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In view of the discussion at the Permanent Representatives Committee on 7 July 2016, delegations will find at annex a note issued under the responsibility of the Cabinet of the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the European External Action Service and Commission services.

ANNEX 1

**Preparations of the 11th ASEM Summit (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 15-16 July 2016) – state of play**

On 4 May 2016, COREPER held an orientation debate[[1]](#footnote-1) and discussed priorities and deliverables for the 11th ASEM Summit. This Note describes the state of preparations for the ASEM 10 Summit as of 1 July 2016.

The 11th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM11) will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 15-16 July 2016, hosted and chaired by the President of Mongolia Ts. Elbegdorj. 53 ASEM partners - 21 Asian partner countries, 28 EU Member States, two non-EU countries (Norway and Switzerland), the ASEAN Secretary-General, the President of the European Council and the President of the Commission – will participate in the Summit.

**Attendance**

Mongolia as the Summit host and chair has not distributed a list of confirmed participants. Nevertheless, indications from Asian partner countries, both formal and informal, suggest that most Asian partners will be represented at the highest level, including China (Premier Li Keqiang), Republic of Korea (President Park), Russia (Prime Minister Medvedev) and Japan (Prime Minister Abe – final confirmation pending domestic situation in Japan connected to the upcoming elections).

On the European side, the participation is also relatively good, though quite a few partners will be represented at a lower, usually Foreign Minister level. The European Union will be represented by President of the European Council Donald Tusk, President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, accompanied by High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini.

**Theme and Agenda, Programme**

ASEM11 will take place under the theme of “20 years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity".

According to the agenda distributed by Mongolia, the Summit will tackle the following topics:

a) Two Decades of Partnership: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead' during which leaders will discuss ASEM's past and future, including political dialogue, trade, financial and investment cooperation between Asia and Europe and people-to-people, educational and cultural exchanges;

b) 'Promoting ASEM Partnership for Greater Connectivity' on connectivity and global challenges such as climate change, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and management and water, energy and food security;

c) Enhancing the three pillars of ASEM', with sub-topics including developments in Asia and Europe, regional and international issues, counter-terrorism, migration, promotion and protection of human rights, transnational crimes, interfaith dialogue and tolerance.

11th ASEM Summit

Ulaanbaatar, 15-16 July 2016

Steering Brief

Scene setter

The 11

th

ASEM Summit (Ulaanbaatar, 15-16 July), held under the theme of “20 years

of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity", will be a major

occasion to reaffirm, at the highest level, the importance of relations between Europe

and Asia and at a time of major developments in both continents. It will hold a special

significance as in 2016, ASEM celebrates its 20

th

anniversary. The Summit, will be

hosted and chaired by President of Mongolia Elbegdorj. Participation is expected to

be good, with most partners likely to be present at the level of head of state or

government (including from major partners such as China, Republic of Korea, Japan

and Russia).

The ASEM Summit will be the biggest event Mongolia has ever organised. Maintaining

high international visibility is part of Mongolia's strategy to manage the growing

influence of its two powerful neighbours, China and Russia. Mongolia views high-level

participation at the Summit by European partners, as well as ratification of the EU-

Mongolia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), as important gestures of

support for its young democracy. Mongolia just held a parliamentary election on 29

June; the President's ruling Democratic Party suffered a resounding defeat with Prime

Minister Saikhanbileg and Speaker of the Parliament Z. Enhkbold both losing their

mandates. A new Speaker and a new Prime Minister might be appointed already before

the Summit; the rest of the Government is likely to remain in 'acting' capacity.

The Summit's programme is divided into two days. On 15 July, the Summit will

commence with an opening ceremony and a session with stakeholders. Two

plenary sessions will follow: one under the theme of 'Two Decades of Partnership:

Taking Stock and Looking Ahead' during which leaders will discuss ASEM's past and

future, including political dialogue, trade, financial and investment cooperation between

Asia and Europe and people-to-people, educational and cultural exchanges, and the

second under the theme of 'Promoting ASEM Partnership for Greater Connectivity' on

connectivity and global challenges such as climate change, sustainable development,

disaster risk reduction and management and water, energy and food security. The two

plenaries will be followed by celebrations of the 20

th

anniversary of ASEM, with a

traditional Mongolian 'naadam' festival and a gala dinner. On the second day, leaders

will meet in a 'retreat session' in a restricted format during which they will discuss

international and regional issues of common concern, including the security

environment in Europe and Asia, counter-terrorism, the global challenge of migration

and the promotion and protection of human rights

The Summit's programme (Annex 1) is divided into two days. On 15 July, the Summit will commence with an opening ceremony and a session with stakeholders. Two plenary sessions will follow, during which the leaders will discuss the first two topics of the agenda as indicated above. The two plenaries will be followed by celebrations of the 20th anniversary of ASEM, with a traditional Mongolian 'naadam' festival and a gala dinner. On the second day, leaders will meet in a 'retreat session' in a restricted format during which they will discuss international and regional issues of common concern, under the third topic of the agenda. A closing ceremony and a final press conference will end the Summit

**Outcome Documents**

Two outcome documents are expected from the Summit: 1) the traditional Chair's Statement and 2) the Ulaanbaatar Declaration linked to the 20th anniversary of ASEM. The Chair's Statement is the usual outcome document, covering all the areas of ASEM cooperation under the three pillars (political, economic, socio-cultural). The very short Ulaanbaatar Declaration is issued in the name of all leaders and is to be negotiated word by word. It will celebrate ASEM's accomplishments and set the course for the next decade. A similar document was adopted at the 10th anniversary summit in Helsinki in 2006.

