. Leaders welcomed the outcome of the UN High-Level Plenary Meeting, held in New York on 22 September 2010, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity. They urged the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Nagoya on 18-29 October 2010, to reach agreement on an international regime on access to and sharing of benefits of genetic resources, achieving the third and essential objective of the Convention. Expressing concern that the target of achieving by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss had not been met, they stressed the urgency of adopting a new target to guide the action of the international community in slowing, halting and ultimately reversing the current rate of biodiversity loss.
39. Leaders emphasized that the participation of the private sector and the involvement of civil society in the design and implementation of environmental protection measures substantially contribute to changing people's attitudes and bringing about sustainable production and consumption patterns. They expressed their determination to encourage these as established features of their policies.
40. Leaders recognized the importance of promoting sustainable forms of production and consumption, among others through the promotion of a green, low-carbon economy. It is needed because of the limitations in available natural resources. It offers opportunities for it brings about new markets, new investments and creates new employment. Yet, it also raises challenges as to the fair distribution of its costs and benefits. Leaders noted the rising interest among ASEM partners for developing carbon markets and hence, supported the objective of scaling up finance and investment through the development of the international carbon market. Leaders committed to intensify ASEM cooperation in raising awareness, in exchanging information and best practices, in training experts in resource efficiency and in making

technologies and know how more widely available. In this context, Leaders noted the establishment of the Global Green Growth Institute in Seoul, Korea, in June 2010, to support green growth in developing countries.

Future Asia-Europe sustainable development cooperation

41. Leaders reaffirmed that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), guide their cooperation on sustainable development. They recognized that, despite ongoing efforts, progress towards timely implementation is hampered, partly because of the economic and financial crisis. They stressed the continued importance of narrowing the development gap between developed and developing countries and therefore the need for urgent remedial action.
42. Leaders emphasized the need for more result-oriented initiatives to strengthen the comprehensive, equal and mutually beneficial Asia-Europe strategic partnership for sustainable development, a partnership that goes beyond aid. They tasked Senior Officials with the establishment of partnership programs with clear objectives, spurring peer learning and stimulating networking among governments, administrations, scientific and academic institutions, expert bodies and private companies. They supported the use of triangular forms of cooperation that combine resources and expertise from donor and recipient countries in the interest of efficient projects. They further supported taking recourse to creative financing modalities, including the blending of grants and loans, where it is possible, appropriate and achieves greater leverage, due account being taken of debt sustainability.
43. Leaders emphasized that in view of the different socio-economic situations of ASEM partners, cooperation should be tailored to the respective needs and capabilities and should be based on the policies and strategies defined by the countries concerned and under their responsibility. In this context, Leaders also welcomed the reaffirmation of the commitments in regard of development, in particular those under the Monterey Consensus and under the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. They stressed that the adequacy, effectiveness and efficiency of development assistance must be pursued by applying the principles of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

GLOBAL ISSUES IN FOCUS

Piracy at Sea

44. In the face of persistent piracy attacks, in particular off the coast of Somalia, Leaders asserted their determination to ensure the continued freedom and security of the seas, vital to the trade between Asia and Europe. Leaders underscored that the UN should continue to play an important role in international efforts against piracy and guarantee that the sovereignty of states and international law are respected.
45. Leaders called for universal ratification of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and of other relevant conventions. They stressed the importance of implementing the UN Security Council resolutions calling on states to criminalize piracy and armed robbery at sea in their national legislation. Leaders stressed the importance of effectively prosecuting suspected pirates, and to this effect, of ensuring that evidence on pirates' attacks and on their identity be collected. In this context, they welcomed the Report of the UN Secretary General on possible options to further the aim of prosecuting and imprisoning persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia. They urged members to cooperate with the Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on Legal Issues in order to achieve agreement on the options to be pursued further. In this regard, Leaders further called for increasing the sharing of intelligence among ASEM partners with a view to tracking down and interdict the financial means which fund piracy operations.
46. Leaders discussed specifically the security of seafarers and the future of their profession. The preservation of lives, bringing persons on board of vessels to safety or ensuring their rapid release, should at all times be the overriding concern. Unilateral measures from third countries which hamper such efforts are not acceptable. Leaders stressed the added value of exchanges of best practices on anti-piracy training of crews and on ways to support the victims of piracy acts and their families. They also supported efforts to facilitate the presence of seafarers at the trial of pirates.
47. Leaders commended the work done by the shipping industry in conjunction with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in developing Best Management Practices for ship owners and ship operators. They stressed the importance for vessels travelling through danger zones to report through agreed mechanisms. They noted that where these recommendations were followed, cases of successful attacks were reduced.
48. Leaders further believed that regional initiatives such as the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), the Djibouti Code of

Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden with the IMO Djibouti Code Trust Fund, and the Malacca and Singapore Straits patrols are effective and deserve further support.

