

Statement

of the 7th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME7), 15-16 May 2019, Bucharest, Romania

(1) We, education ministers and heads of delegations of ASEM partner countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as representatives of ASEM stakeholders, having met in Bucharest, Romania, on 15th and 16th of May 2019, aiming to strengthening the collaboration between Asia and Europe and to address the common challenges by working together for a sustainable development of ASEM Education Process,

Considering

- (2) The outcomes of the ASEM12 Summit held on the 18th and 19th of October 2018 in Brussels, Belgium, where the leaders of the ASEM member states reiterated that the ASEM Education Process aims at ensuring inclusion and equality in education by building comprehensive education systems that are accessible to all. The ASEM leaders emphasised the link between the ASEM connectivity and sustainable development for achieving the UN 2030 Agenda and recognised, the importance of access to quality education as a basic human right and a tool for responsible citizenship, economic prosperity and the resilience of society;
- (3) The contribution of the previous ASEM Education Ministers' Meetings towards the advancement of Asia-Europe connectivity;
- (4) The agreement during ASEMME3 to continue supporting and sustaining the ASEM Education Process cooperation in the four priority areas (1) quality assurance and recognition; (2) engaging business and industry in education; (3) balanced mobility and (4) lifelong learning, including technical and vocational education and training;
- (5) The significance of the two-pillar system as agreed during ASEMME5 in Riga, Latvia; (1) the first pillar emphasises the dialogue-oriented cooperation for mutual learning, sharing of best practices and exchanges; and (2) the second pillar emphasises the result-oriented cooperation to produce tangible results and outcomes;

- (6) The roadmap for future collaboration in the framework of ASEM Education Process, as outlined in the Seoul Declaration of November 2017, Enhancing Collaboration between Asia and Europe in Education and Training – A vision for the Next Decade;
- (7) **Agree** that the ASEM Education Process can contribute to realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- (8) **Welcome** the proposal to link the ASEM Education Process more explicitly to the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 by introducing “*Sustainable Development*” as a first transversal theme within the four priority areas of the ASEM Education Process;
- (9) **Welcome** the proposal to include “*Digitalisation*” as a second transversal theme within the four priority areas of the ASEM Education Process, considering that digitalisation can create opportunities to support connectivity and collaboration between Asia and Europe;
- (10) **Ask** the senior officials to develop a strategy paper on the ASEM Education Process Vision 2030 during SOM1 and SOM2 of the 8th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting to be presented in the ASEMME8 in 2021 for discussion and adoption.
- (11) **Convey** their gratitude to Belgium (Flemish and French Community) for hosting the ASEM Education Secretariat (AES) Belgium starting from ASEMME6 in 2017 until 2021.
- (12) **Appreciate** Romania for hosting and organising, in cooperation with the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF), the 7th ASEF Rectors’ Conference and Students’ Forum as the official side event and ASEMME Dialogue Partner of the 7th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMME7).
- (13) **Thank** India for its commitment to host the Intermediate Senior Officials’ Meeting (ISOM) which will take place in spring of 2020.
- (14) **Thank** Germany for its commitment to host the 1st Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM1) of ASEMME8 in the autumn of 2020, under the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- (15) **Thank** Thailand for its commitment to host the 2nd Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM2) and the 8th ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEMME8) in 2021.