Mongolia had circulated the first drafts of the two documents ahead of the first preparatory ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM, Ulaanbaatar, 12-13 May 2016), at which the documents were discussed and partners were invited to submit comments in writing. The European Union submitted coordinated comments on behalf of the whole European group. Recently, Mongolia has circulated the second draft of both documents (attached) which are to be discussed at the upcoming second preparatory ASEM SOM (Ulaanbaatar, 12-14 July 2016).

**Key objectives / planned deliverables**

While Mongolia as the Chair is in the driving seat and will hold the pen in drafting the outcome documents, the European Union should use the Summit to advance the EU's political and economic interests, notably cooperation on traditional and non-traditional security challenges, migration, sustainable economic growth and the fight against climate change.

To achieve these objectives, the European Union should seek the Summit to confirm:

i) Strengthened political dialogue and cooperation in the following priority areas:

* ASEM should be used to follow up on the implementation of COP21 – the Summit should stress the need for the Paris Agreement to be ratified and enter into force as soon as possible and for partners to follow up on their Intended Nationally Determined Commitments (INDCs).

ASEM should also confirm its readiness to contribute to a systematic follow-up and review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

* All ASEM partners to underline that migration is a global challenge, requiring a comprehensive international response
* ASEM11 can also serve as a forum to reaffirm the shared interest to promote peace and security in Asia and Europe (not least in light of the situation in the South China Sea and Ukraine) and the importance of respecting international law, including in the maritime domain, and to share EU experience of promoting reconciliation and settling disputes on the basis of international law. As usual, a contentious debate can be expected on maritime security and the South China Sea (the permanent Court of Arbitration will issue its ruling in the case between the Philippines and China on 12 July, i.e. just before the ASEM Summit). The EU can also use this occasion to promote aspiration to become a member of the East Asia Summit (EAS).
* It should also be a forum to discuss the common challenges of terrorism and radicalisation, and disaster risk reduction and management.
* The EU will have an opportunity to raise a number of additional topics, such as the promotion and protection of human rights and rule of law, women's empowerment, non-proliferation and disarmament, energy security, nuclear safety, fight against international crime and trafficking, and promoting sustainable and inclusive growth and employment (including support to SMEs).

ii) Need to maintain the informal and inclusive ASEM structure:

* The informal nature of ASEM must be maintained. While not precluding possible proposals for streamlining or better coordination, these should not result in any institutionalisation of ASEM. It is precisely the informality of ASEM, including the retreat sessions during the Summits, that makes it a valuable and unique forum. The Chair's discretion in drafting the outcome documents from high-level meetings should also be re-confirmed.
* The inclusiveness of the ASEM process should be strengthened. International relations are no longer in the hands of governments alone. The same applies to Europe-Asia relations. Various stakeholders (parliaments, civil society and business) are already involved in ASEM but the links between the stakeholders and the official process should be strengthened. Additional stakeholders, in particular youth and labour, should also become more involved. Interaction with stakeholders should not be limited to events in the margins of the bi-annual ASEM Summit. Mongolia has, as one of its initiatives, proposed the establishment of an ASEM Centre in Ulaanbaatar to coordinate stakeholder activities; however, there is not yet any consensus on this proposal (with some Asian as well as European partners still reluctant) and it is not clear whether it would be endorsed by the Summit.
* There is also a strong push by China, Republic of Korea and other Asian partners for the revitalisation of the ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting (EMM); ROK has offered to host the EMM in 2017. The EU is not opposed in principle but is of the opinion that the ASEM Senior Officials for Trade and Investment (SOMTI) have a key role in determining the possible added value and the agenda of a ministerial-level meeting; discussions will continue ahead of the Summit.
* As to the possible establishment of a Working Group on Connectivity, also pushed by China and supported by most of the Asian Group, a New Zealand compromise paper takes on board virtually all elements of the European Group's coordinated reply. Some questions remain to be clarified but overall it could be the basis of a compromise.
* The Summit should also endorse a number of ASEM initiatives and meetings, and establish 1 March (the date of the first ASEM Summit in Bangkok in 1996) as ASEM 'Asia meets Europe' Day.
* No enlargement is foreseen to take place at the Summit, as no consensus has yet emerged on the European side on the three candidatures to join ASEM as part of the European Group (Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine).

**Side-events**

The ASEM process is also owned by different stakeholders (parliamentarians, civil society, business, labour, youth, academics). The proof is the series of preparatory/parallel events that traditionally take place before the Summit and provide input to the Summit discussions:

* 9h Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (Ulaanbaatar, 21-22 April);
* 11th Asia-Europe People's Forum (Ulaanbaatar, 4-6 July).
* 15th Asia-Europe Business Forum (Ulaanbaatar,13-14 July);

Other events will include the Asia-Europe Labour Forum, as well as 'Model ASEM' (youth playing the Summit) organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

The ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting (with the participation of Commission Vice President Dombrovskis) also took place in the run-up to the Summit (9-10 June 2016, Ulaanbaatar), as well as the ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (Gwangju, Republic of Korea, 22-24 June 2016).

**Bilateral meetings in the margin**

The Summit, with its very high-level attendance, will offer many opportunities for bilateral meetings in the margins. Arrangements for bilateral meetings on the level of President of the European Council and President of the European Commission are in progress.

**Orientations** **and next steps**

The next, 12th ASEM Summit in 2018 will be hosted by the European side. As Bulgaria, the then- Presidency, has indicated that it does not intend to host the Summit in Bulgaria, the Summit will be held in Brussels, chaired by the President of the European Council, pending final formal confirmation.

COREPER is invited to take note of the state of preparations of the ASEM11 Summit and comment on the planned outcomes and deliverables of the Summit, as well as on the two draft outcome documents.