49. Leaders welcomed the strong cooperation within the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and through the CGPCS Trust Fund. They also commended the ongoing naval and air counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia as important short-term responses to deter and repress acts of piracy and as outstanding examples of Europe and Asia working together on an issue of common interest. They stressed the need to continue to provide adequate military resources. Leaders were however of the view that a long-term approach is also required and should consist of multifaceted actions, including local and regional capacity building. Major resolve must further be shown in addressing the root causes of piracy off the coast of Somalia, in particular by restoring political stability in Somalia.

Fighting terrorism and combating transnational organized crime

50. Leaders reasserted the UN's leading role in the fight against terrorism and reaffirmed their commitment to take strong measures in the fight against terrorism in line with the UN Charter, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. They underlined the need to adhere to the UN conventions and protocols dealing with terrorism and to observe obligations under international law, including international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law. They requested specific attention for the victims of acts of terrorism. They urged all UN Member states to move towards the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. Leaders decided that ASEM should continue to disseminate best practices in support of the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through annual ASEM Conferences.
51. Leaders underscored their deep concerns over the negative effects that transnational organized crime and corruption carry for trade, development, intellectual property rights, peace, security and respect for human rights. They expressed their determination to combat the threat to international peace and security coming from illicit drug trafficking. They expressed particular resolve in combating people smuggling and trafficking in persons. They acknowledged the importance of consistent regional approaches in deterring irregular migration. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. Leaders pledged to strengthen their cooperation in the implementation of these commitments as well as of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Disaster prevention and disaster relief

52. Leaders underscored the humanitarian principles of disaster relief – humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence – and considered these principles to be the foundation for humanitarian action. They also considered the challenge of financing disaster relief.
53. Leaders referred to the succession of natural disasters, including those at sea, over the last years and their tragic consequences, hampering the attainment of internationally agreed development goals in the affected developing countries. Leaders stressed the importance of disaster risk reduction through decreased exposure to risk, reduced vulnerability of humans and their property, sound environmental management, local capacity building and improved readiness in case of disasters in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and other relevant UN Resolutions. Leaders called for accelerated implementation of the measures defined therein. They also called for intensified cooperation within ASEM, in particular on risk assessment, risk reduction strategies with particular attention to gender-inclusive approaches, early warning mechanisms, management capacities, search and rescue capacities, infrastructure development associated with relief and post disaster recovery, and other response activities. They welcomed capacity building activities conducted so far and encouraged their continuation, especially in high-risk countries. They supported strengthened cooperation between the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission's Directorate-General on Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO).

Human security

54. Leaders stressed the need to continue to discuss issues relating to human security at the UN General Assembly and in appropriate fora in accordance with the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the relevant UN General Assembly Resolution.

Human Rights and Democracy

55. Leaders reaffirmed the commitments to human rights in accordance with the UN Charter and international law and their adherence to democratic governance. They expressed their satisfaction with the dialogue carried out by partners through the informal ASEM Seminars on Human Rights held annually since 1998. They underlined their commitment to increase cooperation on issues related to the promotion and protection of human rights, on the basis of universality, equality and mutual respect. They encouraged cooperation with civil society given its important role in promoting human rights and in maintaining a functioning democratic society. They expressed their wish to extend cooperation in fora such as the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly Third Committee.

56. Leaders welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), which provides the overarching framework for human rights cooperation and for the promotion and protection of human rights in the ASEAN region. They agreed to strengthen mutual cooperation in promoting and protecting human rights in line with AICHR's purpose, and tasked their Senior Officials to pursue this in the near future.

