

**ASEAN Document Series  
on Transnational Crime:  
Terrorism and Violent Extremism;  
Drugs; Cybercrime; and  
Trafficking in Persons**



one vision  
one identity  
one community





**ASEAN Document Series  
on Transnational Crime:  
Terrorism and Violent Extremism;  
Drugs; Cybercrime; and  
Trafficking in Persons**

The ASEAN Secretariat  
Jakarta

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

**For inquiries, contact:**

The ASEAN Secretariat  
Community Relations Division (CRD)  
70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja  
Jakarta 12110  
Indonesia  
Phone : (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991  
Fax : (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504  
E-mail : [public@asean.org](mailto:public@asean.org)

**ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities**

Catalogue-in-Publication Data

**ASEAN Document Series on Transnational Crime: Terrorism and Violent Extremism; Drugs; Cybercrime; and Trafficking in Persons**

Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, December 2017

341.73

1. ASEAN – Statement – Declaration
2. Drug – Trafficking – Cybercrime

ISBN 978-602-6392-95-4

The text of this publication may be freely quoted or reprinted, provided proper acknowledgement is given and a copy containing the reprinted material is sent to the Community Relations Division (CRD) of the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta.

General information on ASEAN appears online at the ASEAN Website: [www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org)

Copyright Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 2017.  
All rights reserved.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### I. ASEAN LEADERS

Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia, Jakarta, Indonesia, 8 May 2011 .....	3
Declaration on Drug-Free ASEAN 2015, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 4 April 2012 .....	5
Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates, Langkawi, Malaysia, 27 April 2015 .....	8
ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21 November 2015 .....	12
ASEAN Declaration to Prevent and Combat Cybercrime, Manila, the Philippines, 13 November 2017 .....	38

### II. ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (AMMTC)

Joint Press Statement of the 14 <sup>th</sup> DGICM, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 14 December 2010.....	43
Joint Press Statement of the 15 <sup>th</sup> DGICM, Singapore, 5 October 2011.....	44
Joint Statement of the Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, Bali, Indonesia, 11 October 2011 .....	46
Joint Press Statement of the 16 <sup>th</sup> DGICM, Phuket, Thailand, 6 September 2012.....	49
Joint Press Statement of the 17 <sup>th</sup> DGICM, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, 30 August 2013 .....	51
Joint Statement of the Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, Vientiane, Lao PDR, 17 September 2013 .....	53

Joint Press Statement of the 18 <sup>th</sup> DGICM, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 3 September 2014 .....	55
Joint Press Statement of the 19 <sup>th</sup> DGICM, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 9 September 2015.....	57
Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 30 September 2015 .....	59
Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 29 September 2015.....	64
ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 29 September 2015 .....	67
Joint Statement of the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 29 September 2015.....	76
Chairman’s Statement of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2 October 2015 .....	78
Joint Press Statement of the 20 <sup>th</sup> DGICM, Bali, Indonesia, 22 September 2016.....	81
Joint Statement of the DGICM on the Prevention of the Movement of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, Bali, Indonesia, 23 September 2016 .....	83
ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016-2025), Manila, Philippines, 20 September 2017 .....	85
ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT), Manila, Philippines, 20 September 2017 .....	95
Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, Manila, Philippines, 20 September 2017.....	109
Chairman’s Statement of the Second Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, Manila, Philippines, 19 September 2017.....	113

Joint Statement of the Eleventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on  
Transnational Crime, Manila, Philippines, 20 September 2017..... 116

Joint Press Statement of the 21<sup>st</sup> DGICM, Vientiane, Lao PDR,  
23 November 2017 ..... 119

### **III. ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON DRUG MATTERS (AMMD)**

Chairman’s Statement of the ASEAN Special Ministerial Meeting on Drug  
Matters, Bangkok, Thailand, 31 August 2012 ..... 123

Chairman’s Statement of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug  
Matters, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 3 September 2013 ..... 125

Chairman’s Statement of the Third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug  
Matters, Jakarta, Indonesia, 3 December 2014 ..... 127

Chairman’s Statement of the Fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug  
Matters, Langkawi, Malaysia, 29 October 2015..... 130

Chairman’s Statement of the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug  
Matters, Singapore, 20 October 2016..... 133

ASEAN Statement at the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic  
Drugs (CND) Special Session on UNGASS Preparation, Vienna, Austria,  
14 March 2016 ..... 136

ASEAN Statement at the United Nations General Assembly Special  
Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem 2016, New York, U.S.A.,  
19 April 2016 ..... 139

ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs  
2016-2025, Singapore, 20 October 2016..... 142

### **IV. ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS’ MEETING (ADMM)**

Joint Statement of Special ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting on  
Countering Violent Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism,  
Clark, Philippines, 23 October 2017..... 159

