



7th Model ASEM

In conjunction with the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11)
“20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for Future through Connectivity”

6-10 July 2016 • Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Chair’s Statement of the 7th Model ASEM¹

6–10 July 2016, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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

1. The 7th Model ASEM was held on 6-10 July 2016 in conjunction with the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM11) on 15-16 July 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Under the theme “20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity” more than 130 student delegates from all 51 ASEM Partner countries attended the meeting. Model ASEM is a political simulation of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit where participants are invited to role-play their respective ASEM Partners’ positions and to develop through negotiations a consensus-based Chair’s Statement.
2. The Model ASEM Leaders noted with appreciation the results and recommendations of the ASEM Ministerial Meetings which have been held since the 10th ASEM Summit (ASEM10) in October 2014 in Milan, Italy. They acknowledged the valuable stakeholder engagement at several ASEM Ministerial Meetings, in particular at the 5th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME5) in 2015 in Latvia, the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM12) in 2015 in Luxembourg, the 5th ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers’ Conference (ASEM LEMC5) in 2015 in Bulgaria, and the 7th ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM7) in 2016 in Korea. This engagement facilitated a closer connection between the political ASEM process and civil society, represented for example by the youth, university leaders, and cultural managers and experts.
3. The Model ASEM Leaders raised 10 major areas of concern on Asia-Europe relations and cooperation under the Summit’s focus on connectivity. They agreed that these concerns have to be addressed with a view to respect for human rights across ASEM’s political, economic and socio-cultural pillar.

¹ As Model ASEM is a simulation-based project, the points listed in this Chair’s Statement do not necessarily correspond with the positions of the organisers or the youth participants.

A. Connectivity across Borders: Enabling Mobility

4. The Model ASEM Leaders reiterated the importance of Asia-Europe cooperation on all matters related to migration, refugees, and the prevention of human trafficking. This requires commitment and collaboration amongst all ASEM Partners, and the integration of other domestic and international stakeholders.
5. The Model ASEM Leaders emphasised that a clear distinction must be made between refugees, and different categories of migrants. They recognised the importance of concrete preventive measures for human trafficking, the protection of victims of trafficking, as well as the protection and promotion of human rights of refugees, their safety and humane treatment.
6. The Model ASEM Leaders also emphasised the importance of youth mobility and people-to-people connectivity with the primary objective of increasing and fostering understanding and knowledge through exchanges across Asia and Europe. This includes the continued creation of opportunities ranging from academic exchange, internships, employment, entrepreneurship, and cultural exchange. The Model ASEM Leaders encouraged collective financial investment and commitment in order to fund such exchange opportunities. The Model ASEM Leaders also encouraged the ASEM partners to assess ways to enhance student, youth, and skilled labour mobility, including ways to reduce barriers to movement. Suitable platforms are the 6th ASEM Education Ministers Meeting (ASEM ME6) in Korea in 2017, and the next, 6th ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference or Director-General Conference on Migration and the Management of Migratory Flows.

B. Connectivity across Communities: Promoting Inclusivity and Preventing Marginalisation

7. The Model ASEM Leaders committed themselves to adopting a socio-cultural approach that relies on education, dialogue and interaction across Asia and Europe as the main preventative strategies to mitigate youth violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism.
8. They recognised the negative impact of youth unemployment and marginalisation in relation to the above and extended their support to existing initiatives by international stakeholders and organisations to tackle these challenges.

C. Securing Connectivity: Working Towards a More Secure and Connected World

9. In the spirit of partnership and collaboration between Asia and Europe, the Model ASEM Leaders stressed the importance of combating all forms of terrorism. There is an urgent need for sharing best practices and strengthening cooperation in the field of data collection and intelligence to combat cross-border crime.
10. The Model ASEM Leaders agreed that addressing both traditional and non-traditional security challenges is a priority for preserving peace. They acknowledged the necessity of enhanced cooperation on maritime security and territorial disputes with the possibility on tackling them within multilateral and bilateral legal frameworks.
11. The Model ASEM Leaders recognised the dangers of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. They stressed the importance of a voluntary reduction of existing arsenals in accordance with relevant international legal frameworks.

D. Climate-Friendly Connectivity: Supporting Sustainable Development

12. The Model ASEM Leaders recognised the linkage between migration, security and climate change as well as the seriousness of the varied challenges posed by climate change and called upon ASEM Partners to ratify the Paris Agreement in a timely manner.
13. In order to deliver on their commitments as enshrined in the Agreement, the Model ASEM Leaders acknowledged that further and immediate action is required by all ASEM Partners to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These objectives will be met on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities without undermining the economic growth and development potential of developing countries.
14. The Model ASEM Leaders reaffirmed their joint commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and highlighted the universality of the SDGs as well as the need for enhanced cooperation between states and other stakeholders, including International Organisations, the private sector, NGOs and civil society.
15. In order to deliver on these objectives, the Model ASEM Leaders recognised the importance of technology transfer and the sharing of knowledge and best practices between Asia and Europe. They encouraged research and innovation into climate change challenges and sustainable development.