**Annex: ASEM 11 Programme (as of 30 June 2016)**

**THURSDAY, 14 JULY**

Arrival of Delegates

Opportunity for Bilateral Meetings at Shangri-La Hotel Ulaanbaatar

15:00 Coordinators’ Meeting (State Palace), Mongolia, EU, Slovakia, Myanmar, New Zealand

**FRIDAY, 15 JULY**

07:00 Arrival of delegates

*Entrance: Shangri-La Hotel, West Gate*

**07**:**20-09**:**00 Arrival of the Heads of delegation**

*Venue: Heads of Delegation: Shangri-La Hotel, Main Gate*

*Press: Pooled visual media coverage is foreseen*

Arrival at Shangri-La Hotel by motorcade is ensured by the Summit Host. Protocol order apply.

**Official handshake**

*Press: Host broadcaster, host photographer*

Heads of delegation will be met by Mongolian officials. Liaison Officer, Protocol Officer will follow. Right at the entrance of the Shangri-La Hotel Heads delegation will sign the “Memory signature”.

The Chief of Protocol announces the incoming Head of delegation. Official handshake and photograph with H.E. Mr.Tsakhiagiin ELBEGDORJ, President of Mongolia.

Accredited delegates with access to Shangri-La Hotel will enter through a dedicated entrance on West Gate. Delegates with access to the Listening Room are requested to arrive to the Shangri-La hotel no later than 07.30 am.

**09**:**00-09**:**15 Opening Ceremony**

*Venue: Shangri-La Hotel Ballroom*

*Format: 1+2 per delegation*

*Listening room: 2 per delegation*

*Press: Pooled visual media coverage is foreseen. The Opening Ceremony will be live broadcasted to the Listening Room and to the Press Centre.*

ASEM11 Chair opens the ASEM11 Summit and offers the following participants to take the floor in the following order:

- H.E.Mr. Tsakhiagiin ELBEGDORJ, President of Mongolia, ASEM 11 Summit host (speaking time: 4 min)

- H.E.Mr. D.Tusk, President of the European Council (speaking time: 3 min)

- H.E.Mr. Htin Kyaw, President of Myanmar, ASEAN Coordinator (speaking time: 3 min)

- H.E.Mr. Robert Fico, Prime Minister of Slovakia, EU Coordinator (speaking time: 3 min)

- H.E.Mr. Murray McCully, Foreign Minister of New Zealand, NESA Coordinator (speaking time: 3 min)

**09**:**15-09:30 Session with stakeholders**

*Venue: Shangri-La Hotel Ballroom*

*Listening room: 2 per delegation* ASEM11 Summit | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Statements by:

- H.E Z.Enkhbold, Speaker of Parliament of Mongolia, Representative of ASEP Meeting (speaking time: 3 min)

- Europe Representative of Model ASEM (speaking time: 2 min)

- Asian Representative of Business Forum (speaking time: 2 min)

- Europe Representative of People’s Forum (speaking time: 2 min)

**09**:**30-13**:**30 Plenary Sessions**

*Venue: Shangri-La Hotel Ballroom*

*Format: 1+2 per delegation*

*Listening room: 2 per delegation*

*Press: Pooled visual media coverage is foreseen.*

Themes for the plenaries are:

- Plenary Session I “Two Decades of Partnership: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead”

Agenda items: 1, 2, 3

- Plenary Session II “Promoting ASEM Partnership for Greater Connectivity”

Agenda item: 4

ASEM11 Chair opens the session and offers the floor to the Heads of delegation in the pre-determined order (Speaking time: 5 min for a lead speaker, 3 min for other inscribed speaker).

**13**:**40-14**:**00 Family Photo**

*Venue: Shangri-La Hotel square*

*Press: Pooled visual media coverage is foreseen*

Heads of delegation take place on the podium, standing on the individual spot marked on the floor by a number provided in advance by the liaison officer.

**14**:**00-15**:**00 Social Lunch**

Heads of delegation are invited to the “Cafe Park” restaurant.

Food area for delegations are in the “Naadam” restaurant and the food area across the street.

**15**:**10-15**:**40 Transfer to the Chinggisiin Khuree Complex**

Heads of delegation will be transported in special buses to the complex. Protocol order does not apply. Other delegates will be transported in shuttle buses.

**15**:**40-15**:**50 Arrival to the Chinggisiin Khuree complex**

Each Head of Delegation will have at his/her disposal the “Ger”. Mongolian “deel” (traditional costume) will be placed inside each “ger”, and Heads of delegation are kindly requested to dress it on the Naadam or their national costume/suit instead of deel.

**16**:**00-18**:**00 “Nomadic Festival-Naadam”**

*Venue: Chinggisiin Khuree complex*

*Format: All delegates*

*Press: Open*

The Heads of delegation will be seated by protocol order. Seating is free for other delegates.

Presentation of the Mongolian National Naadam Festival and traditional cultural performance.

**18:00-20**:**00 Gala Dinner hosted by H.E. Mr.Tsakhiagiin ELBEGDORJ, President of Mongolia**

*Venue: “Chinggisiin Khuree” Complex, Khaan Ger*

*Format:* Heads of delegation

*No press*

Toast by the President of Mongolia and the Prime Minister of Thailand.

Delegates will be invited to the Reception hosted by H.E.Mr.Chimediin Saikhanbileg, Prime Minister of Mongolia.

Departure to ASEM Village and hotels by respective motorcade. Protocol order does not apply. Delegates will be transported by shuttle buses.

**SATURDAY, 16 JULY**

08:30 Arrival to the Retreat Session Ger, ASEM Village. Protocol order apply.

