



Colombo Declaration

The 8th ACD Ministerial Meeting, 15th October 2009

“Spirit of Asia: Global Economic Recovery and Development Prospects”

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other Heads of Delegation from Member States of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), namely the Kingdom of Bahrain; the People's Republic of Bangladesh; the Kingdom of Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; the Kingdom of Cambodia; the People's Republic of China; the Republic of India; the Republic of Indonesia; the Islamic Republic of Iran; Japan; the Republic of Kazakhstan; the Republic of Korea; the State of Kuwait; the Kyrgyz Republic; the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; the Union of Myanmar; the Sultanate of Oman; the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; the Republic of the Philippines; the State of Qatar; the Russian Federation; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the Republic of Singapore; the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; the Kingdom of Thailand; the United Arab Emirates; the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, having gathered in Colombo, in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the 8th ACD Ministerial Meeting on 15th October 2009;

Reaffirming the continuing importance of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) as a forum for constructive engagement and partnership among our diverse nations in Asia and our commitment to continuing the adherence to, and promotion of, ACD's core values,

Reaffirming also that the Member States of ACD have today positioned themselves around the concept of a cohesive Asianness and Asian inclusivity on an unequivocal basis, and that such a cohesive approach will contribute to further enhancing the “Spirit of Asia” in our determined effort towards achieving economic recovery and development in our region,



Acknowledging that with our geographical contiguity consisting of nearly 2/3rd of humanity, our nations are endowed with a significant amount of natural and human resources as well as a rich historical and cultural heritage, which together demonstrate the potential for harnessing economic growth and social development,

Recognizing that in the 21st century, the world is becoming increasingly Asia-centric and that the main platform for economic activity is moving inevitably to the Eastern part of the globe, demonstrating further that our economies and societies have become inter-linked and inter-dependent, in an unprecedented manner, especially in the past decade,

Reiterating, in this context, the significance of ACD as a major Pan-Asian grouping of nations, which spreads across the broadest spectrum of Asia, from North to South and from East to West,

Reiterating also that it could be leveraged to unleash trade, economic and investment opportunities for this vast and vibrant region,

Emphasizing our collective belief that in promoting regional integration and since Asia's prosperity is linked to global prosperity, Asia must be forward-looking, based on equal partnership, and emphasizing that ACD is in a position to play an important role in building inter-regional partnerships,

Reaffirming our continuing commitment to the ACD's goal of building a united, strong, competitive and prosperous Asian community through consolidating Asia's strengths, and leveraging Asia's diversity for the mutual benefit of the region and its peoples,

Expressing our collective belief that the ACD is in a position to promote networking in Asia and the building of synergies between existing regional organizations and fora as one of the core goals of the ACD,



Cherishing the contribution of regional cooperation mechanisms in Asia for the enhancement of mutual trust and understanding and the promotion of economic cooperation and integration,

Acknowledging that these partnerships and linkages have created new patterns of trade and economic interdependence, and that trade and economic relationships are being complemented by a new pattern of political cooperation, reflective of our collective will to address global and regional challenges,

Noting that one of the worst global economic crises has now eased and that the recovery in Asian countries has been faster than predicted, and expressing the belief that this will contribute to the ongoing process of economic integration in Asia,

Reaffirming our strong desire to transform ACD into an Asian community interacting confidently with the rest of the world and contributing positively towards peace and prosperity,

Having chosen as the theme for the 8th Ministerial Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, “Spirit of Asia; Global Economic Recovery and Development Prospects”,

Call for timely and effective responses to the challenges posed by the global financial and economic crisis which has adversely affected our nations and peoples.

Reiterate our commitment to act together to generate strong, sustainable and balanced regional growth, to reform the global governance and financial architecture and to shape regional institutions to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Affirm our commitment to enhance regional and sub-regional economic cooperation including trade arrangements in Asia which contribute to the Asian economic integration and help the continent to play a more effective role in shaping a world



trading and financial system that is more responsive to Asia's needs, and reiterate that the ACD can be a vehicle through which this effort can be sustained.

Reaffirm at the same time our preference for a fair and equitable rule-based global multilateral trade regime capable of addressing the needs of development.

Express grave concern that the continuing threat of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, has adversely affected the economic and social progress of the peoples of the ACD region, and recognizing that the solidarity and friendship among Member States provide the basis to counter this threat, agree, as an urgent priority, to cooperate in combating this menace.

Underscore that climate change is a serious global environmental concern which requires a global response and call for the success of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at Copenhagen in December 2009.

Recognise the additional burden posed by climate change in the developmental context, especially for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, affirming that responses to Climate Change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter.

Recognise further the need for greater understanding of climate change particularly in the context of the recent tragic incidents of droughts, floods, typhoons and unprecedented rainfall in different parts of Asia, and call for meetings of experts on climate change and disaster risk reduction to deliberate on these issues.

Acknowledge the progress made in the identified sectors of co-operation under ACD since the last meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, especially the excellent progress made by



Prime and Co - Prime Movers on E-education, SME development, poverty alleviation, environmental education and IT development.

Call for the participation of the Member States in these projects to ensure their success.

Call upon Member States, when announcing projects to the ACD Calendar of Events, to take fully into account all aspects of the project proposal including its financial viability and implementability; take note of the Concept Papers on Trade, Tourism and Transportation and acknowledge their importance to enhance people-to-people contacts and agree to carry out further deliberation on these issues at expert level.

Decide to renew the mandate of the High Level Study Group (HLSG) and also to request the HLSG to submit assessment and recommendations on progress regarding ACD project cooperation to the Coordinating Group Consultations.

Welcoming Sri Lanka's proposal aimed at further strengthening the ACD process, decide to convene twice a year meetings of the Coordinating Group, in order to assist the Chair to follow up and advice on effective coordination and implementation of ACD projects.

Decide to proactively promote increased interactions among our people through exchange of visits between parliamentarians, media persons, students and academics, sports persons, as well as exchanges in the fields of performing arts and entertainment including motion pictures, television programmes and music.

Designate 18 June as 'ACD Day' to mark the establishment of ACD, and call upon Member States to observe the Day, as appropriate, to promote awareness of ACD among the general public.



We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other Heads of Delegation welcome the offer of the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 9th Ministerial Meeting in 2010, the State of Kuwait to host the 10th ACD Ministerial Meeting in 2011, the Republic of Tajikistan to host the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting in 2012 and the United Arab Emirates to host the 12th Ministerial Meeting in 2013. Also, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its interest to host one of the ACD Ministerial Meetings in the future.

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation from Member States of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue , express our appreciation to the Government of Sri Lanka for its hospitality and for the arrangements made to host the 8th Ministerial Meeting in Colombo.

Adopted on 15th October 2009 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
