

# Jakarta Joint Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation for Progress between Asian–African Business Community

We, the representatives of Business Delegations of countries in Asia and Africa, gathered on April 21 – 22, 2005 in Jakarta, Indonesia for the Asian-African Business Summit held in conjunction with the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1955 Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung:

Recognising that increased globalisation and rapid advances in information and communication technology have dramatically changed the world, posing challenges as well as presenting opportunities for developing countries in Asia and Africa.

Acknowledging that in order to advance development goals in Asia and Africa, there should be an enabling domestic and international environment based on such principles as good governance, transparency, the honouring of commitments and pledges made by states, as well as reinforced public-private partnership.

Understanding that the expansion of trade within a fair, rules-based international trading system remains one of the most effective means for achieving sustainable economic development.

Taking into account the economic, social and political diversity and different levels of development as well as the respective comparative advantages of the countries of Asia and Africa.

Noting the importance of promoting economic and technical cooperation and business networking among the participants on the basis of mutual benefit and respect.

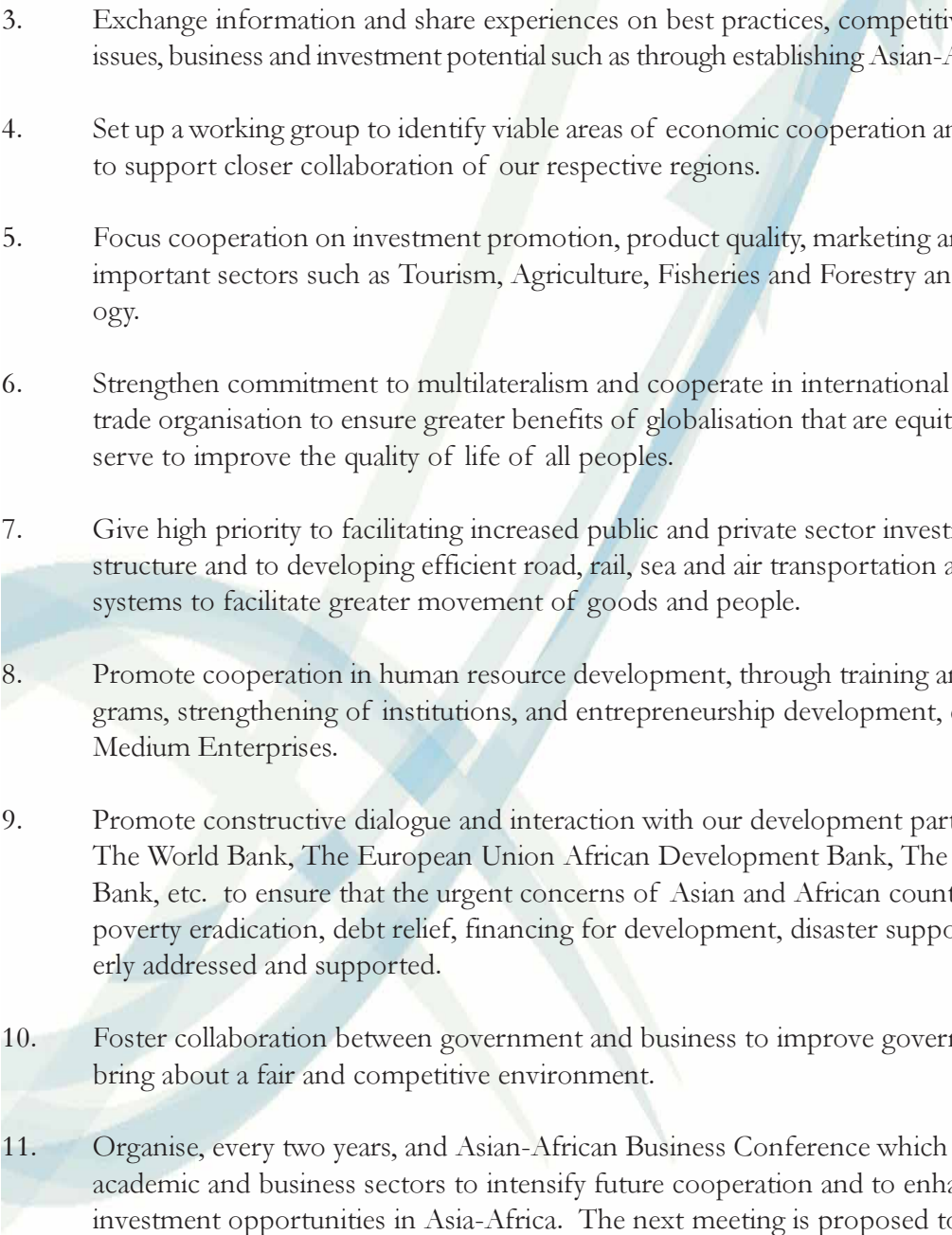
Sharing the belief that increased trade and investment cooperation for capacity building will help least developed countries keep pace with global development and assist them in eradicating poverty.

Noting that the changes taking place globally have brought forth a new role for the business community in the promotion of economic development based on sustainable South-South cooperation.

Convinced by the great potential of economic and business cooperation particularly in sectors such as Tourism, Education, Transportation, Agriculture, Forestry, Finance, Energy, Science, Technology and Telecommunications.

Consistent with the need to move beyond rhetoric and focus on actions, the delegates of the Asian-African Business Summit recommend the following common strategies and commit to work in cooperation with their governments on implementation of these strategies:

1. Strengthen the commitment to promote South-South cooperation among countries in Asia and Africa on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.
2. Take real measures to increase direct trade between Asia and Africa, and scrutinise the prospects and challenges of an Asian-African Business partnership and networking, including to take initiatives necessary to address those challenges.

- 
3. Exchange information and share experiences on best practices, competitiveness, development issues, business and investment potential such as through establishing Asian-African Business Centres.
  4. Set up a working group to identify viable areas of economic cooperation and to harmonise policies to support closer collaboration of our respective regions.
  5. Focus cooperation on investment promotion, product quality, marketing and skills development in important sectors such as Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Information Technology.
  6. Strengthen commitment to multilateralism and cooperate in international fora such as the world trade organisation to ensure greater benefits of globalisation that are equitably distributed and will serve to improve the quality of life of all peoples.
  7. Give high priority to facilitating increased public and private sector investment in regional infrastructure and to developing efficient road, rail, sea and air transportation and telecommunications systems to facilitate greater movement of goods and people.
  8. Promote cooperation in human resource development, through training and capacity building programs, strengthening of institutions, and entrepreneurship development, especially for Small and Medium Enterprises.
  9. Promote constructive dialogue and interaction with our development partners, such as the G-8, The World Bank, The European Union African Development Bank, The Asian Development Bank, etc. to ensure that the urgent concerns of Asian and African countries on matters such as poverty eradication, debt relief, financing for development, disaster support, continue to be properly addressed and supported.
  10. Foster collaboration between government and business to improve governance, transparency and bring about a fair and competitive environment.
  11. Organise, every two years, and Asian-African Business Conference which shall include the public, academic and business sectors to intensify future cooperation and to enhance greater trade and investment opportunities in Asia-Africa. The next meeting is proposed to be in Cairo in 2007.

Signed in Jakarta, Indonesia, this twenty second day of April in the year two thousand and five, in conjunction with the Asian African Business Summit, organised as part of the commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the Asian-African Conference of 1955.