## V. DOCUMENTS WITH EXTERNAL PARTIES

### **AUSTRALIA**

Joint Statement of the 6 <sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 4 December 2010 .....	163
Joint Statement of the 7 <sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation, Singapore, 5 October 2011 .....	164
Joint Press Statement of the 8 <sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation, Phuket, Thailand, 6 September 2012 .....	166
Joint Press Statement of the 9 <sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, 30 August 2013.....	167
Joint Press Statement of the 10 <sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 3 September 2014 .....	168
Joint Press Statement of the 11 <sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 9 September 2015 .....	169
ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, Vientiane, Lao PDR, 7 September 2016.....	170
Joint Press Statement of the 12 <sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation, Bali, Indonesia, 22 September 2016 .....	175
Joint Press Statement of the 13 <sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation, Vientiane, Lao PDR, 23 November 2017 .....	176

### **CHINA**

Joint Statement of the Second ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation, Bali, Indonesia, 12 October 2011.....	177
Joint Statement of the Third ASEAN Plus People's Republic of China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation to Commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of ASEAN-China Ministerial Law Enforcement Cooperation, Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18 September 2013.....	179

Joint Statement of the Fourth ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting  
on Transnational Crime Consultation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,  
30 September 2015..... 182

Joint Statement of the Fifth ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting  
on Transnational Crime Consultation, Manila, Philippines,  
21 September 2017..... 184

Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Southeast  
Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of the People’s Republic  
of China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues,  
Manila, Philippines, 21 September 2017..... 186

**JAPAN**

Joint Statement of the First ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting  
on Transnational Crime Consultation, Vientiane, Lao PDR,  
18 September 2013..... 191

ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and  
Transnational Crime, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 12 November 2014 ..... 193

Joint Statement of the Second ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting  
on Transnational Crime Consultation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,  
1 October 2015 ..... 199

Joint Statement of the Third ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting  
on Transnational Crime Consultation, Manila, Philippines,  
21 September 2017..... 201

**RUSSIA**

Statement of ASEAN and Russia Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Joint  
Efforts to Counter International Terrorism, Manila, Philippines,  
6 August 2017 ..... 203

**ASEAN PLUS THREE**

Joint Statement of the Fifth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on  
Transnational Crime Consultation, Bali, Indonesia, 12 October 2011..... 206

Joint Statement of the Sixth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation, Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18 September 2013..... 208

Joint Statement of the Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 30 September 2015..... 209

Joint Statement of the Eight ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation, Manila, Philippines, 21 September 2017..... 210

**VI. EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS)**

East Asia Summit Declaration on Combating Wildlife Trafficking, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 13 November 2014..... 215

East Asia Summit Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 13 November 2014..... 221

East Asia Summit Statement on Countering Violent Extremism, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22 November 2015..... 223

East Asia Summit Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22 November 2015..... 226

East Asia Summit Statement on Issues Related to Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22 November 2015..... 229

East Asia Summit Declaration on Strengthening Responses to Migrants in Crisis and Trafficking in Persons, Vientiane, Lao PDR, 8 September 2016 .... 231

East Asia Summit Leaders' Declaration on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, Manila, Philippines, 14 November 2017..... 236

East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Countering Ideological Challenges of Terrorism and Terrorist Narratives and Propaganda, Manila, Philippines, 14 November 2017..... 240

## **VII. ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF)**

Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement, Ha Noi, Viet Nam 23 July 2010.....	247
ASEAN Regional Forum Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 12 July 2012.....	256
ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Strengthening Cooperation in the Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals, Vientiane, Lao PDR, 26 July 2016.....	258
ARF Statement on Enhancing Cooperation in Addressing and Countering the Drug Problem, Manila, Philippines, 7 August 2017.....	262





# ASEAN LEADERS





# **ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia**

**Jakarta, Indonesia  
8 May 2011**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of 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, Member States of ASEAN, at the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**COMMITTED** to intensify our efforts toward regional integration and community building through enhanced cooperation as provided for in the Bali Declaration of ASEAN Concord II and the Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015), as well as the three blueprints of the ASEAN Community;

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint on the commitment of the ASEAN Leaders to strengthen cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues particularly in combating transnational crimes and other transboundaries challenges;

**NOTING** the Fourth Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in Bali on 29-30 March 2011, and taking note with appreciation of the ongoing activities and achievements of the Bali Process;

**COGNIZANT** of the need to ensure the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children and other relevant international conventions and protocols on trafficking in persons, to which ASEAN Member States are parties;

**ENCOURAGED** by the significant progress and achievements made by ASEAN in implementing anti-trafficking measures and programmes including the Work Programme to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime 2010-2012 which will further strengthen regional and international cooperation to combat and prevent trafficking in persons;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the decision by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime to explore the possibility of developing an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons;

**DO HEREBY AGREE** as follows:

1. To strengthen further regional and international cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons;
2. To further enhance the work of the existing network of law-enforcement agencies including the Heads of Specialist Units in order to effectively address the issue of trafficking in persons;
3. To promote a victim-centered approach by distinguishing victims of trafficking in persons from the perpetrators and identifying the countries of origin and nationalities of such victims;
4. To ensure that such victims are treated humanely and provided with such essential medical and other forms of assistance deemed appropriate by the respective receiving/recipient country, including prompt repatriation to their respective countries of origin;
5. To cooperate on enhancing our capacities in all its aspects to address the issue of trafficking in persons;
6. To task our Ministers in charge of Transnational Crimes (AMMTC) to accelerate the consideration of an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons.

Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia, this Eighth of May in the Year Two Thousand and Eleven, in a single original copy, in the English language.

# **ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Drug-Free ASEAN 2015**

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
4 April 2012**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of 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, Member States of ASEAN, gathered at the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 3-4 April 2012;

**RECOGNISING** that the international drug problem remains one of the main security concerns to all ASEAN Member States. Apart from the suffering caused to individuals, particularly the young, illicit drug abuse and trafficking weaken the social fabric of nations, represent direct and indirect economic costs to governments and entail criminal activities which could threaten the stability of states;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the illicit drug trafficking, which is inextricably linked to other transnational crimes, including money laundering and arms smuggling, could escalate to such a level where perpetrators can pose serious political and security threats to the region;

**RECALLING** the Joint Declaration for a Drug-Free ASEAN signed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Manila, on 25 July 1998; the agreement of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers at their 33<sup>rd</sup> AMM in Bangkok in July 2000 to speed up the realization of a Drug-Free ASEAN from 2020 to 2015; the Bangkok Political Declaration in Pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 in October 2000; the ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use 2009-2015; the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III); and the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint for which ASEAN will work towards a drug-free ASEAN by 2015;

**ENCOURAGED** by the increasing ASEAN efforts in addressing the menace of narcotic drugs which will directly complement regional efforts in halting and reversing the spread of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS;

**WELCOMING** the efforts of the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies under the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council in implementing ASEAN initiatives, especially the objectives in the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) on Drug-Free ASEAN, especially in the priority areas of drug education, drug information, prevention within the community, treatment, rehabilitation and law enforcement;

**NOTING** the growing resolve of ASEAN that the realisation of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 can be achieved by successfully and effectively controlling illicit drug activities and mitigating their negative consequences to society, primarily on significant and sustainable reduction;

**EMPHASISING** the importance of strengthening institutional linkages and coordination between the various ASEAN mechanisms involved in the fight against illicit drug trafficking and other transnational crimes, particularly the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), the ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM), the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD), the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM), the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs, the ASEAN Directors-General for Immigration Department and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM) and the ASEANAPOL;

**WELCOMING** also the efforts undertaken by the international community to succeed over the deleterious nature of illicit drugs in light of the United Nations Decade on Drug Abuse (1991-2000), as well as the continuous commitment of ASEAN Dialogue Partners in providing assistance to the ASEAN Member States in solving this menace;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to realising an ASEAN Community by 2015, in accordance with the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint, to be free from the threat of illicit drug abuse, use and trafficking;

**DO HEREBY declare to:**

1. Intensify concerted efforts to realize the vision and goal of a drug-free ASEAN Community by 2015 as a high-priority agenda of ASEAN by tasking relevant Ministers to speed up the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use 2009-2015 and the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) on drug-free ASEAN by 2015.

2. Task relevant Ministers of the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies through the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to make annual reports to the ASEAN Leaders on the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint in the area of drug-free ASEAN.
3. Deepen our cooperation and coordination measures through the sharing of information and best practices in order to enhance more effective enforcement of illicit drug control in the region.
4. Further enhance cooperation and coordination in a comprehensive manner with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and external parties to eradicate illicit drug production, processing, trafficking and use in the ASEAN region by 2015.

Adopted in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, this Fourth Day of April in the Year Two Thousand and Twelve.

# Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates

Langkawi, Malaysia  
27 April 2015

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of 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, on the occasion of the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Langkawi, Malaysia, on 27 April 2015;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the aims and purposes of ASEAN as set forth in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967 and contributing towards peace, progress and prosperity;

**REAFFIRMING** the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter;

**RECALLING** that during the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 8 May 2011, the Leaders welcomed the initiative to establish the Global Movement of Moderates as one of ASEAN's positive contributions in shaping global developments and to global peace and security, and subsequently adopted the ASEAN Concept Paper on the Global Movement of Moderates at the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

**NOTING** that the Global Movement of Moderates is an initiative which promotes a culture of peace and complements other initiatives, including the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations;

**APPRECIATING** efforts at the community, national, regional and international levels in promoting cohesion of the multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural ASEAN Community whose diversity is a source of strength to promote moderation;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that moderation, as a means to promote tolerance and mutual understanding, includes the importance of engaging in dialogues on political, economic and socio-cultural issues;

**RECOGNISING** that moderation guides action which emphasises tolerance, understanding, dialogue, mutual respect and inclusiveness and is a tool to bridge differences and resolve disputes;

**FURTHER RECOGNISING** that moderation is an all-encompassing approach not only in resolving differences and conflicts peacefully but also for ensuring sustainable and inclusive development and equitable growth as well as promoting social harmony and mutual understanding within the country and region;

**FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING** that a commitment to democratic values, good governance, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, equitable and inclusive economic growth, tolerance and mutual respect, and adherence to social justice are vital to countering terrorism, violent extremism and radicalism, which pose a challenge to ASEAN, and address their root causes;