**08**:**30-08**:**40 Family Photo**

*Venue: Retreat Session Ger, ASEM Village*

*Format: Heads of delegation*

*Press: Pooled visual media coverage is foreseen.*

Heads of delegation will take place on the podium, standing on the individual spot marked on the floor by a number provided in advance by the liaison officer.

**08**:**40-11**:**40 Retreat Session**

*Venue: Retreat Session Ger*

*Format 1+1 per delegation*

*No press*

Theme: “Enhancing the three pillars of ASEM”

Agenda items: 5,6,7

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

ASEM11 Chair opens the session and offers the floor in 'catch-the-eye' format and conducts a free-flow discussion (speaking time: 3 min)

**11**:**50-12**:**10 Closing Ceremony**

*Venue: ASEM Village*

*Format: 1+1 per delegation*

*(Live broadcast & visual media coverage)*

The Closing Ceremony will be live broadcasted to the Press Centre at the Shangri-La Hotel.

ASEM11 Chair closes the ASEM11 Summit (speaking time: 5 min). Chair offers the floor to the ASEM12 Summit Host (speaking time: 5 min).

**12**:**40-13**:**00 Press Conference**

Venue**:** */Shangri-La Hotel Ballroom/*

- H.E.Mr. Tsakhiagiin ELBEGDORJ, President of Mongolia, ASEM 11 Summit host

- H.E.Mr. Donald TUSK, President of the European Council

- H.E.Mr. Htin KYAW, President of Myanmar, ASEAN Coordinator (speaking time: 3 min)

- H.E.Mr. Robert FICO, Prime Minister of Slovakia, EU Coordinator

- H.E.Mr. Murray McCULLY, Foreign Minister of New Zealand, NESA Coordinator

Each participant makes a short statement. This is followed by an opportunity for Questions & Answers.

**13**:**00- Opportunity for Heads of Delegations to speak to press and media**

Venue: Shangri-La Hotel

- Departure by the schedule

ANNEX 2

**11th ASEM Summit**

**“20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity”**

**CHAIR’S STATEMENT**

***20 Years of ASEM***

1. The 11thAsia-Europe Meeting (ASEM11) was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 15-16 July 2016 under the theme ***“20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity”***. It was attended by the Heads of State and Government or their high-level representatives of 51 European and Asian countries, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. The Summit meeting was hosted and chaired by President of Mongolia Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj.
2. While celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting, Leaders reviewed the progress made and achievements gained since the inception of ASEM in 1996, and set the course for further enhancement and evolution of the inter-regional process in the next decade. They took note of ASEM partners’ endeavor to provide inputs on the future of ASEM, notably the Bangkok Initiatives on the Future Direction of ASEM, the studies entitled “The Future of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM): Looking ahead into ASEM’s Third Decade”, “Asia-Europe Connectivity Vision 2025: Challenges and Opportunities” and the conference entitled “ASEM at 20: Challenge of Connectivity”. Their assessment of the ASEM process and their vision for its future was reflected in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration adopted by the Leaders on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of ASEM. They also exchanged views on the current political and socio-economic situation in the world and their respective regions, and discussed ways and means to address the existing and emerging challenges to international and regional peace, security, stability and sustainable development, related, *inter alia, to* terrorism, climate change and migration.
3. Leaders noted with satisfaction that in the past 20 years the ASEM process has successfully stood the test of time and has proved its vitality and relevance through steady enlargement of its ranks and promotion of cooperation between the two regions in various fields in the interest and to the benefit of the peoples of Asia and Europe. They reaffirmed their strong commitment to further deepen the partnership between the two regions on the principles of equality, mutual respect and shared benefit while preserving the informal and flexible nature of the ASEM process, and to implement substantial human-centered cooperation projects in the areas of common interest with a focus on greater connectivity, wider inclusiveness, creating opportunities for all and more tangible outcomes. Leaders reiterated the openness of ASEM to interested countries of Asia and Europe.
4. Leaders noted with appreciation the outcome and recommendations of the Ministerial Meetings held since ASEM 10 in Milan in 2014 in the areas of education (ASEM ME5 in Riga), foreign affairs (ASEM FMM12 in Luxembourg), labour and employment (ASEM LEMC5 in Sofia), transport (ASEM TMM3 in Riga), finance (ASEM FinMM12 in Ulaanbaatar) and culture (ASEM CMM7 in Gwangju).