Dialogue of Cultures and Civilizations

57. Leaders stressed the importance of encouraging dialogue among cultures and civilizations and recalled the importance of interfaith and intercultural dialogues to the maintenance of international peace and security. Ongoing ASEM initiatives constitute significant contributions to the enrichment of Asian and European cultures and faiths and to the deepening of Asia-Europe relations. Leaders expressed their support to the UN Alliance of Civilizations initiative and welcomed the results of the III Forum held last May in Rio de Janeiro, including the announcement of new National Plans for Intercultural Dialogue, new Partnership Agreements and Regional Strategies by governments and international organizations and the implementation of concrete multi-stakeholders projects in the fields of education, youth, migration and media.

Reform of the UN system

58. Leaders shared the view that a comprehensive reform of the United Nations remains a priority in order for the organization to effectively address today's global challenges and ensure effective support for its members, particularly in addressing the needs of developing countries. Leaders called upon all members to work in partnership in order to achieve a more representative, more efficient and more effective UN Security Council. They called further for a revitalized General Assembly, a strengthened ECOSOC, a well-managed Secretariat and effective, streamlined specialized agencies in the interest of system-wide coherence and increased sense of ownership on the part of the world community.

Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament

59. Leaders agreed that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security and is a common concern of the ASEM community and of the world at large. They reaffirmed their commitment to the long term objective of a world free of nuclear weapons and of other weapons of mass destruction. They also recognized the importance of advancing the mutually reinforcing objectives of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

60. Leaders agreed on the importance of international cooperation and national measures in addressing nuclear proliferation concerns. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of international efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and also serves to uphold the rights of states to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Leaders urged all States Parties to the Treaty to implement the Action Plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
61. Leaders recognized the important role of the IAEA and its safeguards system in upholding the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and in defining peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and called for full cooperation on all matters within its mandate. Leaders in particular supported early adoption of the Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement.
62. Leaders recognized the importance of continuing the work under the auspices of the IAEA on the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including the possibility of assurances of fuel supply and schemes addressing the back-end of the fuel cycle.
63. Leaders welcomed the efforts launched at the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit to counter effectively the threat of nuclear terrorism including by securing all vulnerable nuclear material within the next four years. They encouraged the continuation of efforts, which will be reviewed at the next Summit scheduled in 2012 in Seoul. Leaders simultaneously called for universal ratification of the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and of the amended 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.
64. Leaders also welcomed the recent conclusion of the New START Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States as it contains provisions for substantial and verifiable reductions of strategic offensive nuclear weapons and called for its early entry into force. Leaders reaffirmed their strong support for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), warmly welcoming the renewed political momentum towards CTBT ratification within some remaining Annex 2 states.

REGIONAL ISSUES

65. Leaders agreed that regional cooperative mechanisms are a force for peace, stability, prosperity, social development and cohesion. They stressed the importance of effective regional architectures of security and cooperation in Asia and Europe based on mutual respect, on consideration for the legitimate interests of all states and on partnership among various regional organizations and fora. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty marked a major step forward in

European integration and will strengthen the European Union as a reliable and efficient partner in developing relations and cooperation with others, including partners in Asia. Leaders likewise welcomed the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter in December 2008 and the recent steps taken to accelerate ASEAN integration as milestones in the establishment of a resilient, dynamic and sustained ASEAN Community by 2015 and of deepened relations with its partners. They also welcomed the many substantial developments and initiatives purporting inclusive regional dialogue and cooperation in different parts of Asia. These developments serve both regions well.

66. Leaders recognized the centrality of ASEAN in regional cooperation in Asia. They also recognized that such regional cooperation is mutually beneficial and reinforcing. They supported the widening of its role, stressing the desirability of enhanced contacts and cooperation through the existing dialogue partnerships between ASEAN and its partners. They encouraged additional efforts to share experiences and lessons-learned.

67. Leaders welcomed the support for the cooperation processes taking place in each other's region and also, in this spirit, the European Union's confirmed commitment to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia (TAC). To this effect, they agreed, to work for early entry into force of the Third Protocol amending the TAC.

68. Leaders underlined the importance of finding an early negotiated solution to Iran's nuclear program. They expressed their determination in pursuing the objective of reaching a comprehensive negotiated solution to restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program, while respecting Iran's legitimate rights to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. They reaffirmed their commitment to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 1929. They confirmed the need for Iran to comply fully with the UN Security Council and IAEA Board of Governors requirements. They called for an early resumption of the dialogue between Iran and China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States and encouraged Iran's positive and constructive participation in this dialogue.

