



**[DELIVERED]
STATEMENT**



**COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TREATY OF AMITY AND COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
(TAC)**

AIPA

**Tuesday, 24 February 2026
AIPA Secretariat
Jakarta, Indonesia**

1. The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) is deeply honoured to join ASEAN in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). Adopted in Bali on 24 February 1976, the TAC stands as ASEAN's foundational code of conduct and first legally binding instrument that has guided the region's approach to peace, security, stability and cooperation over the last five decades.
2. Beyond its legal significance, the strength of the Treaty lies in the legal and political values upon which it is built. These values grounded in foundational global and regional instruments, including the Charter of the United Nations of 1945, the Ten Principles of Peaceful Coexistence articulated at the 1955 Asian-African Conference in Bandung, the ASEAN Declaration of 1967 in Bangkok, and the 1971 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, which together have shaped ASEAN's collective journey.
3. Reflecting these enduring principles, the Treaty has, since its signing, embodied ASEAN's collective commitment to peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation. It reflects a common understanding that peace, security and stability are fundamental prerequisites for sustainable development, economic growth and social progress. As a living instrument, the TAC has provided a shared set of norms governing relations among ASEAN Member States, while also anchoring ASEAN's engagement with its external partners. In so doing, it has reinforced mutual trust, confidence, and perhaps more importantly ASEAN's central role as the primary driving force in building the regional architecture.
4. Over the past fifty years, the TAC has truly stood the test of time. It has remained relevant through profound regional and global transformations—amidst political changes, economic integration, and evolving security challenges. The continued accession of external partners to the Treaty reflects the growing recognition of ASEAN's values and norms, and the enduring appeal of the TAC as a framework for peace, dialogue and cooperation, both within and beyond Southeast Asia. As of today, besides the 11 ASEAN Member States, there are 47 High Contracting Parties to the TAC.

5. **Today, the principles of the TAC are more relevant than ever.** Our region has been facing increasingly complex, complicated, unprecedented and unpredictable challenges, including geopolitical tensions, transnational crimes, climate change, threats to public health and rapid technological transformation. Against this rapidly evolving regional and global landscape, the Treaty's core principles—mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the renunciation of the threat or use of force and effective cooperation—remain essential and legally binding to preventing escalation, thus building mutual trust, securing peace and political stability in our common region of Southeast Asia.
6. The Treaty reminds us that peace does not come automatically and by itself, is not self-sustaining. It requires goodwill, continuous joint efforts and a shared sense of responsibility and accountability. While governments play a central role in upholding these commitments, parliaments have an indispensable oversight function. As representatives of the Peoples of ASEAN, Parliaments help ensure peace and stability through effective and efficient legislation, monitoring and dialogue that reflects public aspirations.
7. In this regard, parliamentary diplomacy, through AIPA, complements State diplomacy. AIPA's work is firmly aligned with the purposes and principles of the Treaty, helping to ensure that these principles have been observed and abided by, remain valid, relevant, and translated into practical and people-centred outcomes.
8. This commemoration is especially meaningful as ASEAN enters a new chapter under the Chairship of the Philippines, alongside the Philippine AIPA Presidency—underscoring the importance of coherence between inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental work.
9. As we mark fifty years of the TAC, AIPA reaffirms its firm commitment to working closely with Member Parliaments, ASEAN institutions, observers, and partners to uphold the Treaty's principles and support a peaceful, prosperous and people-centred ASEAN Community.

10. May the spirit of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) continue to guide our collective journey, not only for the next decade up to 2045, but for generations to come.
11. The Peoples of ASEAN expect from us that we are able to secure peace, amity and cooperation in Southeast Asia. It is a sacred duty if we wish and want the ASEAN Family to be united and prosper for the shared prosperity of our Peoples, the Peoples of ASEAN.

Thank you.