**RECOGNISING** that moderation is a core value in the pursuit of long-lasting peace and a tool to diffuse tensions, negate radicalism and counter extremism in all its forms and manifestations;

**MINDFUL** that violent extremism should not be associated with any culture, civilisation or religion;

**EMPHASISING** that terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations should not be tolerated or condoned;

**COMMENDING** efforts and initiatives towards the sharing of best practices on counterradicalisation and tackling the root causes of extremism;

**ENCOURAGED** that the Global Movement of Moderates has received widespread support from the international community, academic institutions and civil society organisations;

**DO HEREBY AGREE TO:**

1. Strengthen ASEAN unity and solidarity and its central role in maintaining and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region;
2. Enhance ASEAN's common agenda for peace and prosperity, which promotes political and social stability, inclusive political processes, sustainable growth which provides opportunities for all and upholds dignity, and social justice with emphasis on mutual respect, balance and moderation;

3. Promote moderation as an ASEAN value that promotes peace, security and development;
4. Further promote the approach of moderation and uphold the rule of law in the conduct of relations among states, including in the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law;
5. Enhance cooperation within various ASEAN-led mechanisms aiming to drown out the voices of extremism;
6. Conduct activities which further promote moderation, including but not limited to the following:
  - (i) Organise outreach programmes, interfaith and cross-cultural dialogues in various formats at the national, regional and international levels, including through the convening of the Second International Conference on the Global Movement of Moderates, to be hosted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2015, and the Bali Democracy Forum in Indonesia;
  - (ii) Continue to build on initiatives to share best practices on counter-radicalisation and tackle the roots of extremism such as the East Asia Summit Symposium on Religious Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration held in Singapore in April 2015;
  - (iii) Encourage more enhanced information-sharing on best practices on moderation among ASEAN Member States, including through the ASEAN Secretariat;
  - (iv) Provide the space, support and mechanisms to cultivate emerging leadership from various stakeholders, including women and youth that can help enhance ASEAN innovativeness and vitality to effectively address emerging global challenges including the rise of violent extremism;
  - (v) Encourage the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and the ASEAN Foundation to conduct seminars, workshops and training programmes in collaboration with the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation, among others, in promoting the voices of moderation;
  - (vi) Promote education as an effective means of instilling respect for life, for diversity and the values of moderation, tolerance, non-violence and mutual understanding towards preventing the spread of violent extremism and addressing its root causes;

- (vii) Encourage academic discourse and exchanges to amplify voices of moderates;
- (viii) Collaborate with dialogue partners, international organisations and other relevant stakeholders to conduct seminars and workshops for the sharing of best practices and successful case studies of engagement and integration policies that support the promotion of moderation; and
- (ix) Promote the observance of a Year of Moderation at the United Nations to underscore the importance of moderation.

**ADOPTED** in Langkawi, Malaysia, on the Twenty Seventh Day of April in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

# ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

21 November 2015

Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”) - 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, hereinafter referred to individually as “the Party” and collectively as “the Parties”;

**RECOGNISING** that trafficking in persons constitutes a violation of human rights and an offence to the dignity of human beings;

**RECALLING** the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (“ASEAN Charter”), the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and where applicable, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and other international agreements and resolutions of the United Nations on the eradication of trafficking in persons, in the promotion and protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms, fair treatment, rule of law and due process;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the ASEAN Charter with a view to responding effectively, in accordance with the principle of comprehensive security, to all forms of transnational crimes and transboundary challenges;

**REAFFIRMING** also our commitment to the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children adopted in 2004; the Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons: Ending Impunity for Traffickers and Securing Justice for Victims in 2007 (“ASEAN Practitioner Guidelines”); the ASEAN Leaders’ Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in South East Asia in 2011; and ASEAN’s efforts in promoting human rights, including the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration adopted in 2012;

**REAFFIRMING** further our commitment to a stronger and more effective regional and international cooperation against trafficking in persons where the offence is transnational in nature, including but not limited to crimes committed by organised criminal groups;

**RECOGNISING** that cooperation is imperative to the successful investigation, prosecution and elimination of safe havens for the perpetrators and accomplices of trafficking in persons and for the effective protection of, and assistance to, victims of trafficking;

**RECOGNISING** that trafficking in persons is caused by a combination of factors, including government corruption, poverty, economic instability, inefficient legal systems, organised crimes, and the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking, which must be effectively addressed;

**REALISING** that all ASEAN Member States, regardless of whether they are countries of origin, transit or destination, have a shared responsibility and a common goal to prevent trafficking in persons, prosecute and punish offenders of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons;

**TAKING INTO** consideration the proximity and connecting borders of ASEAN Member States and in the spirit of regionalism;

**REALISING** the need to establish a regional instrument that deals especially with trafficking in persons as a legal framework for regional action in preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including the protection of, and assistance to, victims of trafficking in persons;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of having in place a regional instrument against trafficking in persons that is legally binding and that would assist ASEAN Member States, as countries of origin, transit or destination, to deal with their diverse national challenges, priorities and strategies in the fight against trafficking in persons;

Have agreed as follows:

## **CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1 Objectives**

1. The objectives of this regional legal instrument are to effectively:
  - a. Prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially against women and children, and to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers;
  - b. Protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons, with full respect for their human rights; and
  - c. Promote cooperation among the Parties in order to meet these objectives.
  