69. Leaders commended Afghanistan on the holding of elections notwithstanding the challenging security environment. These were the second parliamentary elections since 2001 and the first ones to be organized by the Afghans themselves. They constituted an important and visible sign of Afghan sovereignty and underlined the will of the Afghan people to shape the future of their country. In this context, Leaders reiterated the importance of continued international support for the Afghan government's efforts to achieve peace and stability for its people and to strengthen the governance of the country, including the electoral process, in the context set out at the Kabul Conference in July 2010. Leaders emphasized the importance of the objective set at

the Kabul conference in regard of transition, reconciliation and reintegration and that Afghan ownership is key to long-term stability and peace. Leaders emphasized that the international community should pursue its assistance to Afghanistan and continue to provide technical cooperation in areas such as governance and rule of law, healthcare, agriculture, education and poverty reduction. Assistance should also be continued for the suppression and control of narcotics by the implementation of a comprehensive anti-narcotics strategy, including exploring ways to eradicate poppy-fields, cutting precursor deliveries and promoting alternative sustainable livelihood development. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a base for international terrorist activity, and welcomed efforts by the Afghan Government to strengthen the capacity of the Afghan security forces to help meet this challenge.

70. Leaders were encouraged by the launch of direct talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in Washington on 2 September 2010 and by their continuation since. They commended U.S. President Barack Obama and his administration, the Quartet, the Arab partners and other international partners for their support and contribution to this process. They supported a solution negotiated on the basis of the principle of “land for peace”, consistent with the relevant UN resolutions, the Middle East Roadmap for Peace, the Arab Peace Initiative. They reiterated the ultimate goal of establishing an independent, sovereign, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State, living side by side in peace and security with Israel, both in a peaceful and stable region. Leaders regretted the Israeli decision not to extend the moratorium on settlements and called on both parties to act responsibly and choose the path of peace. They recalled that settlements are illegal under international law and inconsistent with Israel’s obligation under the Roadmap for Middle East Peace. The parties must now engage with determination to overcome the obstacles and to find a satisfactory way for the negotiations to continue and gather momentum. The parties must also keep working intensively on final status issues consistent with the Quartet’s call for a negotiated settlement within an agreed timeframe. Meanwhile, it is also very important that all relevant parties avoid provocative actions and violence which could undermine the success of the talks. Leaders welcomed the readiness of a number of partners to contribute substantially to post-conflict arrangements aimed at fostering enduring peace.

71. Leaders considered that the current situation in Gaza is unsustainable. They called for a solution that ensures the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza, and addresses Israelis’ and Palestinians’ legitimate security concerns, consistent with United Nations Security Council resolution 1860 (2009). The recent measures announced by the

Israeli government are important steps. Yet full implementation and complementary measures are needed in order to achieve a fundamental change of policy that would allow for the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza.

72. Leaders stressed the importance of promoting, in parallel, the settlement of the issues between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel, through dialogue and negotiation, to promote the Middle East Peace Process comprehensively.
73. Leaders exchanged views on recent developments in Myanmar. They took note of the announcement of national elections on 7 November 2010. They encouraged the government of Myanmar to take the necessary measures to ensure that these elections would be free, fair and inclusive, and would mark a step towards a legitimate, constitutional, civilian system of government. The timely release of those under detention would contribute to these elections to be more inclusive, participatory and transparent. They supported the continuation of the Good Offices Mission of the UN Secretary General and called upon Myanmar to engage and cooperate more closely with the UN and the international community. They stressed the need for the government of Myanmar to engage in dialogue with all parties concerned in an inclusive national reconciliation process. They also touched upon the issue of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. They stated their readiness to remain constructively engaged in achieving the aims of national reconciliation and of improving the economic and social conditions of the people of Myanmar. They reiterated their commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Myanmar and their view that the future of Myanmar lies in the hands of its people.
74. Leaders exchanged views on the situation in the Korean Peninsula and stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the region. Leaders reiterated their condolences to the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) for the loss of lives suffered in the sinking of the Republic of Korea's naval ship Cheonan. They expressed their deep concern and reaffirmed their support for the 9 July 2010 UN Security Council Presidential Statement. They stressed the importance of preventing further such attacks. Leaders acknowledged the efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). They took note of the recent steps undertaken in inter-Korean relations, including the discussion of family reunions, and encouraged the resumption of such family reunions on a regular basis. They expressed their hope that such steps will lead to genuine dialogue and cooperation between the ROK and the DPRK. Leaders urged all parties to fulfill their commitments under the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005 and under relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which provide the framework for the DPRK to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete verifiable and irreversible manner. They reaffirmed support for the

diplomatic efforts made within the Six-Party Talks aiming at achieving a comprehensive resolution of the issue. They called for joint efforts to create circumstances to resume the Six-Party Talks. They emphasized the importance of the full implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions. They also emphasized the importance of addressing the humanitarian concerns of the international community.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, VISIBILITY & FUTURE OF ASEM