***Shared Common Goals for Future***

1. Leaders welcomed the adoption in 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as milestone documents aimed at building an inclusive, sustainable and prosperous future for all people and the planet. Bearing in mind that urgent and decisive action to translate the pledges into practice will bring about a tangible difference and transform the global economy to low carbon emission and climate resilient growth, Leaders agreed to work together on the principles of common and differentiated responsibilities towards the timely and full realization of the goals set in these documents at the national, regional and global levels.
2. Leaders underlined the importance of swiftly adapting the relevant national policy planning process, development plans or strategies to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of putting in place systematic and multi-layered follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda. They expressed readiness on the part of ASEM to contribute to the follow-up and review process of the UN and other organizations at the global level, including at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Recognizing the opportunities, but also the challenges that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda represents for ASEM partners, Leaders agreed to promote further cooperation, including sharing of the best practices and experiences among partners within the framework of the ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue.
3. Leaders agreed that the Paris Agreement on Climate Change was the first multilateral agreement on climate change, covering almost all of the world’s emissions and moving the world towards climate-resilient development, clean energy and climate-neutral economy and called for swift ratification and entry into force of the Paris Agreement. They reaffirmed the importance of formulating long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and encouraged ASEM partners to actively engage in the effective implementation of the Agreement. They also emphasized that adequate support in terms of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building from developed to developing countries will further enhance the implementation of this Agreement.
4. Leaders recognized the need to integrate sustainable management of natural resources, both terrestrial and marine in all policies. They also recognized that key policy areas such as integrated trans-boundary water management and the links of water to other policy areas such as energy, food security, and ecosystem are shared priorities in all ASEM partner countries. Leaders stated their support for exchanging knowledge and best practices within the ASEM framework on these key policy areas, including by continuing engagement in the bi-regional cooperation between the Danube and Mekong regions, as a model in transforming shared challenges related to food, water and energy security into opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development.
5. Leaders underlined the importance of wider use of clean energy technologies, including nuclear energy. In this regard, they highlighted the need to promote research and development as well as diffusion of such technologies. With regard to the development of nuclear energy, they are committed to promote the highest standards of non-proliferation, nuclear safety and security. They reaffirmed their support for strengthening global and regional cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including in the field of nuclear safety, for upholding strong commitment to the international safety requirements and standards in order to continuously improve safety of nuclear facilities around the world. Leaders acknowledged the need for continuous cooperation within ASEM and with the IAEA on nuclear safety and the sharing of experience and best practices among relevant policymakers and experts. Leaders noted the importance of the establishment of the Low Enriched Uranium Bank under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, recognizing this as a significant step that will facilitate peaceful cooperation and strengthen nuclear non-proliferation.
6. Leaders encouraged further development of the cooperation between ASEM partners in disaster risk reduction and management. They underlined the significance of strengthening the resilience through sharing knowledge, building capacity and promoting cooperation on a broad and people-centered approach to disaster prevention, mitigation, adaptation, preparedness awareness programmes and response, early warning systems, search, rescue and relief operations, and application of innovation and technology, while also recognizing the importance of international solidarity through humanitarian aid and civil protection assistance in case of major disasters. They invited all ASEM partners to contribute actively to the implementation of the international framework for disaster risk reduction adopted at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015.
7. Leaders noted the modest and uneven recovery of the global economic outlook. The Asian economy continues to remain a global growth engine. In Europe, steady progress in implementing sound economic policies including structural reforms remains crucial for securing stronger potential growth while enhancing resilience and ensuring that public debt as a share of GDP is on a sustainable path. Leaders recognized that downside risks to the global outlook persist in the context of continued financial volatility, global excess in industrial sectors, challenges faced by commodity exporters and persistent low inflation, and reaffirmed the importance of using all policy tools- monetary, fiscal and structural- to foster confidence and strengthen economic growth.
8. Leaders confirmed the importance of promoting adequate social protection systems for growth and jobs, enhancing youth labor market outcomes and promoting decent work and safer workplaces in global supply chains. In their view, increasing inequalities, social exclusion and aging populations call for strengthening policies to achieve sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and to promote adequate social protection and decent work for all. Leaders agreed to pay increased attention to improving skills, employment and active engagement of young people in the economy and society, and hence, to substantially increase the number of youth who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. In this connection, Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to enhance labour market outcomes for young people through structural reforms and investment into human resources development.
9. Leaders stated their commitment to promoting supply chains sustainability more actively by encouraging firms to take up their responsibility and act in accordance with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (ILO MNE Declaration), the UN Global Compact and the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights and ensure that international labor standards, work-related health and safety rules, social dialogue and protection of the environment are upheld in their supply chains. They also expressed their support for deepening joint engagement of business and labor in the ASEM process.