2. The Parties agree that the measures set forth in this Convention must be construed and applied in a manner that is consistent with internationally and regionally recognised principle of non-discrimination, especially to those persons on the ground that they are victims of trafficking in persons.

### **Article 2 Use of Terms**

For the purposes of this Convention:

- a. "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;
  
- b. The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in Paragraph (a) of this Article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in Paragraph (a) have been used;

- c. The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in Paragraph (a) of this Article;
- d. “Child” shall mean any person under eighteen (18) years of age;
- e. “Victim” shall mean any natural person who is subject to an act of trafficking in persons as defined in this Convention;
- f. “Organised criminal group” shall mean a structured group of three or more persons existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences established in accordance with this Convention, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit;
- g. “Serious crime”, as stated in Paragraph (f) of this Article, shall mean conduct constituting an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years or a more serious penalty;
- h. “Transnational Crime” shall mean an offence that is transnational in nature. An offence is transnational in nature if:
  - (i) It is committed in more than one State;
  - (ii) It is committed in one State but a substantial part of its preparation, planning, direction or control takes place in another State;
  - (iii) It is committed in one State but involves an organised criminal group that engages in criminal activities in more than one State; or
  - (iv) It is committed in one State but has substantial effects in another State.
- i. “Public official” shall mean:
  - (i) any person holding a legislative, executive, administrative or judicial office of a Party, whether appointed or elected, whether permanent or temporary, whether paid or unpaid, irrespective of that person’s seniority;
  - (ii) any other person who performs a public function, including for a public agency or public enterprise, or provides a public service, as defined in the domestic laws of the Party and as applied in the pertinent area of law of that Party;
  - (iii) any other person defined as a “public official” in the domestic laws of that Party.

- j. “Property” shall mean assets of every kind, whether corporeal or incorporeal, movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, and legal documents or instruments evidencing title to, or interest in, such assets;
- k. “Proceeds of crime” shall mean any property derived from or obtained, directly or indirectly, through the commission of an offence;
- l. “Freezing” or “seizure” shall mean temporarily prohibiting the transfer, conversion, disposition or movement of property or temporarily assuming custody or control of property on the basis of an order issued by a court or other competent authority;
- m. “Confiscation”, which includes forfeiture where applicable, shall mean the permanent deprivation of property by order of a court or other competent authority;
- n. “Predicate offence” shall mean any offence as a result of which proceeds have been generated that may become the subject of an offence as defined in Article 7 of this Convention.

### **Article 3**

#### **Scope of Application**

This Convention shall apply to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of the offences established in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention, where the offences are transnational in nature, including those committed by organised criminal groups, as well as to the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons.

### **Article 4**

#### **Protection of Sovereignty**

- 1. The Parties shall carry out their obligations under this Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.
- 2. Nothing in this Convention entitles a Party to undertake in the territory of another Party the exercise of jurisdiction and performance of functions that are reserved exclusively for the authorities of that other Party by its domestic laws.

**CHAPTER II  
CRIMINALISATION**

**Article 5  
Criminalisation of Trafficking in Persons**

1. Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences the conduct set forth in Article 2 of this Convention, when committed intentionally.
2. Each Party shall also adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences:
  - a. Subject to the basic concepts of its legal systems, attempting to commit an offence established in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article;
  - b. Participating as an accomplice in an offence established in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article;
  - c. Organising or directing other persons to commit an offence established in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article.
3. Each Party shall adopt such legislative or other measures as may be appropriate so that offenders are liable to higher penalties than usual if any of the following aggravating circumstances are present:
  - a. Where the offence involves serious injury or death of the victim or another person, including death as a result of suicide;
  - b. Where the offence involves a victim who is particularly vulnerable such as a child or a person who is unable to fully take care of or protect himself or herself because of a physical or mental disability or condition;
  - c. Where the offence exposed the victim to a life-threatening illness, including HIV/AIDS;
  - d. Where the offence involves more than one victim;
  - e. Where the crime was committed as part of the activity of an organised criminal group;
  - f. Where the offender has been previously convicted for the same or similar offences;
  - g. Where the offence was committed by a public official in the performance of his or her public duties.