75. Leaders encouraged further progress in the overarching goal of stimulating further people-to-people contacts and interaction between businesses, merchants, academics, students, opinion makers, media representatives, culture professionals, civil society representatives and local and regional leaders. The multiplication of interactions as well as the promotion of tourism raises the inter-connectivity between Europe and Asia.
76. Leaders reaffirmed that the parallel dialogues conducted within the Parliamentary partnership, the People's Forum and the Business Forum play a valuable role in reaching ASEM's objectives. A number of Leaders addressed these parallel dialogues. Leaders took note of their recommendations and resolutions. They expressed their appreciation for the work achieved and tasked Senior Officials to take it into consideration and where relevant, make suggestions for appropriate action.
77. Leaders welcomed the expansion of academic cooperation following the Second ASEM Meeting of Education Ministers in Hanoi in May 2009. They applauded the holding of Bologna Policy fora which stimulate dialogue on mobility, quality assurance, credit recognition and credit transfer, building on the success of programs such as the Erasmus Mundus and the ASEM-DUO fellowship programs. They strongly supported the establishment of the ASEM Education Secretariat in Bonn, Germany, which will coordinate ASEM educational activities. Leaders thanked Denmark for offering to host the Third ASEM Education Ministerial Meeting in 2011.
78. Leaders emphasized that joint science and technology initiatives play a central role in achieving scientific, technological and social advances in the face of common challenges, in particular the one of advancing sustainable development.
79. Leaders recognized the important role played by the Trans-Eurasian Information Network (TEIN) project in increasing direct internet connectivity among research and education in Asia and between Asia and Europe. They welcomed the planned launch of its 4th phase and the

establishment of a Cooperation Center hosted by the Republic of Korea with financial contributions from participating ASEM partners.

80. Leaders welcomed the outcome of the Fourth ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting in Poznan last September. They stressed that raising awareness about cultural heritage and about treasures of the past constituted a key step towards overcoming ignorance and prejudice and towards promoting mutual understanding and cooperation. Hence, they encouraged intensification of work in these areas, involving government and civil society at all levels. Leaders thanked Indonesia for offering to host the Fifth ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting in 2012.
81. Leaders hailed the exhibition titled "A Passage to Asia" which Belgium and the Asian ASEM partners produced as a cultural backdrop to their meeting. The exhibit illustrates how during twenty-five centuries, commercial and political networks carried back and forth human science and philosophy between Asia and Europe. It provides a rich historical background to the present day dialogue and people-to-people contacts.
82. Leaders expressed their appreciation for the important work performed by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), ASEM's only established institution, which acts as a networking node of activities for promoting mutual understanding between Asia and Europe. Leaders recognized the value of ASEF's flagship programs in furthering the priorities, and enhancing the visibility of ASEM. They called on ASEM members to ensure, through the regularity of their contributions, that the long-term financial sustainability of its programs would be assured. They invited the new ASEM members to also make their contributions and encouraged their active participation in ASEF activities.
83. Leaders noted with satisfaction the significant increase in ASEM's internal and external visibility. They commended Belgium for using ASEM's logo as a basis for the ASEM 8 logo and invited future Summit hosts to adopt the same approach. They recognized that as a member-driven gathering, ASEM crucially depends for its visibility on the initiatives, actions and communication policies of partners themselves. The Leaders therefore called on all ASEM partners to increase their efforts and promote public awareness of ASEM through visibility work plans and policies, choice channels of communication and focused cultural activities.
84. While reaffirming the continued validity of the existing cooperation framework, Leaders agreed on the desirability of improving the working methods of an enlarged ASEM. They endorsed the Senior Officials' recommendation that the host of an upcoming ASEM summit should henceforth be part of the coordination mechanism "from summit to summit". They further tasked Senior Officials to come up with relevant and practical proposals with a view to providing the kind of

light, cost-effective technical support that would enhance the efficiency, coherence, continuity and visibility of the work of ASEM. They also asked Senior Officials to seek improvements in the various existing mechanisms of cooperation among ASEM partners. In this regard, they instructed Senior Officials to submit recommendations to the ASEM Foreign Ministers for consideration at their forthcoming meeting in 2011.