***Enhancing Connectivity in All Dimensions***

1. Leaders agreed that increased focus in ASEM activities on connectivity will contribute to the relevance of ASEM. They underlined the importance of promoting hard and soft connectivity, including through quality infrastructure investment and full respect for market rules and international norms, for forging greater understanding and closer relationship between the peoples of Asia and Europe and creating business opportunities for all. They reiterated their decision to mainstream connectivity into all relevant ASEM activities. Leaders agreed to establish a working group on ASEM connectivity for a term of two years.
2. Taking note of on-going regional and sub-regional cooperation and national initiatives by ASEM partners to connect the two regions, Leaders stressed that exchange of best practices and experiences at the ASEM-wide level from these cooperation projects is particularly useful for narrowing the development gap and further deepening trans-boundary cooperation and connectivity among ASEM partners. They reaffirmed the urgent need to initiate stronger cooperation to address the issue of high transportation costs and to search for innovative solutions, including through exchange of knowledge and information on capacity-building activities. They stressed the need to take into account the special needs of land-locked countries and the importance for these countries to have access to and from sea, in accordance with applicable international law. Leaders noted the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which together with the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank and other multilateral development banks, has the potential to assist ASEM partners with their connectivity projects.
3. Leaders reiterated their commitment to enhance inter-regional trade and investment flows as an engine of sustainable growth, to actively resist trade-distorting or protectionist measures and to address restrictions, including non-tariff barriers, which inhibit trade growth and investment. Stressing the central role of the WTO in setting global trade rules, administering a rules-based multilateral trading system, enhancing the rule of law, monitoring its Members’ trade policies and settling disputes, Leaders welcomed the positive outcomes of the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi in 2015. In their view, the full and timely implementation of all decisions adopted in Nairobi and of all elements of the Bali package, advancement of negotiations on the remaining Doha Development Agenda issues and achievement of an early entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, as well as the conclusion of Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) by the G20 Summit in September in Hangzhou and TiSA by the end of 2016 would bring significant economic results.
4. Leaders welcomed the G7’s and G20’s contribution to promoting strong, sustainable and balanced growth to raise the prosperity of the people and expressed their support to China’s presidency of the 2016 G20 Summit and Italy’s presidency of the 2017 G7 Summit.
5. Leaders reaffirmed the important role of the private sector as well as public and private sector partnership in promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, creating decent jobs, and in increasing trade, investment and tourism in and between the two regions. In this context, they underlined the importance of promoting dialogue and cooperation to address common social and economic challenges, to support long-term economic growth, to implement targeted policy measures in support of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and to undertake more concerted efforts to this effect within ASEM, including by providing tariff reductions, promoting business start-up support services and financing, and implementing continued reform of the regulatory environment. Leaders acknowledged the role of the ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Centre in supporting sustainable development of Asia and Europe through disseminating information, sharing knowledge and best practices on eco-innovation and promoting technological cooperation among SMEs.
6. Leaders reaffirmed the significance of science, technology and innovation cooperation in promoting socio-economic growth, sustainable, innovative and inclusive development, job creation and in tackling global challenges in such areas as environment, energy, food, water, soil, agriculture, forests and biotechnology as well as through implementation of cooperative mechanisms, joint research, development and deployment of innovative solutions. Leaders highlighted the importance of promoting research and innovation collaboration, and recognized the value of a range of factors for promoting this collaboration, including effective and balanced intellectual property rights. They also acknowledged the role of the “ASEM Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation Center” and the “ASEM Water Resources and Development Center”.
7. Leaders also highlighted digital connectivity as a key element of connecting the two regions, and stressed the importance of security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). They emphasized the need to enhance cooperation among ASEM partners to promote a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative ICT environment and to prevent a conflict or crisis through trust and confidence-building between states and their capacity-building.
8. Leaders underlined the importance of enhancing people-to-people connectivity through cultural, educational, academic and youth exchanges, as well as expansion of tourism between the two regions. They also recognized that the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme, which aims to promote education cooperation among ASEM partners, is producing practical and tangible results. Leaders commended the role of Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in bringing together the peoples of Asia and Europe, forging closer links between the ASEM governments and civil societies and providing capacity-building trainings for the youth from both regions.
9. Leaders recognized the potential and importance of cooperation in the development of creative industries to foster creativity, innovation, livelihood creation and national or regional branding. They encouraged the strengthening of networking, people-to-people exchange and sharing of experience and expertise among professionals and institutions in ASEM. Leaders underlined that collaboration in creative industries shall be supported by cultural policies which form a foundation for the development of creative economy in an increasingly globalized world. They encouraged strengthened use of ICT, synergy with cultural heritage, and international collaboration on such matters as development of entrepreneurship skills, incentives, financing, technology development and professionalization.

***Cooperation on Political and Security Issues***

1. Leaders, reiterating their view that the rise of terrorism and violent extremism constitutes a serious threat to international peace, stability and development, expressed their determination to counter terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations. They strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks and stressed the need to work together to address the root cause of terrorism, eliminate conditions conductive to the growth and spread of violent extremism and radicalization in societies leading towards violence, as well as the rising phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. Leaders emphasized the importance of preventive efforts and the need for a regional multi-disciplinary approach without associating them with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. They also stressed the importance of preventing chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, and controlling trade in and flows of conventional arms, particularly small arms and light weapons. In this context, Leaders called for strengthening the international legal regime, including through the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention of International Terrorism currently under negotiation at the United Nations. They welcomed the UN Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.
2. Leaders condemned all forms of incitement to hatred and intolerance, including xenophobia, religious hatred and violence. They stressed the importance of respect and understanding for cultural and religious diversity, and of promoting tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples. They acknowledged that the practice of moderation is vital to bridging differences and addressing the various manifestations of extremism. In this regard, they expressed support for efforts aimed at promoting moderation, in particular as espoused by the Global Movement of Moderates in various formats within the ASEM framework.
3. Leaders expressed their readiness to strengthen their cooperation on international and regional issues of common interest and concern with a view to facilitating the settlement of conflicts and resolving disputes in different parts of the world by peaceful means, through negotiations and mediation. They welcomed the efforts of Mongolia in prompting its permanent neutrality initiatives noting that it would contribute to confidence-building and mediation efforts of the international community.
4. Leaders condemned in the strongest terms the DPRK’s nuclear, weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes which constitute a grave violation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and threaten international peace and security in Northeast Asia and beyond. They called for full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2270 and all other relevant resolutions as well as the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. They stressed the imperative need for the reduction of tension, credible resumption of the Six-Party Talks, the DPRK’s early return to the NPT and International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) safeguards and achievement of complete and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. They also expressed support for a parallel approach to realizing denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.
5. Leaders also welcomed the initiatives aimed at promoting greater understanding, confidence and cooperation among the states and other stakeholders of the region, such as the Ulaanbaatar, Dialogue on Northeast Asia Security (UBD) of Mongolia and the Northeast Asia Peace Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI) of the Republic of Korea.
6. Leaders expressed their strong interest in seeing Afghanistan and its people develop and prosper peacefully and welcomed all efforts undertaken by the international community to support the Government of Afghanistan to this end. They welcomed the progress that has been achieved over the years in many fields. In this context, they welcomed the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan in October 2016 as an opportunity for the international community to signal sustained political and financial support to Afghan peace, state-building and development and for Afghanistan to reconfirm its commitments towards continued reforms and progress. Leaders were concerned by the continuing threat to security and stability in Afghanistan, and strongly support international efforts, especially by the Quadrilateral Coordination Group, aimed at facilitating an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.
7. Leaders recalled the second anniversary of the tragedy of flight MH17, which occurred on 17 July 2014, and renewed their sympathy to all those who have lost their loved ones. Acts of violence that threaten the safety of civil aviation are grave violations of international peace and security. Those directly or indirectly responsible for the drowning of MH17 must be held accountable and brought to justice, in accordance with UNSC resolution 2166.
8. Leaders highlighted the key role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security, promoting inclusive and sustainable development, protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and effectively addressing current and emerging global challenges. Reiterating the importance of building a more effective multilateral system based on international law, Leaders pledged to continue to uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and their universality, to work actively for enhancing the rule of law in international relations, promoting disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction through, *inter-alia*, the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states concerned in accordance with the 1999 UNDC Guidelines. They called for the universalisation of the Arms Trade Treaty and implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Leaders also reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its main bodies guided by the principles of democracy, transparency and accountability.
9. Leaders welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Community in 2015 as a significant step towards greater regional and inter-regional integration. They reiterated their support for the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the centrality of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture in Asia and expressed their appreciation of ASEAN’s role in promoting dialogue and building confidence and cooperation for peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. They acclaimed ASEAN’s endeavors in expanding its relations with partners and welcomed the interest of the European ASEM partners in furthering engagement with the region through all relevant ASEAN led-processes.
10. Leaders reiterated their commitment to promote maritime security, safety and cooperation, freedom of navigation and over-flight and unimpeded lawful commerce as well as to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea in full compliance with international law(para 39, ASEM10 Chair statement). They reaffirmed the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force in international relations, abstaining from unilateral actions in contravention of international law which can raise tensions, as well as resolving maritime disputes through peaceful means in accordance with the UN Charter, and the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
11. Leaders devoted particular attention to the unprecedented migration and refugee challenge, migrant smuggling and trafficking occurring in Asia and Europe. They highlighted the need for comprehensive regional and international responses, including those related to tackling the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement and to providing support to people in need of protection, including access to education, livelihood and services, support for the most vulnerable displaced and host communities and raising awareness in at-risk communities consistent with relevant international standards.
12. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to promote and protect human rights in accordance with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties and instruments, and strengthen collaboration to advance human rights through the UN Human Rights Council, particularly the Universal Periodic Review. They reaffirmed their willingness to promote further cooperation in ASEM in the field of human rights, including through sharing experience and best practices. Leaders emphasized the important role of governments, international and national human rights institutions and regional organizations in promoting and protecting human rights and highlighted the need for strengthening cooperation in the field of gender equality and empowerment of women. They further emphasized that the members of vulnerable groups – not least women, children and individuals with disabilities – need particular attention in order to ensure their full enjoyment of all human rights.
13. Leaders confirmed their strong adherence to upholding democratic principles and good governance, with special focus on accountability towards citizens, and fight against corruption and money laundering. They also underlined the need for strengthening cooperation within the ASEM process between their democratic institutions and anti-corruption authorities. Leaders recognized the importance of full and equal participation of women at all levels of leadership and decision-making and commit to address the persistent barriers that impede full and equal political and economic participation by women and girls.

