

## Chair's Statement<sup>1</sup>

### *"Asia & Europe - Together for Effective Multilateralism"*

1. The 9<sup>th</sup> Model ASEM was held on 11-16 December 2019, in conjunction with the 14<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEMFMM14) in Madrid, Spain. Under the theme *"Asia & Europe - Together for Effective Multilateralism"* more than 150 student delegates from all 53 ASEM Partners attended the meeting. Model ASEM is a political simulation of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) where youth participants are invited to role-play their respective ASEM Partners' positions and negotiate a consensus-based Chair's Statement. At the 9<sup>th</sup> Model ASEM, participants simulated the role of ASEM Partners' Foreign Ministers at the ASEMFMM14.
2. Model ASEM Leaders acknowledged that the agenda of the recent 74<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, which was held on September 2019 in New York, United States of America, was highly relevant to ASEM Partners. The agenda includes the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, maintenance of international peace and security and combating international terrorism of all forms. Model ASEM Leaders noted with satisfaction that the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEMFMM13) Chair's Statement committed to "Strengthening Partnership for Peace and Sustainable Development".
3. United in the belief in the strengths of cultural diversity and transcontinental prospects for peace and stability, the Model ASEM Leaders raised 12 areas of major concern on Asia-Europe relations and cooperation in accordance with this year's theme *"Asia & Europe - Together for Effective Multilateralism"*. These were organised across 6 thematic areas, in order to comprehensively promote the coordination of sustainable development policies across Asia and Europe.

#### **ASEM's Role in Tackling Climate Change & Global Warming<sup>2</sup>**

4. Model ASEM Leaders greatly encourage shared responsibility and capacity building. This includes the promotion of research and investment on climate solutions, such as eco-technology and renewable energy through source reduction, sustainability, innovation, and viability. The Leaders encourage knowledge sharing of leading innovative solutions and mitigation to climate change between countries and industries, promoting and implementing their best practices. The Leaders further endorse the exploration of disaster mitigation strategies to ensure human safety and ecological wellbeing. Following this, Model ASEM Leaders are committed to finding methods and tools which will adapt key industries, such as but not limited to, agriculture to the changing climate, while also reducing harmful environmental impacts industries contribute. New solutions

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<sup>1</sup> As Model ASEM is a simulation-based project, the points listed in this Chair's Statement do not necessarily correspond with the positions of the organisers or the youth participants.

<sup>2</sup> The text in black were finalised during the final plenary of the 9<sup>th</sup> Model ASEM based on consensus. The text in blue from paragraph 12 onwards were based on the draft written by the respective Model ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting, see pp 3.

should also respect the ecosystem of the local context and minimize the negative disruption on the livelihood of the local community.

5. The Model ASEM Leaders recognise that all ASEM Partners should make commitments to climate action. The Leaders acknowledge that lower income countries lack the capacity, funding, technology to tackle climate change. Accordingly, the leaders encourage international cooperation between states and non-state stakeholders, particularly in the development of the fields of education, science, and technology. This includes the provision of transparent and monitored economic support for most climate vulnerable countries if needed to achieve climate goals. Model ASEM Leaders stress the need of raising awareness on climate change and engaging as many citizens by recognizing youth as an important mobilised demographic on climate action in society. Model ASEM Leaders are to provide youth with the instruments to act on climate change and actively include youth in the policy process.

### **Multilateral Cooperation in ASEM on Agenda 2030 & the SDGs**

6. Model ASEM Leaders reiterated their commitment towards the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Partners stressed the significance of multilateral approaches to create and nurture free trade, skills-training, awareness-building, transparent, efficient, predictable and sustainable development investments with special attention to underserved geographical areas, and accountability of institutions to reduce inequality by also empowering marginalised and under-represented minority groups.
7. Model ASEM Leaders stressed the importance of placing individual suffering, marginalisation, misrepresentation, and exploitation as the highest priority for implementing SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). In the spirit of effective multilateralism, Model ASEM Leaders agreed to facilitate closer cooperation through promoting and monitoring democratic norms, human rights as well as cross-border cooperation. While corruption, irregular migration, and human trafficking were identified as key areas, leaders also encourage support for open Government partnership.
8. Model ASEM Leaders emphasised multi stakeholder alliances and partnerships between citizens, civil society, private, and public sectors as central elements for sustainable development. Encouraging sensitivity towards the specific resources, and capabilities of each country, Model ASEM Leaders encouraged capacity- and skills-training as well as science and technological cooperation. Model ASEM Leaders called for improving the mechanisms for implementation evaluation.

### **Cyber & Maritime Security Issues Affecting the ASEM Region**

9. Model ASEM Leaders reaffirmed the importance of a multilateral definition of cybercrime in line with the Convention on Cybercrime issued by the Council of Europe. Considering rising disinformation in cyberspace as well as cyber-attacks on the electoral infrastructure, Model ASEM Leaders pointed to the need of common cyber norms and security standards when combating

cybercrime. Model ASEM Leaders stressed the need to introduce proportionate economic and diplomatic responses as well as preventive measures against hostile activities.