CLOSING

85. Leaders approved the List of new initiatives figuring in Annex I and the ASEM Work Program for 2010 – 2012 figuring in Annex II.
86. Leaders thanked the Host Country for the successful arrangements for their Eighth Meeting and accepted with gratitude the offer of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to host the Ninth Asia-Europe Meeting and looked forward to meeting again in Vientiane in October 2012.

Annex I: List of new initiatives

Annex II: ASEM Work Program for 2010 – 2012

Annex I:

List of New Initiatives Submitted to ASEM 8

Austria

United Nations / ASEM UN-Spider Expert Meeting: The Contribution of Space-based Solutions to Sustainable Communities

Belgium

9th ASEM Conference of Directors General of Immigration

PR China

2nd Transportation Ministers' Meeting & Transport Development Forum

ASEM Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management to Address Climate Change

Establishment of an ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center

ASEM Symposium on Technical and Vocational Education

Czech Republic

11th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

Indonesia

5th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting

Republic of Korea

12th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

Trans Eurasian Information Network Cooperation Center TEIN*

Extension of the ASEM DUO Fellowship Program (Third Phase)

ASEM SMEs Eco Innovation Center (ASEIC)

Malaysia

Asia-Europe Seminar on Conservation of Timber and Lime Buildings

Philippines

ASEM Seminar on Harmonization of Biofuels Standards and Application to Vehicle Technologies

Thailand

ASEM Food Security Conference

Vietnam

ASEM Forum on Social Safety Nets for All

ASEM Green Growth Forum

Annex 2:**ASEM Work Program for 2010-2012****2010**

PROGRAM	VENUE	DATE
ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)	Madrid, Spain	25 January
Brussels Briefing "Europe-Asia: Working for More Effective Global Governance"	Brussels, Belgium	24 March
2 nd ASEM Social Partners' Forum	Brussels, Belgium	29 March
High-Level Forum on Employment & Social Issues	Brussels, Belgium	29-31 March
Seminar : Asia - Europe Learning Mutually ; Asia Europe Cooperation in the 21 st Century – Towards the Success of ASEM 8	Tokyo, Japan	30 March
6 th ASEM Interfaith Dialogue	Madrid & Toledo, Spain	07-09 April
2 nd Preparatory Meeting for the 4 th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting	Solo, Indonesia	15-17 April
Finance Deputies' Meeting	Madrid, Spain	17 April
ASEM Outlook Workshop	Brussels, Belgium	15-16 April
9 th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting	Madrid, Spain	17-18 April
Overcoming the Financial Crisis - Shaping Sustainable Development in the New Context	Nha Trang, Vietnam	26-27 April
Workshop on Coordinating Cultural Activities for the Enhancement of ASEM Visibility	Ha Long City, Vietnam	28-29 April
ASEM Seminar on Piracy at Sea	Brussels, Belgium	04-05 May
ASEM Conference on Forests, Forest Governance and Forest Products' Trade: Scenarios and Challenges for Europe and Asia	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	04-05 May
ASEM Customs Trade Day	Hanoi, Vietnam	05 May
ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)	Phnom Penh Cambodia	05-06 May
4 th Meeting of the ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC)	Hanoi, Vietnam	06-07 May
ASEM Forum 2010 on Green Growth & SMEs	Seoul, Korea	06-08 May
Seminar on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights	Prague, Czech Republic	19 May
2 nd ASEM Development Conference	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	26-27 May
8 th ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism	Brussels, Belgium	10-11 June
Employment High-Level Forum	ILO - Geneva	14 June
Brussels Briefing on Sustainable Development	Brussels, Belgium	16 June
Preparatory Event on Sustainable Development	Brussels, Belgium	23-24 June
Preparatory Event on Piracy at Sea	Brussels, Belgium	24-25 June
ASEM Forum on Sustainable Food Security	Ho Chi Minh City,	05-07 July

