



HANDBOOK ON SELECTED
A S E A N
POLITICAL
DOCUMENTS

NEW EDITION

UPDATED

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A S E A N
POLITICAL
DOCUMENTS

ASEAN SECRETARIAT, 2003



The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The members of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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CONTENTS

I.	The ASEAN Declaration, 1967	1
II.	Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality Declaration, 1971	7
III.	Declaration of ASEAN Concord, 1976	11
IV.	Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, 1976	21
V.	Protocol Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, 1987	31
VI.	ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea, 1992	35
VII.	The ASEAN Regional Forum : A Concept Paper, 1995	39
VIII.	Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, 1995	49
IX.	ASEAN Vision 2020, 1997	71
X.	Second Protocol Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, 1998	79
XI.	Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, 1999	85
XII.	The ASEAN Troika : A Concept Paper, 2000	91
XIII.	Rules of Procedure of the High Council of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, 2001	95
XIV.	Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, 2002	103
XV.	Declaration of ASEAN Concord II, 2003	109



THE ASEAN DECLARATION

(Bangkok Declaration)

Bangkok, 8 August 1967

The Presidium Minister for Political Affairs/Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand:

MINDFUL of the existence of mutual interests and common problems among countries of Southeast Asia and convinced of the need to strengthen further the existing bonds of regional solidarity and cooperation;

DESIRING to establish a firm foundation for common action to promote regional cooperation in Southeast Asia in the spirit of equality and partnership and thereby contribute towards peace, progress and prosperity in the region;

CONSCIOUS that in an increasingly interdependent world, the cherished ideals of peace, freedom, social justice and economic well-being are best attained by fostering good understanding, good neighbourliness and meaningful cooperation among the countries of the region already

bound together by ties of history and culture;

CONSIDERING that the countries of Southeast Asia share a primary responsibility for strengthening the economic and social stability of the region and ensuring their peaceful and progressive national development, and that they are determined to ensure their stability and security from external interference in any form or manifestation in order to preserve their national identities in accordance with the ideals and aspirations of their peoples;

AFFIRMING that all foreign bases are temporary and remain only with the expressed concurrence of the countries concerned and are not intended to be used directly or indirectly to subvert the national independence and freedom of States in the area or prejudice the orderly processes of their national development;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

FIRST, the establishment of an Association for Regional Cooperation among the countries of Southeast Asia to be known as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

SECOND, that the aims and purposes of the Association shall be:

1. To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for

a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian nations;

2. To promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter;

3. To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields;

4. To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres;

5. To collaborate more effectively for the greater utilization of their agriculture and industries, the expansion of their trade, including the study of the problems of international commodity trade, the improvement of their transportation and communications facilities and the raising of the living standards of their peoples;

6. To promote Southeast Asian studies;

7. To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves.

THIRD, that to carry out these aims and purposes, the following machinery shall be established:

a) Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers, which shall be by rotation and referred to as ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. Special Meetings of Foreign Ministers may be convened as required.

b) A Standing Committee, under the chairmanship of the Foreign Minister of the host country or his representative and having as its members the accredited Ambassadors of the other Member Countries, to carry on the work of the Association in between Meetings of Foreign Ministers.

c) Ad-Hoc Committees and Permanent Committees of specialists and officials on specific subjects.

d) A National Secretariat in each Member Country to carry out the work of the Association on behalf of that country and to service the Annual or Special Meetings of Foreign Ministers, the Standing Committee and such other committees as may hereafter be established.

FOURTH, that the Association is open for participation to all States in the Southeast Asian region subscribing to the aforementioned aims, principles and purposes.

FIFTH, that the Association represents the collective will of the nations of Southeast Asia to bind themselves together in friendship and cooperation and, through joint efforts and sacrifices, secure for their peoples and for

posterity the blessings of peace, freedom and prosperity.

DONE, in Bangkok on the Eighth Day of August in the
Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

For the Republic of Indonesia :



ADAM MALIK

Presidium Minister for Political Affairs /
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For Malaysia :



TUN ABDUL RAZAK

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence
and Minister of National Development

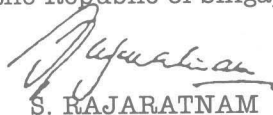
For the Republic of the Philippines :



NARCISO RAMOS

Secretary of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of Singapore :



S. RAJARATNAM

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Kingdom of Thailand :

T. Khoman

THANAT KHOMAN

Minister of Foreign Affairs



ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY DECLARATION

(Kuala Lumpur Declaration)

27 November 1971

We, the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and the Special Envoy of the National Executive Council of Thailand:

FIRMLY believing the merits of regional cooperation which has drawn our countries to cooperate together in the economic, social and cultural fields in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

DESIROUS of bringing about a relaxation of international tension and of achieving a lasting peace in Southeast Asia;