E. Connectivity in the Working World: Linking People through Employment

16. The Model ASEM Leaders acknowledged the pressing need to create equal, and sustainable employment opportunities, and to mitigate challenges accessing the labour market especially faced by women and youth. They called for greater coordination between the public and private sectors to achieve this aim.
17. Recalling the 6th Model ASEM Chair's Statement of 2014 in Milan, Italy, Model ASEM Leaders noted the important contribution of SMEs to economic growth and job creation and urged that trade agreements should be better oriented towards SMEs so as to promote the development of local business.

F. Digital Connectivity: Guaranteeing 21st Century Connections

18. The Model ASEM Leaders recognised the importance of universal digital connectivity as a way of achieving economic growth and narrowing the development gap, particularly in rural areas. By reaffirming their support for initiatives such as The Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN), they highlighted the need for new investment, enhanced knowledge exchange and capacity building in digital infrastructure and technologies, including e-Commerce.
19. Due to increased cyber-connectivity, the Model ASEM Leaders stressed the significance to address cyber security challenges with respect to international law.

G. Enterprise Connectivity: Committing to Transcontinental Commerce

20. The Model ASEM Leaders noted that economic connectivity is a multi-dimensional concept that is central to enhancing prosperity and development in Asia and Europe. They reaffirmed the

need to promote people-to-people connectivity as an important element of the ASEM Process and recognised its contribution to Asia-Europe relations.

21. The Model ASEM Leaders affirmed the central role that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) plays in creating jobs and facilitating economic diversification and sustainable development. They emphasised their commitment to open investment and financial flows between Asia and Europe.
22. The Model ASEM Leaders also called for equitable commerce between Asia and Europe, underscoring the need to reduce barriers to trade, while understanding that protections are in place in different national contexts. Whilst considering the differentiated needs and responsibilities of partner countries in light of national circumstances, they acknowledged the role of international labour standards for sustainable economic development.

H. Hard Connectivity: Strengthening Cross-Continental Transportation

23. The Model ASEM Leaders recalled the Riga Declaration of the 3rd ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM3) and emphasised the significance of Eurasian multimodal transport corridors. They recognised the role of rail, road, air and maritime transport – both inland waterways and the open seas – in promoting connectivity, prosperity and economic growth.
24. Welcoming projects such as the One Belt, One Road Initiative and the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T), while noting that these programmes should recognised the needs of developing nations, the Model ASEM Leaders called for increased and coordinated investment in such infrastructure programmes while keeping in mind international commitments to environmental sustainability.

I. Connectivity through Culture: Celebrating ASEM Partners' Diversity

25. The Model ASEM Leaders recognised the importance of promoting and raising awareness about the cultural diversity among ASEM Partners and proposed the establishment of an annual cultural festival. This festival could integrate the various forms of arts, including visual arts or film production, but also showcase the diverse forms of gastronomy as part of the joint cultural heritage. Specific funds should be dedicated to this initiative, led by economically advanced ASEM Partners.
26. The Model ASEM Leaders commended the role of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in complementing the ASEM Process by facilitating people-to-people interactions and cooperation in the fields of culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development. They expressed their commitment to continued political and financial support to ASEF to ensure the long-term sustainability of its mission and work as an interface between governments and civil society.

J. Connectivity through Education: Providing Equal and Quality Education to All

27. The Model ASEM Leaders welcomed the continuation of the current 4 priorities tackled within the framework of the ASEM Education Process, including quality assurance and credit recognition; engaging business and industry in education; balanced mobility and lifelong learning including technical and vocational education and training. Furthermore, they highlighted the importance of digitalisation within education, both as a tool and as a subject matter to increase digital connectivity, entrepreneurship, and innovation within both Asia and Europe. The 6th ASEM Education Ministers Meeting (ASEM ME6) in 2017 in Korea provides a

suitable opportunity to work further on these matters which will lead to increased employment opportunities as well as sustainable socio-cultural benefits.

28. The Model ASEM Leaders recommended the promotion of a more widespread use of information and communication technology in education to better develop e-learning and distance learning platforms and opportunities. They recognised the need for equal and active participation of a wide range of society members including civil society and NGOs.
29. Addressing the importance of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on quality education, the Model ASEM Leaders expressed their support of capacity development and exchange of teachers and students across and within the continents, through the provision of a platform to share good practices.

K. Concluding Remarks

The Model ASEM Leaders congratulated all partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process to the 20th anniversary of ASEM and the successful cooperation and progress achieved over the past two decades. The Model ASEM Leaders agreed that ASEM's investment in connectivity as demonstrated through a continued strong political process, ASEF's work and the many civil society initiatives and projects across both regions has laid solid foundations for collaboration and dialogue in the years to come.

The Model ASEM Leaders expressed their greatest gratitude to all Model ASEM Partners, especially to ASEF as the main organiser and to the hosting country Mongolia, represented by the Mongolian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Mongolian Youth Federation, for the political and financial support and the outstanding hospitality extended to all participants during their stay in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

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