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| **ASEAN leaders *endorse* Comprehensive Recovery Framework**  Hanoi-ASEAN leaders approved the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its implementation plan on Thursday at the **plenary** session of the 37th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi.  The plan aims to serve a community exit strategy to recover and build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.  These measures will help people regain confidence, strengthen competitiveness, and restore supply chains and services which have been disrupted in the medium and long term.  The ASEAN Travel Corrridor Arrangement, which will facilitate the safe resumption of essential business travel in the region, was also **adopted** by leaders on Thursday.  During the meeting, leaders reviewed the cooperation between ASEAN countries. They appreciated Vietnam’s role as the 2020 ASEAN Chair in co-ordinating and leading ASEAN to maintain the momentum of building the three pillars of the community, while promoting cooperation in response to the pandemic and post-pandemic recovery.  The leaders also endorsed the results of the Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the ASEAN Community Master Plan 2025 and issuance of the Hanoi Declaration on the ASEAN Community Vision post-2025.  The leaders reaffirmed the prerequisite for maintaining solidarity and unity, maintaing ASEAN’s central role, enhancing resilience, promoting **multilateralism**, and upholding the basic principles of the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN **outlook** on Indo-Pacific.  ASEAN countries agreed the bloc should continue its efforts to create a favourable environment for dialogue, cooperation and confidence-building efforts, including ensuring effective negotiation of a COC in line with international laws, especially the United Nations **Convention** on the Law of the Sea 1982. They will also continue to support Myanmar to find long-term and sustainable solutions to solve the **humanitarian** issue in Rakhine State.  Emphasising the importance of completing negotiations for the RCEP, the leaders suggested early signing and implementation of the agreement, contributing to the multilateral trade system in a fair manner.  Addressing the meeting, PM Phuc said ASEAN should focus its resources on fully implementing the goals of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, creating new motivation to enhance ASEAN competitiveness in the post-COVID-19 period.  It was essential to exploit opportunities for intra-regional cooperation, apply advanced science and technology, and develop high-quality human resources to establish ASEAN’s new position in the global production and supply chain.  In response to challenges posed by natural disasters and diseases, as well as to maintain sustainable development goals, the PM said ASEAN countries should narrow the development gap and enhance connectivity so that no region was left behind.  Regarding measures to maintain peace and stability in the region, the PM said ASEAN should continue to promte its central role in dialogue, cooperation and confidence building in the region.  He reiterated Vietnam’s view and the common stance of ASEAN to turn the South China Sea into a sea of peace, stability and security where the rule of law was respected.  We must use UNCLOS 1982 as the framework for all activities at sea, taking no action to complicate the situation, he said.  The PM said all disputes should be settled peacefully based on international laws.  It was necessary to strictly and fully implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and build an effective COC in accordance with international laws and UNCLOS 1982.  **Public health cooperation**  PM Pray Chan-o-cha highlighted four key elements to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic while delivering his statement at the plenary session, according to Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs.  First, ASEAN should strengthen public health cooperation, especially on vaccine security and self-reliance, and making COVID-19 vaccines “global public goods” that are equitably accessible to all.  Second, ASEAN should engage in COVID-19 recovery efforts in a holistic manner, particularly through full and effective implementation of the newly established ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework for the benefit of all sectors, especially vulnerable groups and hardest hit sectors such as SMEs to ensure access to funding.  Third, ASEAN should build long-term resilience in facing emerging new challenges by strengthening fundamentals through further regional intergration as well as uphold people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community which “leaves no one behind”.  Fourth, ASEAN should work together to preserve regional stability in order to create an **environment conducive** for tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and for economic recovery.  At the end of the meeting, the leaders approved a number of important documents, which proposed by Vietnam, including the Hanoi Declaration on the ASEAN Community Vision post-2025, and the Hanoi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work towards a **Cohesive** and Proactive ASEAN Community. | ***Endorse:*** *to approve.*  **Plenary:** full, entire.  **Adopted:** approve.  **Multilateralism:** chủ nghĩa đa phương.  **Outlook:** triển vọng.  **Convention:** hiệp định.  **Humanitarian:** a person who professes ethical.  **environment conducive:** môi trường thuận lợi.  **Cohesive:** stick together. |