85. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability, ensuring maritime security and safety, and freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. We further underscored the principles as contained in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea, the Joint Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the l O'" Anniversary of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties (DOC) in the South China Sea, and the related ASEAN Statements adopted during the 24th ASEAN Summit. We welcomed the positive progress in the consultations for implementing the DOC and the agreement to work towards the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct (COC) based on consensus. In this regard, we agreed to intensify consultations with China on measures and mechanisms to ensure and further enhance the full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety, and on the early conclusion of COC In this respect, we looked forward to seeing more early harvest measures to promote and enhance trust and confidence in the region.

86. We remained concerned over the situation in the South China Sea. We reaffirmed the collective commitments to ensuring the resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, without resorting to the threat or use of force, while exercising self-restraint and avoiding activities that further complicate the situation or escalate tensions in the region. We further stressed the importance of the collective commitments of ASEAN Member States to peace, stability, maritime security and mutual trust in the region and the need to create conditions conducive for the peaceful settlement of disputes.