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For Immediate Release

February 16, 2016

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/02/16/joint-statement-us-asean-special-leaders-summit-sunnylands-declaration>

Joint Statement of the U.S.-ASEAN Special Leaders’ Summit: Sunnylands Declaration

Sunnylands, California

February 15-16, 2016

We the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United States of America gathered in Sunnylands, California, on February 15-16, 2016, for a Special Leaders Summit.  This Special U.S.-ASEAN Leaders Summit was the first ever to be held in the United States and the very first Summit following the establishment of the ASEAN Community.

The Summit marked a watershed year for both ASEAN and for the increasingly close U.S-ASEAN. strategic partnership. In 2015, ASEAN Member States celebrated the establishment of the ASEAN Community, working together toward an ASEAN that better serves the people of Southeast Asia.

At our Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015, we elevated the U.S.-ASEAN relationship to a strategic partnership, recognizing the transformation of our relationship over the past several years. On the occasion of this Special Summit, we the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of ASEAN and the United States of America take this opportunity to reaffirm the key principles that will guide our cooperation going forward:

1.    Mutual respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality and political independence of all nations by firmly upholding the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter and international law;

2.    The importance of shared prosperity, sustainable, inclusive economic growth and development, and the nurturing of our young people to sustain continued peace, development, and stability for mutual benefit;

4.   Our commitment to ensure opportunities for all of our peoples, through strengthening democracy, enhancing good governance and adherence to the rule of law, promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, encouraging the promotion of tolerance and moderation, and protecting the environment;

5.   Respect and support for ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving regional architecture of the Asia-Pacific;

6.   Firm adherence to a rules-based regional and international order that upholds and protects the rights and privileges of all states;

7.   Shared commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

8.   Shared commitment to maintain peace, security and stability in the region, ensuring maritime security and safety, including the rights of freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the seas, and unimpeded lawful maritime commerce as described in the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as well as non-militarization and self-restraint in the conduct of activities;

9.   Shared commitment to promote cooperation to address common challenges in the maritime domain;

11.   Shared commitment to addressing climate change and developing a climate-resilient, environmentally sustainable ASEAN, as well as to implement individual countries’ nationally determined contributions made under the Paris Climate Agreement;

12.   Shared commitment to promote security and stability in cyberspace consistent with norms of responsible state behavior;

13.   Support for the advancement of a strong, stable, politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, people-oriented, people-centered and rules-based ASEAN Community;

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<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/02/18/statement-press-secretary-hr-757-hr-907-hr-3033>

Statement by the Press Secretary on H.R. 757, H.R. 907, H.R. 3033

On Thursday, February 18, 2016, the President signed into law:

H.R. 757, the "North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act," which strengthens and expands statutory sanctions on North Korea;

H. R. 757

<https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/bill/hr-757-north-korea-sanctions-enforcement-act-2015>

**Introduced: Feb 5, 2015,** 114th Congress, 2015–2017

**Status: Enacted — Signed by the President** on **Feb 18, 2016**

This bill was enacted after being signed by the President on February 18, 2016.

**Law:** Pub.L. 114-122

**Sponsor:** [Edward “Ed” Royce](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/edward_royce/400348)

Section 104. This section describes the conduct and entities subject to “blocking sanctions” (a prohibition on any transfers in financial instruments or other property). Although these blocking sanctions are permitted through existing regulations, this section makes them mandatory, rather than discretionary. Sanctions under this section are mandated against persons that have materially contributed to North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile development or engaged in other destructive activities, including importing or exporting related WMD materiel into North Korea, or providing training to, or advising on, their weapons programs. This section also levies mandatory sanctions on those who import luxury goods into North Korea, or enable its censorship efforts or continuing human rights abuses. Finally, this section strikes at the heart of North Korea’s efforts to fund their illicit activities by mandating sanctions against those who have engaged in money laundering, the manufacture of counterfeit goods, or narcotics trafficking. It also mandates the blocking of property of the Government of North Korea and the Worker’s Party of Korea.

Remarks

John Kerry  
Secretary of State

Treaty Room

Washington, DC

**February 17, 2016**

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2016/02/252573.htm>

Remarks With Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski

**QUESTION:** Mr. Secretary, what’s your take on China deploying missile – missile system in the Spratlys?

**SECRETARY KERRY:** I’m sorry, what?

**QUESTION:** China deploy a missile defense system in Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

**SECRETARY KERRY:** Well, we have said repeatedly with respect to China that the standard that should be applied to all countries with respect to the South China Sea is no militarization. When President Xi was here in Washington, he stood in the Rose Garden with President Obama and said China will not militarize in the South China Sea. But there is every evidence every day that there has been an increase of militarization of one kind or another. It’s of serious concern. We’ve had these conversations with the Chinese, and I’m confident that over the next days we will have further, very serious conversation on this. And my hope is that China will realize that it is important to try to resolve the jurisdictional issues of the South China Sea not through unilateral action, not through force, not through militarization, but through diplomacy and by working with the other countries and claimants in trying to resolve these differences. And we’ll have more to say on this in the next days for sure.

Thank you.

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For Immediate Release

September 25, 2015

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/09/25/remarks-president-obama-and-president-xi-peoples-republic-china-joint>

# Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People's Republic of China in Joint Press Conference

Rose Garden

We're committed to respecting and upholding the freedom of navigation and overflight that countries enjoy according to international law. Relevant construction activities that China are undertaking in the island of South -- Nansha Islands do not target or impact any country, and China does not intend to pursue militarization.