

Co-Chairs' Statement on the 1st ASEAN-China Cyber Dialogue

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The Inaugural ASEAN-China Cyber Dialogue was held via video conference on 7th December 2020, co-chaired by the Philippines and China. During the Dialogue, we exchanged in-depth views and insights on issues including a general situation in cyberspace, domestic policies and mechanism building, global governance and development of rules in cyberspace, and cooperation on capacity building within the region.

Recalling the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030, we reaffirmed that enhanced communications and cooperation on cybersecurity policy and digital connectivity would help advance the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership.

Recalling also the Chairman's Statement of the 23rd ASEAN-China Summit, we underscored the importance of multilateralism. We stressed that it is in the interest of all States to promote the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) for peaceful purposes, with the objective of shaping a community of a safe and secured future for humankind in cyberspace.

We underlined that the United Nations (UN) should play a leading role in developing common understandings on the security and use of ICTs, as well as on the application of international law, norms, rules and principles for responsible State behavior in this sphere, and stressed the truly democratic, inclusive and transparent nature of the discussion within the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Developments in the Field of ICTs in the Context of International Security. We supported the attainment of substantial outcomes in both the OEWG and the UN Group of Governmental Experts (UNGGE). We reaffirmed the conclusions of the UNGGE, in its 2013 and 2015 reports, that international law, and in particular the Charter of the UN, is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability and promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment, that voluntary and non-binding norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior of States in the use of ICTs can reduce risks to international peace, security and stability, and that, given the unique attributes of ICTs, additional norms could be developed over time.

Recalling the Initiative on Building ASEAN-China Partnership on Digital Economy, we underscored the significance of digital economy to regional growth and development, and reaffirmed commitment to fostering an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment. We recognized that data security bears on national security, public interests

and individual rights of States, and encouraged States to work together to strengthen the data security ecosystem. ASEAN noted with appreciation China's efforts in this regard, including its Global Initiative on Data Security.

We noted with satisfaction the progress of practical cooperation in ICT including digital economy and cybersecurity under the frameworks of ASEAN-China cooperation and East Asia cooperation, inter alia, ASEAN Plus-China Digital Ministers Meeting, ASEAN Plus-China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group on Cyber Security. We agreed to further enhance practical cooperation on emergency response to cybersecurity incidents and to jointly facilitate cybersecurity capacity building. We acknowledged that in 2020, which is the ASEAN-China Year of Digital Economy Cooperation, cyber cooperation has played a more important role in spearheading all-round cooperation on innovation between ASEAN and China.

We agreed to hold the 2nd Cyber Dialogue in the year 2022.

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