



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE
SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE ASEAN
AGREEMENT ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND
THE FIFTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

19 October 2017
Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

1. The 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) were convened as a joint session in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR on 19 October 2017. The Meeting was opened by H.E. Dr. Bounthong Chitmany, Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR, followed by activities in commemoration of the 2017 ASEAN Day for Disaster Management. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Kampheng Saysompheng, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare of Lao PDR. The Meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of disaster management, representatives from all ASEAN Member States and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
2. As an auspicious year when ASEAN celebrates her 50th Anniversary and the first year after the signing of the Declaration on One ASEAN One Response, the Ministers congratulated the chosen of the theme “Safe and Resilient Communities for Resilient ASEAN” for ASEAN Day of Disaster Management this year that calls upon the ASEAN Community to scale up community resilience through promoting community-led and innovative approaches on disaster risk reduction, harvesting good practices on resilience and mainstreaming disaster management into development initiatives, and investing in early warning.
3. The Ministers commended the achievements of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) in the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 as well as the Governing Board of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in overseeing and guiding the operationalisation of the AHA Centre. Accomplishments on both the policy and operational front are essential in achieving the aspirations of the ASEAN Vision

2025 on Disaster Management and fulfilling the objectives of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025.

4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the accomplishment across all the priority programmes of the AADMER 2016-2020 Work Programme that include the adoption of the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Guidelines, the AADMER Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, the convening of the 1st ASEAN Recovery Forum, the Framework for ASEAN Standardisation and Certification for Expertise on Disaster Management (ASCEND), the completion of the Disaster Emergency Logistic System of ASEAN (DELSA) Phase I Project, completion of the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) Programme Phase 1, Development of the Guideline for Urban Resilience, the Work Plan for Strengthening Institutional and Policy Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, as well as the convening of the 2017 ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management.

5. The Ministers shared the views of the ASEAN Leaders at 30th ASEAN Summit held on 29 April 2017 in Manila, the Philippines, for a more holistic and stronger coordination across different pillars and sectors in order to have a more coherent whole-of-society response to broad and important issues which require actions from different sectors. In this connection, the Ministers reflected upon the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination under the leadership of ACDM, in particular through the ASEAN Joint Task Force on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (JTF-HADR) and the Technical Working Group on Civil-Military Coordination (TWG-CIMIC), which provided good platforms for coordination with other sectors in ensuring ASEAN's synergy and collective response to disasters. The Ministers further supported various initiatives in engaging the involvement of various sectors and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of AADMER such as the ASEAN Recovery Forum that brought together ASEAN private sector and civil society organisations, through the AADMER Partnership Group, to discuss ways forward to enhance the resilience of ASEAN Communities and establish pre-disaster arrangements.

6. The Ministers recognized the important role of the AHA Centre in operationalizing the One ASEAN One Response Declaration and extended their appreciation for the prompt response in the delivery of relief items for the Northern Viet Nam flash flood and landslides victims, the displaced communities in Marawi City, the Philippines, as well as the affected communities in Northern Rakhine State, Myanmar. Against the backdrop of the changing humanitarian landscape in the region and in reference to the ASEAN Chairman's Statement on the Humanitarian Situation in Rakhine State, the Ministers endorsed the ACDM's decision to task the ASEAN Secretariat to develop a concept paper for the review of the humanitarian assistance under AADMER in light of emerging

human-induced disasters in the region and noted that, in the interim, the AHA Centre will continue providing humanitarian assistance as guided by the Governing Board.

7. With a view to realising the One ASEAN One Response Declaration by 2020, the Ministers endorsed the ACDM's decision to task the ASEAN Secretariat to convene a senior officials multi-sectoral workshop in early 2018 to strategise and develop plan of actions for its effective implementation.

8. With regard to innovative financing to enhance resilience in ASEAN, the Ministers noted that the ASEAN Secretariat has been tasked to develop the strategy to accelerate the establishment of risk transfer mechanisms at the national and regional levels as well as highlight the potential value of collaboration with different partners, particularly the private sectors on innovative risk financing mechanisms and sharing of country experiences or national pilot projects.

9. The Ministers noted that the ACDM has finalized the way forward in concluding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ASEAN and the Russian Federation on Disaster Management, the MoU with the International Federation on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as the extension of the MoU with the People's Republic of China.

10. As an outward-looking organization, ASEAN not only seeks to address and manage disasters in our region, but also to reach out to contribute to world efforts in managing disasters, as aspired for in the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management for ASEAN to position itself as a global leader in disaster management by 2025. In light of this, the Ministers endorsed ACDM's support for ASEAN to participate in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2018 to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and other relevant meetings including the Regional Organisations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN) as well as the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, particularly in articulating its position through ASEAN Joint Statements. The Ministers expressed support for the ASEAN Secretariat to play a central coordinating role in facilitating ASEAN's engagement with ROHAN, with the support of AHA Centre.

11. The Ministers noted that the 1st Inter-Ministerial Dialogue on Disaster Management will be convened in 2018 in Malaysia. The dialogue will be a significant cornerstone in charting how relevant ASEAN sectors converge in realising the One ASEAN One Response Declaration by 2020 and ensure that cross-sector and cross-pillar coordination in operationalizing the declaration is enhanced and coupled with policy cohesion. The Ministers encouraged such efforts and were of views that ASEAN

shall further strengthen its cooperation on disaster management and humanitarian assistance, and proactively contribute to international community's agenda as the world leader in disaster management.

12. The Ministers noted that the 7th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre was held on 18 October 2017 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, and congratulated the progress of the AHA Centre's work in operationalising One ASEAN One Response. The Ministers welcomed the decisions of the Governing Board, which adopted, among others, the AHA Centre's Resource Mobilisation Strategy 2017-2025 and the schemes to improve the welfare of AHA Centre's staff. With regard to the scope and mandate of the AHA Centre in view of recent experiences in providing humanitarian assistance to displaced communities in Marawi, the Philippines, and the Rakhine State, Myanmar, the Ministers supported the Governing Board's direction to the AHA Centre to focus on responding to natural disasters. Provision of other types of humanitarian assistance to other types of emergencies will be done on a case-by-case basis, subject to availability of resources and as guided by the Governing Board. The Ministers further welcomed the Governing Board's decision that the AHA Centre will conduct an in-depth discussion on its involvement in providing humanitarian assistance to human-induced disasters, involving relevant ASEAN sectors. The Ministers welcomed and congratulated the appointment of Ms. Adelina Kamal as the new Executive Director of the AHA Centre

13. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the leadership of the Government of Lao PDR as Chair of the ACDM, the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the COP to AADMER and the AMMDM in 2017. The Ministers expressed confidence for the leadership of Malaysia as the Chair of ACDM, the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the COP to AADMER and the AMMDM in 2018, and looked forward to the 6th AMMDM and the 7th Meeting of the COP to AADMER, scheduled in Malaysia in 2018.

14. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR for hosting the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the AADMER and the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), and for the excellent arrangements made and hospitality provided.

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