**Rethinking Working Methods**

1. Leaders considered that efforts should be continued to explore possibilities for harmonizing the informal nature and efficiency of ASEM through further improvement of working methods and coordination within ASEM, and to ensure more effective institutional memory, enhanced connectivity, tangible cooperation projects, further involvement of relevant stakeholders in the ASEM process and other ways to strengthen the Asia-Europe dialogue and cooperation. In this respect, they tasked the Senior Officials to further explore ways to develop effective ways of communication within ASEM members, including reflection on the possible need to adapt the “Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework: AECF 2000”, which was adopted at the 3rd ASEM Summit in 2000, to the requirements of ASEM’s third decade and new developments made in the process.
2. Leaders commended the work of ASEF in complementing the government-led ASEM process with its programmes and projects in such areas as culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development, as well as specific activities in support of ASEM Summits and Ministerial Meetings. They expressed support for strengthening the role of ASEF in enhancing the visibility of ASEM and aligning its activities with the ASEM priorities.
3. Leaders underlined the need to ensure, where appropriate, wider engagement of the civil society and various stakeholders, *inter alia,* business, labor partners, scholars and think-tanks, women’s organizations, students and youth as well as journalists, in the ASEM process, to enhance ASEM visibility and its continued relevance for the people. They expressed support for mainstreaming the input of various stakeholders into the official ASEM process, by providing appropriate consultation channels and, where possible, directly involving relevant stakeholders into ASEM meetings
4. Leaders also underscored the importance of reviving regular meetings of Economic Ministers that were not held for the last 13 years. In this connection, they welcomed the offer by the Republic of Korea to host the Economic Ministers Meeting in 2017, and encouraged the Senior Officials’ Meeting on Trade and Investment (SOMTI) to discuss this offer.
5. Leader welcomed the outcome and recommendations of the 9th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Meeting (ASEP9), 12th Meeting of ASEM Finance Ministers (ASEM FinMM12), 11TH Asia-Europe People’s Forum (AEPF11) and 15th Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF15) held in Ulaanbaatar in the run up to the ASEM Summit as a valuable input to ASEM activities. They also expressed their appreciation for holding in Ulaanbaatar the Model ASEM as one of ASEF’s flagship youth projects, and agreed to continue this event on a regular basis in conjunction with the ASEM summits.
6. Leaders also welcomed the initiatives of ASEM partners to organize a number of meetings in 2016-2018 in agreed priority areas of cooperation (see Annex 1 and Annex 2) that would further contribute to people’s increased engagement in ASEM activities, closer relations and better understanding between the two regions. They welcomed recommendations to link various initiatives, projects, and cross-cutting and inter-related ASEM Tangible Cooperation Areas to promote tangible and result-oriented cooperation.
7. Leaders agreed that the ASEM’s 20th Anniversary celebration activities increase public awareness of ASEM in individual countries. Leaders endorsed the suggestions contained in the ASEM Press and Public Awareness Strategy, aimed at further raising the visibility of ASEM. They encouraged all ASEM partners to contribute to the efforts to boost ASEM’s visibility. In this connection, Leaders spoke out in favor of celebrating annually the ASEM Day and establishing on the initiative of Mongolia the ASEM Centre in Ulaanbaatar for coordinating stakeholders’ activities.
8. Leaders thanked the Chair and Host for the successful outcome of the ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar and for the warm hospitality accorded to all its participants. Leaders look forward to the 12th ASEM Summit to be held in Brussels, Belgium, chaired by the European Union, in 2018.