**Article 6**  
**Criminalisation of Participation in an Organised Criminal Group**

1. Each Party shall, in relation to offences covered by this Convention as provided in Article 3, adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences, when trafficking in persons is committed intentionally:
  - a. Either or both of the following as criminal offences distinct from those involving the attempt or completion of the criminal activity:
    - (i) Agreeing with one or more other persons to commit a serious crime for a purpose relating directly or indirectly to the obtaining of a financial or other material benefit and, where required by domestic law, involving an act undertaken by one of the participants in furtherance of the agreement or involving an organised criminal group;
    - (ii) Conduct by a person who, with knowledge of either the aim and general criminal activity of an organised criminal group or its intention to commit the crimes in question, takes an active part in:
      - (a) Criminal activities of the organised criminal group;
      - (b) Other activities of the organised criminal group in the knowledge that his or her participation will contribute to the achievement of the above-described criminal aim;
  - b. Organising, directing, aiding, abetting, facilitating or counselling the commission of serious crime involving an organised criminal group.
2. The knowledge, intent, aim, purpose or agreement referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article may be inferred from objective factual circumstances.

**Article 7**  
**Criminalisation of the Laundering of Proceeds of Crime**

Each Party shall, in relation to offences covered by this Convention as provided in Article 3, adopt, in accordance with fundamental principles of its domestic law, such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences, when committed intentionally:

- a. (i) The conversion or transfer of property, knowing that such property is the proceeds of crime, for the purpose of concealing or disguising the illicit

origin of the property or of helping any person who is involved in the commission of the predicate offence to evade the legal consequences of his or her action;

- (ii) The concealment or disguise of the true nature, source, location, disposition, movement or ownership of or rights with respect to property, knowing that such property is the proceeds of crime;
- b. Subject to the basic concepts of its legal system:
- (i) The acquisition, possession or use of property, knowing, at the time of receipt, that such property is the proceeds of crime;
  - (ii) Participation in, association with or conspiracy to commit, attempts to commit and aiding, abetting, facilitating and counselling the commission of any of the offences established in accordance with this Article.

### **Article 8** **Criminalisation of Corruption**

1. Each Party shall, in relation to offences covered by this Convention as provided in Article 3, adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences, when committed intentionally:
  - a. The promise, offering or giving to a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties;
  - b. The solicitation or acceptance by a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties.
2. Each Party shall also consider establishing as criminal offences other forms of corruption.
3. Each Party shall also adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish as a criminal offence participation as an accomplice in an offence established in accordance with this Article.

**Article 9**  
**Criminalisation of Obstruction of Justice**

Each Party shall, in relation to offences covered by this Convention as provided in Article 3, adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences, when committed intentionally:

- a. The use of physical force, threats or intimidation or the promise, offering or giving of an undue advantage to induce false testimony or to interfere in the giving of testimony or the production of evidence in a proceeding in relation to the commission of offences covered by this Convention;
- b. The use of physical force, threats or intimidation to interfere with the exercise of official duties by a justice or law enforcement official in relation to the commission of offences covered by this Convention. Nothing in this Paragraph shall prejudice the right of Parties to have legislation that protects other categories of public officials.

**Article 10**  
**Jurisdiction**

1. Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences established in accordance with Article 5, Article 6, Article 7, Article 8, and Article 9 of this Convention when:
  - a. The offence is committed in the territory of that Party; or
  - b. The offence is committed on board a vessel that is flying the flag of that Party or an aircraft that is registered under the laws of that Party at the time that the offence is committed.
2. Subject to Article 4 of this Convention, a Party may also establish its jurisdiction over any such offence when:
  - a. The offence is committed against a national of that Party;
  - b. The offence is committed by a national of that Party or a stateless person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory; or
  - c. The offence is:
    - (i) One of those established in accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 1, of this Convention and is committed outside its territory with a view to the commission of a serious crime within its territory;

- (ii) One of those established in accordance with Article 7, Paragraph (b) (ii), of this Convention and is committed outside its territory with a view to the commission of an offence established in accordance with Article 7, Paragraph (a) (i) or (ii) or (b) (i), of this Convention within its territory.
3. For the purposes of Article 19 of this Convention, each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences covered by this Convention when the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite such person solely on the ground that he or she is one of its nationals.
4. Each Party may also adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences covered by this Convention when the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite him or her.
5. If a Party exercising its jurisdiction under Paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article has been notified, or has otherwise learned, that one or more other Parties are conducting an investigation, prosecution or judicial proceeding in respect of the same conduct, the competent authorities of those Parties shall, as appropriate, consult one another with a view to coordinating their actions.
6. Without prejudice to norms of general international law, this Convention does not exclude the exercise of any criminal jurisdiction established by a Party in accordance with its domestic laws.

### **CHAPTER III PREVENTION**

#### **Article 11 Prevention of Trafficking in Persons**

1. The Parties shall establish comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures:
  - a. To prevent and combat trafficking in persons; and
  - b. To protect victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, from revictimisation.

2. The Parties shall endeavour to undertake measures such as research, information and mass media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
3. Policies, programmes and other measures established in accordance with this Article shall, as appropriate, include cooperation with non-governmental organisations, other relevant organisations and other elements of civil society.
4. The Parties shall take or strengthen measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to alleviate the factors that make persons, especially women and children, vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity.
5. The Parties shall adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking.

