



2012 Model ASEM Summit (2-7 July 2012, Singapore)

Chairman's Statement

The Second Model Asia-Europe Meeting Summit was held in Singapore on 2-7 July, 2012. The Meeting was attended by students and young people from across Europe and Asia, who assumed the roles of Heads of State and Government ASEM member states. The Meeting was co-organized by the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN) and the National University of Singapore Sociological Society (NUSSS).

The Meeting was guided by the overarching theme of "Friends for peace, partners for prosperity". Discussions were divided into three pillars, namely political, economic, and socio-cultural. The Meeting was chaired by the delegations of the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission.

Foreign Direct Investment Streams

1. Leaders welcome greater integration of business associations between Asia and Europe, and encourage the establishment of more detailed agendas within the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF).

2. Leaders recommend the adoption of a multilateral investment agreement to provide a non-discriminatory playing field for investors and receiving countries, with the technical details about legal enforcement mechanisms to be discussed at the 10th ASEM Summit in 2014; and to expand to non-WTO signatory members the coverage of the multilateral agreements on standardized custom procedures and on the mechanisms tackling tariff and non-tariff barriers. Furthermore, leaders invite each country to conduct an internal evaluation of the sectors that are to be exempted from the principle of free trade and investment, and adjourn to the 10th ASEM Summit for the determination of those specific sectors.

3. Leaders also propose the establishment of an ASEM Economic Research Centre to track transparency, identify strategic development fields for collective action, and appoint a multilingual resource and policy committee to advise investors on tariff and non-tariff barriers. For this reason, they encourage ASEM members to allocate part of their budget to a common fund to finance the activities of the ASEM research centre.

Intellectual Property Rights

4. Leaders held extensive discussions on issues of the importance of intellectual property on international trade, stressing that ASEM partners share a common interest in strengthening the efforts to protect intellectual property, thus effectively promoting incentives for creativity and innovation.

5. Acknowledging the importance of intellectual property protection to inventions, leaders emphasised that universal respect and recognition among ASEM members to patents and trademarks must be ensured.

6. Following the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), leaders highlighted that joint efforts should be made by all members to contribute to the stability and welfare of the regions.

Strategies for Sustainable Development

7. Leaders believe that trade and foreign investment are essential to sustainable economic growth and development, only if they are incorporated with a socially responsible approach.

8. Leaders urge governments to facilitate information flow, provide consultations, and other forms of support to businesses and enterprises that invest in important areas, such as education, labour, environmental development, renewable energy, particularly in developing countries.

9. Leaders emphasise the need for ASEM to recognise and promote efforts in synergising economic growth, environmental concerns, including but not limited to climate change.

10. Leaders agree to support the strengthening of the IMF in matters of supervising the international financial markets and a reform of the IMF.

11. Leaders want to raise concern over the current practices in the financial sector and emphasise that the primary responsibility of the financial sector is to support the real economy. Leaders are furthermore concerned about the influential role of private rating agencies. The aforementioned topics are advised to be discussed in the IMF.

Addressing the European Debt Crisis

12. Leaders recognise the impact of the European Debt crisis on global financial stability and the urgency of solving the Eurozone crisis. They reaffirm their commitment to multilateralism and stress the importance of multilateral institutions, especially the International Monetary Fund, in assisting countries affected by the crisis.

13. Leaders acknowledge previous efforts made by ASEM members to address the crisis, including the European Financial Stability Facility and European Stability Mechanism. Leaders highlight the importance of all European countries showing commitment to solve the European debt crisis, and also recognize the role played by non-EU ASEM members in addressing the crisis.

14. Leaders stress the importance of further liberalization of inter-regional trade in addressing the Eurozone crisis and express concern about the current status of the World Trade Organisation Doha Round of negotiations especially in Non-agricultural Market Access Negotiation (NAMA). They also emphasise the role of foreign direct investment from non-EU ASEM members in helping Europe overcome the crisis.

Migration flows in and within ASEM countries

15. Leaders encourage the freedom of movement of youth and professionals between ASEM countries. The ASEM leaders call upon a working group to establish matters such as eligibility criteria and immigration policy publication and transparency.

16. Leaders call for the establishment of language training for those languages that are required for the visa application provided by the receiving and sending countries.

17. Leaders call for a functioning border control system and the elimination of corruption among border officials. Improved border control can be achieved by ASEM member states' technical, financial and human resources assistance to other ASEM countries.

18. Leaders particularly recall the 8th ASEM Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration and Management of Migratory Flows, held in Goa, India, in December 2009. We specifically adhere to the discussions on the criminalisation of human trafficking. Migration crimes are a violation of human rights and require a prompt and appropriate response from the humanitarian and legal perspectives.

19. Leaders consider victims to be entitled to protective custody and respond carefully. Leaders suggest establishing penal regulations and

tightening control. Each ASEM member state should have an action plan against crimes related to migration.

20. To reduce the cases of xenophobia and discrimination related to the victims, social awareness of xenophobia and discrimination issues should be promoted in the receiving countries' societies as well as an improved implementation of existing human rights laws, especially regarding the protection of women and children.

21. In order to nurture income-generating skills, governments and NGOs should cooperate closely to offer shelters and training courses by volunteers selected from NGOs and governments (e.g. International Organisations for Migration).

