

Joint Media Statement of the 10th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting

1. We, the Ministers of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Australia, China, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand, gathered on 23 June 2020 on the occasion of the virtual 10th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting.

2. We acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an unprecedented challenge for trade, investment and global supply chains that requires a coordinated global response. Against this backdrop, we agreed to enhance our cooperation and coordination to facilitate a strong and resilient economic recovery as well as sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth following the crisis.

3. We reaffirmed our commitment to sign the RCEP Agreement this year as instructed by the leaders of the RCEP participating countries at the 3rd RCEP Summit on 4 November 2019. As the importance of the RCEP continues to grow in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we shared the view that the signing of the Agreement will serve as a clear signal of our unwavering support for the multilateral trading system, regional integration as well as economic development across the region.

4. India has been an important participant in the RCEP negotiations since the launch in 2012. We believe that India's participation in RCEP would contribute to the advancement and prosperity of the region. We therefore wish to emphasise that the RCEP remains open for India.