



Resolution on strengthening cooperation between CDI and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in order to foster international peace, security, and prosperity.

- Recalling that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established in 1967 to help safeguard peace, security, and prosperity in one of the world's most strategic regions;
- Recognizing the significant role played by CDI member parties — including the Cambodian People's Party (CPP); FUNCINPEC; Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and LDP in the Philippines; and Indonesia's National Awakening Party (PKB) — in governing key Member States within the ASEAN Community;
- Considering that the waterways of Southeast Asia are vital for global trade and transportation;
- Deeply conscious that a stable and secure Southeast Asia is essential to maintain freedom of navigation in sea lanes that connect the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and is thus a lynchpin of global prosperity;
- Recognizing that Southeast Asia is one of the most culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse regions of the world, and home to the largest Muslim-majority nation and democracy, Indonesia;
- Welcoming the fact that on 7 – 8 August 2023 Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and the Government of Indonesia convened senior religious and cultural figures from across South and Southeast Asia in order to chart a course for the region's re-emergence as a cohesive, vital, and proactive civilizational sphere;
- Noting with appreciation that NU established the ASEAN Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue Conference (ASEAN IIDC) in order to consolidate a vast constituency upon the basis of shared civilizational values, capable of fostering peace, tolerance, and harmony throughout ASEAN and to inspire a similar dynamic worldwide;
- Acknowledging that the ASEAN IIDC represents a striking demonstration of broad institutional, popular, and governmental backing for a regional strategy, known as the "Ashoka Approach," which was pioneered by Nahdlatul Ulama and the Center for Shared Civilizational Values (CSCV);
- Taking note of the fact that the "Ashoka Approach" seeks to reawaken the ancient spiritual, cultural, and socio-political heritage of South and Southeast Asia, which pioneered key concepts and practices of religious pluralism and tolerance more than 2,000 years ago;
- Recognizing that Western humanism, Christian democracy, Humanitarian Islam, and the Ashokan legacy are kindred traditions, built upon shared civilizational, philosophical, moral, and spiritual values;

- Appreciating that the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Indonesia are both heirs to the Ashokan legacy, and governed by CDI member parties that are well positioned to foster civilizational dialogue and cooperation between Southeast Asia and other regions of the world;
- Noting with approval that ASEAN Heads of State/Government, who gathered in Jakarta in September 2023 under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Indonesia, unanimously “reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN region’s culture and religions, and commended the convening of the ASEAN Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue Conference 2023 with the theme ‘ASEAN Shared Civilizational Values: Building an Epicentrum of Harmony to Foster Peace, Security, and Economic Prosperity’... and recognised the values of its outcomes” (*Chairman’s Statement of the 43rd ASEAN Summit*, point 122);

The CDI:

- Affirms the value of the ASEAN Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue Conference as a means of strengthening Southeast Asia as a bulwark of stability in the Indo-Pacific Region, and an alternate pillar of support for a rules-based international order founded upon universal ethics and humanitarian values;
- Calls upon CDI member parties to expand cooperation with ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN IIDC, in order to strengthen shared civilizational values and thereby foster peace, security, and economic prosperity worldwide;
- Urges CDI member parties in Southeast Asia to cooperate in securing recognition of the ASEAN IIDC as “an annual forum, in order to facilitate ongoing cooperation between individuals, religious communities, civil society organizations, media outlets, and governments throughout ASEAN, ASEAN Plus Member States, and beyond” (*ASEAN IIDC Jakarta Declaration*, point xvii).

Executive Committee meeting – Brussels 14.11.23