## **Article 12**

### **Areas of Cooperation**

The areas of cooperation under this Convention on prevention of trafficking in persons may, in conformity with the domestic laws of the respective Parties, include appropriate measures, among others:

- a. To discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking;
- b. To take or strengthen measures where appropriate, such as through bilateral, multilateral or regional cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, so as to alleviate the factors that make persons, especially women and children, vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of education and equal opportunity;
- c. To strengthen policies and programmes to prevent trafficking in persons through research, information, awareness-raising and education campaigns, social and economic initiatives and training programmes, in particular for persons vulnerable to trafficking;
- d. To further strengthen regional cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases;

- e. To enable free movement of people to take place legally, and to ensure that immigration requirements are adhered to, by disseminating accurate information on the requirements and conditions enabling the legal entry into, exit from, and stay in their respective territories;
- f. To exchange and share information on measures to reduce children's vulnerability to trafficking in persons, so that they can grow up and live in a safe environment;
- g. To promote capacity-building, including trainings, technical cooperation, and the holding of regional coordination meetings;
- h. To ensure that any person who perpetrates or supports trafficking in persons is brought to justice.

### **Article 13**

#### **Cross-border Cooperation, Control and Validity of Documents**

- 1. The Parties shall endeavour to undertake cross-border cooperation, in order to prevent and detect trafficking in persons, as appropriate, among border control agencies by, *inter alia*:
  - a. Establishing and maintaining direct channels of communication;
  - b. Enhancing intelligence exchange and sharing of information including through establishing, developing or utilising appropriate databases.
- 2. The Parties shall prevent the movement of traffickers and victims of trafficking in persons by effective border control and controls on the issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through effective measures to prevent counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents.

## **CHAPTER IV PROTECTION**

### **Article 14**

#### **Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons**

- 1. Each Party shall establish national guidelines or procedures for the proper identification of victims of trafficking in persons, and where appropriate, may collaborate with relevant non-governmental victim assistance organisations.

2. In a case where the trafficking takes place in more than one country, each Party shall respect and recognise the identification of victims of trafficking in person made by the competent authorities of the receiving Party.
3. Unless the victim otherwise informs, such identification shall be notified to the sending Party without unreasonable delay by the receiving Party.
4. Each Party shall consider adopting legislative or other appropriate measures that permit victims of trafficking in persons to remain in its territory, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases. Each Party shall give appropriate consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors to this end.
5. Each Party shall endeavour to provide for the physical safety of victims of trafficking in persons while they are within its territory.
6. In appropriate cases and to the extent possible under its domestic laws, each Party shall protect the privacy and identity of victims of trafficking in persons, including, *inter alia*, by making legal proceedings relating to such trafficking confidential.
7. Each Party shall, subject to its domestic laws, rules, regulations and policies, and in appropriate cases, consider not holding victims of trafficking in persons criminally or administratively liable, for unlawful acts committed by them, if such acts are directly related to the acts of trafficking.
8. Each Party shall not unreasonably hold persons who have been identified by its competent authorities as victims of trafficking in persons in detention or in prison, prior to, during, or after civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings for trafficking in persons.
9. Each Party shall communicate to identified victims of trafficking in persons within a reasonable period, information on the nature of protection, assistance and support to which they are entitled to under domestic laws, and under this Convention.
10. Each Party shall, where applicable, provide care and support to victims of trafficking in persons, including in appropriate cases, in cooperation with relevant non-governmental organisations, other organisations, and other elements of civil society, in the following:
  - a. Appropriate housing;

- b. Counselling and information, in particular as regards their legal rights, in a language that the victims of trafficking in persons can understand;
  - c. Medical, psychological and material assistance; and
  - d. Employment, educational and training opportunities.
11. Each Party shall make its best effort to assist in the reintegration of victims of trafficking in persons into the society of the sending Party.
  12. Each Party shall, take into account, in applying the provisions of this Article, the age, gender and special needs of victims of trafficking in persons, in particular the special needs of children.
  13. Each Party shall ensure that its domestic legal system contains measures that offer victims of trafficking in persons the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered.
  14. Each Party shall make provisions for appropriate funds to be allocated, including where applicable, establishing national trust funds, for the care and support of victims of trafficking in persons.

**Article 15**  
**Repatriation and Return of Victims**

1. The Party of which a victim of trafficking in persons is a national or in which the person had the right of permanent residence at the time of entry into the territory of the receiving Party shall facilitate and accept, with due regard for the safety of that person, the return of that person without undue or unreasonable delay.
2. When a Party returns a victim in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article, such return shall be with due regard for the safety of that person and for the status of any legal proceedings related to the fact that the person is a victim of trafficking in persons.
3. In accordance with Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, at the request of a receiving Party, a requested Party shall, without undue or unreasonable delay, verify whether a person is its national or permanent resident, whichever is applicable, at the time of entry into the territory of the receiving Party.
4. In order to facilitate the return of a victim of trafficking in persons who is without proper documentation, the Party of which that person is a national or

in which he or she had the right of permanent residence at the time of entry into the territory of the receiving Party shall agree to issue, at the request of the receiving Party, such travel documents or other authorisation as may be necessary to enable the person to travel to and re-enter its territory.