10. Model ASEM Leaders called for capacity-building concerning contemporary challenges to cybersecurity through coordinated collaboration between the state, private sector, and civil society. Model ASEM Leaders called for fostering digital literacy in education in the respective partner country.
11. Model ASEM Leaders identified conventional and non-conventional maritime disputes, the nuclearisation on the sea, as well as impediments to safe and sustainable trade as key constraints to maritime security. Leaders urged for diplomatic dialogue and respect for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the multilateral rules-based order, maritime borders as well as the right of navigation. Leaders emphasised the importance of close collaboration between public, private sector, and international actors to improve awareness as well as information-sharing.

### **Prevention of Violent Extremism in ASEM Partner Countries<sup>3</sup>**

12. The Model ASEM Leaders agreed to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with international organisations, research institutes, and other public and private actors which specialise in peacebuilding in order to tackle the root causes of violent extremism. Leaders called for collective measures allowing for ASEM Partners to prevent elements of violent extremism in their respective communities in order to avoid discrimination. They highlighted the need for collaborative pre-emptive measures that will be primarily undertaken to alert ASEM Partners of threats through early warning exercises. The Leaders agreed to implement policies to tackle terrorist financing as well as its link to illicit trafficking and organised criminal activities through collaboration with international organisations.
13. The Model ASEM Leaders called for the development of the ASEM Regional Inclusive Agenda 2030 on Peace and Security under the title, “Living Together Safely: Building Resilience to Violent Extremism”. Under this agenda an action plan would be developed focusing on youth, women, ethnic and religious minorities. The Leaders stressed upon a five-pillar approach to be implemented, including: (i) education policies to strengthen social cohesion and resilience, (ii) nurturing and promoting the expression of cultural diversity, (iii) prevention of cyber extremism through media and information literacy initiatives, (iv) sharing of resources and technical expertise amongst ASEM Partners to effectively combat inequalities in access to resources, (v) and socio-economic and legal policies to promote restorative justice and the provision of similar reintegration initiatives for those groups susceptible to radicalisation.

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<sup>3</sup> The following paragraphs, marked in blue, were not discussed during the Final Plenary due to time constraint and, hence, have not found a consensus by all participants. These paragraphs were drafted based on participants' discussions during the Model ASEM Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM).

## **People-to-People Connectivity in ASEM**

14. Model ASEM Leaders recognise the pivotal role that education has in People-to-People connectivity. (i) Model ASEM Leaders acknowledge an imbalance in participation in exchange programmes through the tertiary education system across the continents and recommend ASEM Partners to prioritise finding solutions to narrow down the cultural gaps and commit that exchange programme secretariats should monitor results of already existing programmes; (ii) Model ASEM Leaders value cultural exchange as an essential route towards cross-cultural communication and commend the work of ASEF as one of the main actors in bridging a common cultural understanding between Asia and Europe; (iii) Using digitalisation, Model ASEM Leaders call upon ASEM Partners to work multilaterally in building a more accessible and inclusive education system without limits in gender, social background, linguistic bias and ethnicity; (iv) Model ASEM Leaders stressed the importance of vocational education and training mobility programmes and highlighted the importance of businesses and industries to involve themselves in tertiary education.
15. Model ASEM Leaders expressed concern in the unsustainability of tourism and current trading system. (i) Ministries reinforce the concept of sustainable tourism, promoting more inclusiveness by expanding rural tourism of both continents. Model ASEM Leaders encourage ASEM Partners to build partnerships in order to create an inter-ASEM tourism information and resource network. (ii) Model ASEM Leaders recommend a fair and equal trading system across the continents, enhancing the investment in local industries and local resources. In the purview of international trade and to enhance the economic flourishing of both continents in a sustainable manner, Model ASEM Leaders aim to reduce transnational transaction costs whilst improving connected economic relationship between ASEM Partners.

## **Infrastructure & Technology Partnerships for Sustainability**

16. Recalling the outcomes of the Global Infrastructure Forum 2018, Model ASEM Leaders consider possible means of infrastructure financing, through including but not limited to public-private partnerships, multilateral institutions and innovative partner financing, whilst considering the appropriate use of private sector investments, and underscoring the importance to prioritize sustainability in agricultural, urban, rural and mass production schemes through automation, lean manufacturing, smart devices utilizing Internet of Things and blockchain technology, maritime connectivity and green infrastructure that could accommodate twinning of protected areas.
17. Recognizing the disruptive nature of Industry 4.0 and reiterating the outcome of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC6) in 2018, Model ASEM Leaders called for patent protection on an international level in order to facilitate competitiveness of cutting edge technologies, and acknowledged the need to enhance access to new technological advancements and innovations derived from technical know-how development through promotion of higher education as a key element in order to vitalize the human capital.

## Concluding Remarks

18. The Model ASEM Leaders express their sincere gratitude to all Model ASEM Partners, and in particular both the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) for organising this educational project and the host country Spain for its strong political and financial support, as well as the remarkable hospitality extended to all participants throughout their time in Madrid. The Model ASEM Leaders recommend Ministers from ASEM Partners to consider proposals put forward in the Statement and support the continuation of this Forum as the official ASEM Youth side event of the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meetings and encouraged ASEM Partners to support potential spin-off activities in their own countries.