ANNEX 3

**ULAANBAATAR DECLARATION**

**ON ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM) INTO THE THIRD DECADE**

**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 15-16 July 2016**

*We*, Heads of State and Government from ASEM member countries, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary-General of the ASEAN gathered in Ulaanbaatar on 15-16 July 2016 for the 11th ASEM Summit to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of ASEM under the theme of “20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity” and to chart the future course of ASEM into its third decade.

*We* *are encouraged* that ASEM has enlarged from 26 partners in 1996 to 53 twenty years later and has proven both its vitality and relevance as an important and unique platform for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. ASEM has been and continues to be an important factor in shaping the global setting in the 21st century through making its contribution to sustained peace, security, stability, economic recovery and to responding to global and regional challenges.

*We* *recognize* the contributions that ASEM has made in:

* Fostering greater understanding between Asia and Europe;
* Broadening political dialogue, enhancing economic cooperation and increasing socio-cultural exchanges;
* Deepening Asia-Europe inter-connectedness, shaping and forging links and mutually beneficial, multi-layered cooperation for peace and development;
* Creating opportunities for broader people-to-people connections, including through the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF);
* Addressing the challenges faced by both regions as well as at the inter-regional and global levels;
* Promoting effective multilateralism and strengthening other multilateral processes.

*We are committed* to taking the ASEM process forward in an open and evolutionary manner, building upon the past experiences, promoting greater connectivity and more focused cooperation between Asia and Europe.

*We reaffirm* that the ASEM process should be promoted on the basis of equal partnership, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

*We decided* to designate ASEM Day and annually celebrate it on March 1 or any other day during the first week of March as appropriate with a view to underling the ASEM’s importance and raising its visibility.

To lead ASEM successfully into its third decade, *we* *commit* ourselvesto:

***Reinforcing our partnership***

Informal political dialogue and cooperative initiatives in economic and socio-cultural fields will continue to be the cornerstone of our partnership, as outlined in the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF) 2000 and other ASEM documents. As shifting geopolitics lead to greater uncertainties and volatility in the world,ASEM will reinforce its role as a catalyst for effective multilateralism and rule-based international order. ASEM will enhance in a balanced manner all three key pillars of its partnership in order to meet the aspirations of our peoples for peace and stability, economic prosperity, sustainable development and a better quality of life. ASEM will strive to further strengthen Asia-Europe multi-dimensional and human-centered partnership.

***Focusing cooperation for tangible benefits***

To ensure the continuity of initiatives that evolve from informal dialogue to tangible outcomes that will benefit the peoples of Asia and Europe, ASEM will focus on areas of common interest. These include, *inter alia,* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, climate change, environment, disaster risk management, transportation, food-water-energy security, trade and investment facilitation, terrestrial and marine resources, science, technology, innovation, SMEs cooperation, capacity-building, women’s empowerment, employment, social protection, human rights, rule of law, anti-corruption, migration, counter-terrorism, as well as fight against trafficking in persons, violent extremism and cyber-crime. ASEM will also place emphasis on areas in which it can create added value, when appropriate, and give mutual benefit to both regions. In this regard, we agree that all cooperation initiatives and mechanisms should be human-centered so as to encourage people’s engagement, especially that of youth and businesses, in ASEM’s activities. Initiatives and projects within each area of tangible cooperation, as well as coordination among various areas need to be promoted to narrow the development gaps in ASEM and provide capacity-building to its developing partners.

***Fostering connectivity***

Enhancingconnectivity across diverse domains is an important and commonly agreed objective. Connectivity, both physical and institutional, will be mainstreamed into all ASEM cooperation frameworks. Given the growing interdependence between the two regions, Asia and Europe cannot be treated separately in any area of ASEM activities. An enlarged ASEM has taken on a much more interdependent and cooperative character and provides an ideal platform for generating greater connections between Asia and Europe for peace, stability, economic prosperity and sustainable and inclusive development. These encompass all aspects of our partnership, from the physical ones, such as infrastructural developments across Asia and Europe, economic, financial and digital connectivity to institutional and people-to-people connectivity.

***Promoting informality, networking and flexibility***

Recalling the “Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM” of 2006, were-emphasize the importance of promoting informality, networking and flexibility within ASEM with a view to bringing about deeper understanding and appreciation of each other’s history, culture, traditions and aspirations.

We appraise the role of stakeholders in the ASEM process and underscore the need for increasing their engagement in and input to ASEM activities through incorporating the Asia-Europe Youth Forum and Asia-Europe Labor Forum as additional ASEM stakeholders’ fora and through improving their cooperation and coordination by, *inter alia*, establishing an ASEM Stakeholders’ Coordination Center in Ulaanbaatar in accordance with ASEM principles.

***Moving towards the next decade***

*We*, Heads of State and Government from ASEM nations, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary-General of ASEAN, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of ASEM renew our political will and our strong resolve to work together to revitalize ASEM, to promote further connectivity, mutually beneficial partnership and cooperation between Asia and Europe with a view to building an inclusive, sustainable and radiant future for our people and to ensure a peaceful life and shared prosperity for the present and succeeding generations.

1. doc. 8381/16 LIMITE [↑](#footnote-ref-1)