



Office of the President of the Philippines

STATEMENT

Participation of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte at the 9th ASEAN-United States Summit 27 October 2021

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and other Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) joined United States President Joe Biden in a high-level discussion at the virtual 9th ASEAN-United States Summit, held on October 26, 2021.

President Duterte welcomed President Biden to his first ASEAN-US Summit, noting the longstanding relations between ASEAN and the US.

President Duterte likewise expressed appreciation for the United States' generous offer of vaccines for the region, including the Philippines. He highlighted that to succeed against the pandemic, *"we need to further strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation to ensure universal access to COVID-19 vaccines and medicines."*

The President underscored the need for sustained political dialogue, economic engagement and socio-cultural ties to further strengthen the ASEAN-US Strategic Partnership.

Citing the rapidly changing *"regional landscape and seascape,"* President Duterte asserted the importance and need for ASEAN Centrality even as he acknowledged the United States' *"commitment to work with ASEAN, especially on maritime security and domain awareness issues."*

The President emphasized that arrangements such as the Australia, United Kingdom and United States (AUKUS) trilateral security partnership *"must complement and not complicate our working methods for cooperation."*

The Philippines, he said, reaffirms the strategic importance of a peaceful and stable South China Sea and stressed that *"all stakeholders must exercise self-restraint to avoid untoward incidents that may further complicate the situation."*

The President added that countries must *"work together towards the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with international law, particularly the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea."*

The President also underlined the need to further strengthen cooperation in digital and human resource development - including in technical and vocational education and training - to hasten regional and global recovery from the pandemic. **END**