Addressing the protection of refugees

22. Refugees who have acquired income-generating skills should have the opportunity to work informal duties at assigned NGOs.

23. Leaders call for the promotion of effective mechanism for refugees, after the expiration of their time of stay in asylum determined by the host country, to be resettled in another ASEM country, preferably in the country of origin, under the condition that the conflict has come to an end or if there has been a democratic change.

24. In the case of political conflict, after the cessation of conflict as declared by the countries (or country) where the conflicts have taken place provided that these countries involved have gone through a process of democratic changes, refugees who had fled due to political persecution or conflict should return to their home country.

25. Leaders propose a minimum annual effort of its member state to welcome refugees according to their own demographic, territorial and economic situation. ASEM members are strongly encouraged to welcome at least the same number of refugees as they have accepted in the previous fiscal year. Any additional number of refugees shall be increased at the discretion of the individual state.

26. A trust fund will be set up to assist ASEM members that are dealing with a high influx of refugees but are lacking the financial means to accommodate for this number of refugees. All parties are welcome to contribute to the trust fund. The European Union program for Financial and Technical Assistance to Third Countries in the Area of Migration and Asylum (AENEAS), the ASEAN+6 Protection for Refugees fund established, maintained, and managed by the Republic of Singapore with the supervision of ASEM, as well as other relevant parties are highly recommended to contribute to this trust fund.

Migration flows and social cohesion

27. Leaders propose the development of a multi-pronged approach to integrate all legal migrants into their societies.

28. Leaders acknowledge the role of the European Convention on Human Rights as a reference to be discussed within the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. Leaders will promote multilateral efforts in safeguarding human rights in ASEM countries.

29. Leaders support the idea of creating an ASEM network of advice centres providing information on visa application procedures for students and interns from ASEM countries.

Civil societies and inter-communal dialogues

30. Leaders value people-to-people intercultural and interfaith dialogues and the role of ASEM in this process. Leaders reaffirm the continued support for the work of ASEF, and highlight the role of civil society in the promotion of multiculturalism.

31. Leaders emphasise the need for civil society participation by the formation of an ASEF Youth Association which will liaise with both public and private universities to organise sporting and recreational events as platforms to foster mutual understanding between youths from ASEM countries. Annual reports will be submitted to ASEF to further improve the quality of subsequent events. Leaders share the view that cultural exhibitions (e.g. arts, photography, music, craftwork, food and film festivals) remain an effective channel to promote cultural diversity. These events will further enhance the visibility of ASEF.

The relevance of education in inclusive growth

32. Leaders reaffirm that education is important for the promotion of multiculturalism. Thus, leaders encourage the creation of more scholarship and internship programmes between ASEM countries, as well as cultural and academic exchanges in accordance with each country's capacity in order to spread better understanding of multiculturalism amongst younger generations.

33. Leaders encourage internships for the development and education of people in developing regions in order to promote inclusive growth.

34. Leaders encourage collective action to ensure the accessibility to basic education in all ASEM member states. In the long term, leaders should also ensure the accessibility of higher education.

35. Leaders encourage the usage of formal and informal education for the protection of different ethnic groups as well as for the promotion of multiculturalism.

The way forward for the ASEM Process

36. Leaders invite observer countries, NGOs and related international organisations to take part in the ASEM process in order to share their experiences and practical solutions.

37. Leaders recommend ASEM countries to pay special attention to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

38. Leaders see the need for strategies to raise public awareness of the ASEM process. They therefore recommend the implementation of sporting, cultural and youth related events as a good starting point for bringing public attention to the ASEM process.

39. ASEM states should submit a report prior to each ASEM Summit containing the progress, failure or success of the previous ASEM Summit's declaration in their own country. The report shall be used as the foundation for more fruitful discussions.

40. Leaders suggest to explore the creation of an ASEM Financial Stability Dialogue composed of the Ministers of Finance, Central Bank governors and financial market regulators. The objectives of this dialogue could be to enhance information sharing, increase coordination and cooperation on early warning system analysis. It could also aim to facilitate a more open discussion of monetary policy interventions.

41. Leaders encourage the establishment of a rotating presidency. Three countries shall form the presidency and the presidency shall last two years. The presidency is inter alia responsible for drafting the programme of the ASEM Summits. The composition of the countries forming a presidency shall be discussed in a working group.

42. Drawing on the experience of European integration, leaders encourage further regional integration in Asia which would greatly enhance inter-regional cooperation between Europe and Asia.

43. ASEM should put forth concrete and practical actions instead of simply being a forum for the exchange of views. This should be done by actively contributing to the international community.

44. While leaders believe in the powers of informality in the ASEM process, they propose that the priority and agenda of ASEM be more concretely linked with already existing processes, programmes and agreements among nations which were discussed in other multilateral organisations such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation. With this approach, the outcomes of the ASEM process and the concrete actions that may come with it will be more feasible, practical and impactful.

45. Leaders encourage enhancing the role of researchers in cooperation with governments to explore potential markets.

46. Leaders warmly welcome the three acceding countries Norway, Switzerland and Bangladesh. We believe that the enlargement of the ASEM group will give positive new inputs to the ASEM process. We are looking forward to the formal celebration of the admission of the new partners at the next summit.

*Singapore
7 July 2012*