

1992 ASEAN DECLARATION ON THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

**Adopted by the Foreign Ministers at the 25th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Manila, Philippines
on 22 July 1992**

WE, the Foreign Ministers of the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

RECALLING the historic, cultural and social ties that bind our peoples as states adjacent to the South China Sea;

WISHING to promote the spirit of kinship, friendship and harmony among our peoples who share similar Asian traditions and heritage;

DESIROUS of further promoting conditions essential to greater economic cooperation and growth;

RECOGNIZING that we are bound by similar ideals of mutual respect, freedom, sovereignty and jurisdiction of the parties directly concerned;

RECOGNIZING that South China Sea issues involve sensitive questions of sovereignty and jurisdiction of the parties directly concerned;

CONSCIOUS that any adverse developments in the South China Sea directly affect peace and stability in the region.

HEREBY

1. **EMPHASIZE** the necessity to resolve all sovereignty and jurisdictional issues pertaining to the South China Sea by peaceful means, without resort to force;
2. **URGE** all parties concerned to exercise restraint with the view to creating a positive climate for the eventual resolution of all disputes;
3. **RESOLVE**, without prejudicing the sovereignty and jurisdiction of countries having direct interests in the area, to explore the possibility of cooperation in the South China Sea relating to the safety of maritime navigation and communication, protection against pollution of the marine environment, coordination of search and rescue operations, efforts towards combatting piracy and armed robbery as well as collaboration in the campaign against illicit trafficking in drugs;
4. **COMMEND** all parties concerned to apply the principles contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia as the basis for establishing a code of international conduct over the South China Sea;
5. **INVITE** all parties concerned to subscribe to this Declaration of principles.

Signed in Manila, Philippines, this 22nd day of July, nineteen hundred and ninety-two.

For Brunei Darussalam: **HRH PRINCE MOHAMED BOLKIAH**, Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of Indonesia: **ALI ALATAS**, Minister for Foreign Affairs

For Malaysia: **DATUK ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI**, Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of Philippines: **RAUL S. MANGLAPUS**, Secretary of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of Singapore: **WONG KAN SENG**, Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Kingdom of Thailand: **ARSA SARASIN**, Minister of Foreign Affairs