	Vietnam	
10 th Informal Seminar on Human Rights “Gender Equality”	Manila, Philippines	07-09 July
Public Conference on EU Asia Inter-Regional Relations	Brussels, Belgium	12-13 July
ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM)	Brussels, Belgium	13-15 July
ASEM Coordinators’ Meeting	Seoul, Korea	06-07 September
1 st ASEM Climate Change Forum	Ha Long City, Vietnam	06-07 September
4 th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting	Poznan, Poland	09-10 September
Brussels Briefing “Curtain Raiser on ASEM 8”	Brussels, Belgium	16-17 September
Asia - Europe Parliamentary Meeting (ASEP)	Brussels, Belgium	26-28 September
Workshop Social Protection Floor & Informal Economy	Nice, France	27-28 September
Expert-Level Conference on Eurasian Land Bridge	Islamabad, Pakistan	2010 / 2011
ASEM People’s Forum - Trade Unions’ Day	Brussels, Belgium	01 October
Asia - Europe People’s Forum (AEPF)	Brussels, Belgium	02-05 October
ASEM Coordinators’ Meeting	Brussels, Belgium	02 October
ASEF Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe	Brussels, Belgium	02-03 October
ASEF Editors’ Roundtable	Brussels, Belgium	03 October
ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM)	Brussels, Belgium	03 October
Asia - Europe Business Forum (AEBF)	Brussels, Belgium	04 October
ASEM 8 SUMMIT	Brussels, Belgium	04-05 October
Professionalization of Adult Teachers & Educators in ASEM Countries	Hanoi, Vietnam	11-12 October
2 nd ASEM Rectors’ Conference	Seoul, Korea	25-28 October
1 st ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors	Jakarta, Indonesia	27-29 October
9 th ASEM Conference of Directors-General of Immigration on Management of Migratory Flows between Asia and Europe	Terhulpen, Belgium	21-23 November
2 nd ASEM ICT Senior Officials’ Meeting	Brussels, Belgium	November – December
3 rd ASEM Labor Ministers’ Meeting	Leiden, The Netherlands	12-14 December
ASEM Conference on Quality Assurance in Education “Quality Assurance and Recognition: Challenges and Prospects”	Cyprus	December
Conference on Investment and its Financing	India	December
1 st Preparatory Meeting for the 2 nd Transport Ministers’ Meeting	PR China	End 2010

2011

PROGRAM	VENUE	DATE
ASEM Technical and Vocational Education Symposium	Qingdao, PR China	11-12 January
ASEM Education Senior Officials' Meeting	Copenhagen, Denmark	24-25 January
ASEM Food Security Conference	Bangkok, Thailand	February
ASEM Seminar on Conservation of Timber and Lime Buildings	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	05-08 March
3 rd ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting	Denmark	09-10 May
United Nations / ASEM UN-Spider Expert Meeting : The Contribution of Space-based Solutions to Sustainable Communities - Austria	Singapore	May
ASEM Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management to Address Climate Change	Lin'an, PR China	15-17 June
1 st Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting for the 5 th Culture Ministers' Meeting	Indonesia	Mid 2011
2 nd Transport Ministers' Meeting and Transport Development Forum	PR China	October
10 th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting	Hungary	Spring 2011
11 th Informal Seminar on Human Rights	Prague, Czech Republic	Autumn 2011
9 th ASEM Customs Directors-General/Commissioners' Meeting	Thailand	Autumn 2011
ASEM Seminar on the Harmonization of Biofuels Standards and Application to Vehicle Technologies	Manila, Philippines	3 rd Quarter 2011
Seminar on Quality Enhancement in Higher Education	Brussels, Belgium	2011
ASEM Water Resources Research Centre	PR China	2011
ASEM SMEs Eco Innovation Centre	Korea	2011
TEIN* Cooperation Centre	Korea	2011
ASEM Forum on Social Safety Nets for All	Vietnam	2011
ASEM Green Growth Forum	Vietnam	2011

2012

PROGRAM	VENUE	DATE
Asia - Europe Parliamentary Meeting (ASEP)	Laos	October
Asia - Europe People's Forum (AEPF)	Laos	October
Asia - Europe Business Forum (AEBF)	Laos	October
ASEM 9 SUMMIT	Laos	October
5 th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting	Indonesia	2012
12 th Informal Seminar Human Rights	Korea	2012