



**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)
FOR THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT**

“National Leadership & Regional Partnership for Resilient ASEAN”

23 May 2016
Istanbul, Turkey

On behalf of the ASEAN Ministers in charge of Disaster Management, it is my pleasure to convey our highest appreciation to His Excellency Ban Ki-moon for convening the World Humanitarian Summit. The Summit has come at an auspicious time when our world, and our people, have seen and felt much suffering from natural and human-induced disasters. We appreciate and commend the initiative to build global consensus through concrete commitments to the Agenda for Humanity.

ASEAN’s unity in addressing disasters is embodied in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response or AADMER. As a legally-binding regional agreement, AADMER has been the bedrock of our cooperation and collaboration on responding to natural disasters in the region as well as building the resilience of our peoples and communities.

In 2015, our region launched the ASEAN Community through the adoption by the ASEAN Leaders of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together. In the next ten years, ASEAN commits to realise the vision of a peaceful, stable and resilient Community. Taking action on this vision, we commit to fully implement the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, which envisions a community that engages and benefits the peoples, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic.

For 49 years since its establishment, ASEAN has enjoyed an unprecedented time of peace. And this we do not take for granted, as we remain vigilant, monitor the risks and emerging threats. Building on our diverse culture, we continue to enliven the value of moderation, pursue a culture of peace and tolerance, and promote interfaith and intercultural dialogues. Towards this end, we affirm the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates, which the ASEAN Leaders adopted during the 26th ASEAN Summit on 27 April 2015 in Langkawi, Malaysia. This is our commitment to **Core Responsibility One** on Global Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts.

Charting the future strategic direction of the humanitarian system, we must fully consider and reflect the wealth of knowledge, expertise, and experiences in the management of natural disasters. Towards this end, we agreed on the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, which envisions ASEAN as the global leader in disaster management. In the next five years, ASEAN's cooperation on disaster management is embodied in the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020. Through the implementation of the work programme, we:

CONFIRM NATIONAL LEADERSHIP in responding to disasters and adopt a programmatic and inclusive approach to institutionalise resilience, as our commitment to **Core Responsibility Four** on Change People's Lives – From Delivering Aid to Ending Need. We continue to synergise local, national, and regional systems and harmonise policies and programmes to ensure coherence as embodied in the AADMER. We commit to institutionalise further these synergies by adopting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, ensuring the programmatic engagement of relevant government agencies, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, youth, media, private sector, and other stakeholders.

ENGAGE PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES as first and last responders, not only as victims of disasters, which is our commitment to deliver **Core Responsibility Three** to Leave No One Behind. To move the region significantly to better assess the needs and provide protection to populations of concern during humanitarian crises, we will work towards the establishment of a regional social protection protocol under the AADMER to ensure that humanitarian action delivered is according to the needs and concerns of the peoples and communities. We also commit to widen the space to amplify the voices of those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We affirm the leadership of women and the significant role of the youth in building resilience for a sustainable future. Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, minority groups and migrants.

INVEST IN JOINT PREPAREDNESS through One ASEAN One Response, as our commitment to **Core Responsibility Two** to Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity and **Core Responsibility Five** to Invest in Humanity. One ASEAN One Response is our strategy to achieve timely, efficient and predictable response, mobilise greater resources and establish stronger coordination to ensure ASEAN's collective response to disasters. Specifically, we commit to strengthen ASEAN's mechanisms to bring together different sectors and stakeholders to ensure speed, scale, and solidarity in responding to large-scale natural disasters. We also affirm the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, having the clear mandate to coordinate and mobilise the required resources for a regional response to a large-scale disaster. ASEAN will continue to ensure interoperability with international tools and services for response inside and outside the region, with ASEAN taking the leadership role in the region.

ENHANCE THE ROLE OF REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS and networks in disaster management to serve as advocates to champion nationally-led, regionally-supported response models to disasters and to bridge the regional and global conversations to prepare for the current risks and future threats. With the launching of the Regional Organisations Humanitarian Action Network or ROHAN, we commit to deepen and broaden our regional partnerships, learn from one another and capitalise on each other’s strengths to improve regional resilience.

DESIRE TO SERVE AS THE GLOBAL NEXUS for knowledge sharing and innovation exchange. Our accumulated knowledge and expertise on responding to natural disasters and reducing risks will contribute to shaping the contours of the humanitarian system. In this regard, we will tirelessly work in making the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) as the network coordinator of regional centres for excellence in disaster leadership and management that can facilitate knowledge creation, policy analysis and training for the next generation of practitioners.
