

JOINT STATEMENT

**TWELFTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME
(12TH AMMTC)**

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 31 October 2018

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers/Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam responsible for overseeing the prevention and combating of transnational crime, gathered in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 31 October 2018 for the Twelfth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as the 12th AMMTC) to consolidate and further strengthen regional cooperation in combating transnational crime.
2. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for the 12th AMMTC on 30 October 2018. The 12th AMMTC was chaired by AMMTC Leader Myanmar, Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
3. We took note of the Report of the outgoing Chair of the 11th AMMTC. The Report highlighted that the ASEAN Member States achieved significant progress in addressing the challenges arising from the threats of transnational crime, which contributed to the peace and prosperity in the region during the AMMTC Philippines Chairmanship.
4. We took note of the outcomes of the 22nd ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM) and Its Related Meetings on 6-8 August 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the 18th SOMTC and Its Related Meetings held on 23-28 September 2018 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.
5. We were pleased to note the on-going progress of ASEAN, in particular the regional and international endeavours to tackle transnational crimes. We also reaffirmed our commitment in strengthening cooperation in the fight against transnational crime to enhance regional unity and strength and to help establish a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community that would enable us to respond to the present and future challenges in accordance with the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the

Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime 2015 and other relevant key ASEAN Documents.

6. We adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action (PoA) to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2018-2025 and looked forward to its effective implementation through the development of a Work Plan by the SOMTC Working Group on Counter Terrorism.
7. We commended efforts undertaken by the DGICM in finalising the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States and adopted the Guidelines that will enhance ASEAN's abilities to provide necessary assistance to nationals of ASEAN Member States facing consular difficulties in third countries.
8. We were pleased to note the effective implementation of the SOMTC Work Programme 2016-2018 and looked forward to the finalisation and adoption of the new SOMTC Work Programme 2019-2021 to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016-2025).
9. We also commended the progress in the implementation of the Bohol Trafficking in Persons Work Plan 2017-2020 and the efforts to monitor its effective implementation through the Matrix of Monitoring of Implementation of the Bohol TIP Work Plan 2017-2020. We hoped that the cross-sectoral, cross-pillar coordination through this Work Plan could be replicated in addressing other transnational crime issues.
10. We welcomed the kind offer by Thailand to host the 13th AMMTC and Its Related Meetings in 2019.
11. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for their warm welcome and the generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective the delegations, as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.