INSPIRED by the worthy aims and objectives of the United Nations, in particular by the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, abstention from threat or use of force, peaceful settlement of international disputes, equal rights and self-determination and non-interference in affairs of States;

BELIEVING in the continuing validity of the “Declaration on the Promotion of World Peace and Cooperation” of the Bandung Conference of 1955 which, among others, enunciates the principles by which States may coexist peacefully;

RECOGNISING the right of every state, large or small, to lead its national existence free from outside interference in its internal affairs as this interference will adversely affect its freedom, independence and integrity;

DEDICATED to the maintenance of peace, freedom and independence unimpaired;

BELIEVING in the need to meet present challenges and new developments by cooperating with all peace and freedom loving nations, both within and outside the region, in the furtherance of world peace, stability and harmony;

COGNIZANT of the significant trend towards establishing nuclear-free zones, as in the “Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America” and the Lusaka Declaration proclaiming Africa as a nuclear-free zone, for the purpose of promoting world peace and security by reducing the areas of international conflicts and tension;

REITERATING our commitment to the principle in the *Bangkok Declaration* which established ASEAN in 1967, “that the countries of Southeast Asia share a primary responsibility for strengthening the economic and social stability of the region and ensuring their peaceful and progressive national development, and that they are determined to ensure their stability and security from

external interference in any form or manifestation in order to preserve their national identities in accordance with the ideals and aspirations of their peoples”;

AGREEING that the neutralization of Southeast Asia is a desirable objective and that we should explore ways and means of bringing about its realization; and

CONVINCED that the time is propitious for joint action to give effective expression to the deeply felt desire of the peoples of Southeast Asia to ensure the conditions of peace and stability indispensable to their independence and their economic and social well-being;

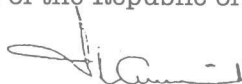
DO HEREBY STATE :

1. That Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand are determined to exert initially necessary efforts to secure the recognition of, and respect for, Southeast Asia as a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, free from any form or manner of interference by outside Powers;

2. That Southeast Asian countries should make concerted efforts to broaden the areas of cooperation which would contribute to their strength, solidarity and closer relationship.

DONE in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, the 27th of November 1971.

On behalf of the Republic of Indonesia :



ADAM MALIK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

On behalf of Malaysia :



TUN ABDUL RAZAK BIN HUSSEIN

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

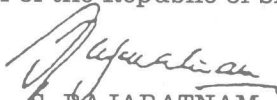
On behalf of the Republic of the Philippines :



CARLOS P. ROMULO

Secretary of Foreign Affairs

On behalf of the Republic of Singapore :



S. RAJARATNAM

Minister for Foreign Affairs

On behalf of the Kingdom of Thailand :



THANAT KHOMAN

Special Envoy of the National Executive Council



DECLARATION OF ASEAN CONCORD

Bali, 24 February 1976

The President of the Republic of Indonesia, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand :

REAFFIRM their commitment to the Declarations of Bandung, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, and the Charter of the United Nations;

ENDEAVOUR to promote peace, progress, prosperity and the welfare of the peoples of member states;

UNDERTAKE to consolidate the achievements of ASEAN and expand ASEAN cooperation in the economic, social, cultural and political fields;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

ASEAN cooperation shall take into account, among others, the following objectives and principles in the pursuit of political stability:

1. The stability of each member state and of the

ASEAN region is an essential contribution to international peace and security. Each member state resolves to eliminate threats posed by subversion to its stability, thus strengthening national and ASEAN resilience.

2. Member states, individually and collectively, shall take active steps for the early establishment of the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality.

3. The elimination of poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy is a primary concern of member states. They shall therefore intensify cooperation in economic and social development, with particular emphasis on the promotion of social justice and on the improvement of the living standards of their peoples.

4. Natural disasters and other major calamities can retard the pace of development of member states. They shall extend, within their capabilities, assistance for relief of member states in distress.

5. Member states shall take cooperative action in their national and regional development programmes, utilizing as far as possible the resources available in the ASEAN region to broaden the complementarity of their respective economies.

6. Member states, in the spirit of ASEAN solidarity, shall rely exclusively on peaceful processes in the settlement of intra-regional differences.

7. Member states shall strive, individually and

collectively, to create conditions conducive to the promotion of peaceful cooperation among the nations of Southeast Asia on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit.

8. Member states shall vigorously develop an awareness of regional identity and exert all efforts to create a strong ASEAN community, respected by all and respecting all nations on the basis of mutually advantageous relationships, and in accordance with the principles of self-determination, sovereign equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of nations.

AND DO HEREBY ADOPT

The following programme of action as a framework for ASEAN cooperation.

A. Political

1. Meeting of the Heads of Government of the member states as and when necessary.

2. Signing of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

3. Settlement of intra-regional disputes by peaceful means as soon as possible.

4. Immediate consideration of initial steps towards recognition of and respect for the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality wherever possible.