

EAST ASIA SUMMIT LEADERS' DECLARATION ON ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of the 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Manila, Philippines, on 14 November 2017;

REAFFIRMING that the EAS, with ASEAN as the driving force, will continue to be a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia;

EXPRESSING grave concern about the spread of terrorism that threatens global and regional peace and security;

UNDERLINING the EAS participating countries' resolve in detecting, deterring, suppressing, combating and preventing money laundering and terrorism financing;

RECALLING our commitment to countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorism, including under the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) for its parties;

RECOGNISING that terrorism will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures, and intelligence operations alone and underlining the importance of taking measures to prevent and counter terrorism and to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism while recognising that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism;

EMPHASISING our commitment to countering terrorism and violent extremism, as reflected in the 2015 East Asia Summit Statement on Countering Violent Extremism;

NOTING that the number and seriousness of acts of international terrorism depend on the financing that terrorists may obtain;

RECOGNISING that terrorism financing directly facilitates and supports the activities of terrorists, terrorist groups and foreign terrorist fighters weakening global security;

STRESSING that money laundering distorts economic development and investment, reduces the integrity of legal frameworks, and undermines confidence in financial markets and impacts national security;

NOTING the links, in some cases, between terrorism and organised crime, and that money laundering through organised criminal groups can finance terrorist activities;

NOTING the threats and opportunities of rapidly emerging new financial technologies;

RECOGNISING that criminals and terrorists use a wide variety of traditional and non-traditional financing sources, methods and channels to raise, distribute and launder illicit funds;

TAKING into account Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) international standards designed to prevent the abuse of regulated and unregulated financial channels, alternative remittance systems, and the physical trans-border movement of currency, and the subset of the non-profit organisation sector that may be abused for terrorism financing while working to mitigate the impact on legitimate activities through these mediums;

WELCOMING the establishment of FATF TREIN (Training and Research Institute) as an important tool to assist countries in developing their capacity in anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism;

ACKNOWLEDGING the outcomes achieved and the activities currently being undertaken to strengthen regional collaboration and innovation through the Regional Counter Terrorism Financing (CTF) Summits and their associated working groups;

NOTING the importance of the findings of the first Regional Risk Assessment of terrorism financing, an outcome of the 2016 CTF Summit, in identifying regional priorities for collaboration;

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of regional practitioner networks, such as the Asia-Pacific Asset Recovery Interagency Network, that facilitate information sharing to help investigators and prosecutors identify, trace, freeze and ultimately recover stolen assets;

DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:

1. Implement United Nations Security Council Resolutions dealing with threats to international peace and security caused by terrorism;
2. Intensify information sharing on terrorist and transnational crime organisations, including on money laundering and terrorism financing;
3. Strengthen cooperation to prevent the funding of foreign terrorist fighters;
4. Continue to share experiences and expertise in implementing and enforcing counter-terrorism laws, including through international workshops and seminars;
5. Support ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of ACCT, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism, and the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime;
6. Deepen regional cooperation in exchanging information on money laundering and terrorism financing; and in tackling all sources, methods and channels of terrorism financing, including through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC);

7. Effectively implement the FATF's international standards for combating money laundering and terrorism financing;
8. Continue to develop the capacity of and enhance cooperation among financial intelligence units (FIUs), financial supervisory authorities and other relevant agencies involved in anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) efforts, to better detect, analyse and investigate terrorism financing and laundering of proceeds of crime, in accordance with the FATF's standards;
9. Encourage all EAS participating countries to accede to or ratify and implement the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, as well as the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols thereto, the UN Convention against Corruption and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to help in the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing;
10. Stress the importance of respective national financial sectors and designated non-financial business professions in adopting a risk-based approach to implementing AML/CFT measures consistent with the FATF's international standards, in a way that does not undermine financial inclusion;
11. Encourage the continued and enhanced involvement of the private sector in disrupting and preventing money laundering and terrorism financing;
12. Explore the use of current and emerging technologies to help disrupt and prevent money laundering and terrorism financing committed by any means, including in the ICT environment, and strengthen cooperation in this matter;
13. Support regional mechanisms for countering money laundering and terrorism financing, including the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), Regional CTF Summit and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG);
14. Enhance cooperation and collaboration among relevant centres in the ASEAN and other regions to continuously develop new strategies, techniques and tactics to counter terrorism;
15. Strengthen further cooperation on AML/CFT and related issues, including through capacity building and exchanging information, best-practice and lessons learned, and through relevant regional institutions and international organisations, including UN agencies, through various initiatives and projects.