5. Each Party shall adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to establish repatriation programmes where appropriate, and if necessary, involving relevant national or international institutions and non-governmental organisations.
6. This Article shall be without prejudice to any rights afforded to victims of trafficking in persons by any domestic laws of the receiving Party.
7. This Article shall be without prejudice to the provisions of any applicable bilateral or multilateral agreement or immigration arrangements that provide for more favourable rights and privileges to victims of trafficking in persons.

## **CHAPTER V LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Article 16 Law Enforcement and Prosecution**

1. Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to ensure that competent authorities dealing with trafficking in persons cases are equipped with appropriate skills or knowledge in the fight against trafficking in persons and the protection of victims of trafficking in persons, and where appropriate, designate specialised units or authorities for this purpose.
2. Each Party shall take effective and active steps to detect, deter and punish corruption, money laundering, participation in an organised criminal group and obstruction of justice that contributes to trafficking in persons.
3. Each Party shall ensure that its legal system is efficient to deal with trafficking in persons cases.
4. Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to ensure coordination of the policies and actions of its government's departments and other public agencies against trafficking in persons, and where appropriate, set up coordinating bodies to combat organised crimes such as trafficking in persons, corruption, money laundering and obstruction of justice.

5. Each Party shall, consistent with the domestic laws of the sending and the receiving Parties, through informal cooperation or mutual legal assistance where appropriate, encourage the victims of trafficking in persons to voluntarily enter and stay temporarily in the territory of the receiving Party for purposes of testifying or otherwise cooperating in the prosecution of their traffickers, with due regard for the safety of the victims of trafficking in persons.
6. Each Party shall provide or strengthen training programmes for relevant officials in the prevention of and fight against trafficking in persons, with focus on methods used in preventing trafficking, investigating and prosecuting the traffickers, and protecting the rights of the victims, including protecting the victims and their families from the traffickers, and the privacy of the victims.
7. Each Party shall take all necessary steps to preserve the integrity of the criminal justice process including through protecting victims and witnesses from intimidation and harassment, where necessary, and punishing perpetrators of such acts, in appropriate cases.
8. Each Party shall, where appropriate, establish under its domestic laws a long statute of limitations period in which to commence proceedings for any offence covered by this Convention and a longer period where the alleged offender has evaded the administration of justice.
9. Nothing contained in this Convention shall affect the principle that the description of the offences established in accordance with this Convention and of the applicable legal defences or other legal principles controlling the lawfulness of conduct is reserved to the domestic laws of a Party and that such offences shall be prosecuted and punished in accordance with that law.

**Article 17**  
**Confiscation and Seizure**

1. Each Party shall adopt, to the greatest extent possible within its domestic legal system, such measures as may be necessary to enable confiscation of:
  - a. Proceeds of crime derived from offences covered by this Convention or property the value of which corresponds to that of such proceeds;
  - b. Property, equipment or other instrumentalities used in or destined for use in offences covered by this Convention.

2. Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to enable the identification, tracing, freezing or seizure of any item referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article for the purpose of eventual confiscation.
3. If proceeds of crime have been transformed or converted, in part or in full, into other property, such property shall be liable to the measures referred to in this Article instead of the proceeds.
4. If proceeds of crime have been intermingled with property acquired from legitimate sources, such property shall, without prejudice to any powers relating to freezing or seizure, be liable to confiscation up to the assessed value of the intermingled proceeds.
5. Income or other benefits derived from proceeds of crime, from property into which proceeds of crime have been transformed or converted or from property with which proceeds of crime have been intermingled shall also be liable to the measures referred to in this Article, in the same manner and to the same extent as proceeds of crime.
6. For the purposes of this Article and Article 21 of this Convention, each Party shall empower its courts or other competent authorities to order that bank, financial or commercial records be made available or be seized. Each Party shall not decline to act under the provisions of this Paragraph on the ground of bank secrecy.
7. Each Party may consider the possibility of requiring that an offender demonstrate the lawful origin of alleged proceeds of crime or other property liable to confiscation, to the extent that such a requirement is consistent with the principles of its domestic laws and with the nature of the judicial and other proceedings.
8. The provisions of this Article shall not be construed to prejudice the rights of *bona fide* third parties.
9. Nothing contained in this Article shall affect the principle that the measures to which it refers shall be defined and implemented in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the domestic laws of a Party.

**CHAPTER VI  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Article 18  
Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters**

1. In order to combat offences of trafficking in persons which are transnational in nature, the Parties shall, subject to their respective domestic laws, afford one another the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in criminal investigations or criminal proceedings in relation to such offences established in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention.
2. The Parties shall carry out their obligations under Paragraph 1 of this Article in accordance with the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

**Article 19  
Extradition**

1. Each of the offences established in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention shall be deemed to be included as an extraditable offence in any extradition treaty existing between Parties. The Parties undertake to include such offences as extraditable offences in every extradition treaty to be concluded between them.
2. If a Party that makes extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty receives a request for extradition from another Party with which it has no extradition treaty, it may consider this Convention the legal basis for extradition in respect of any offence established in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention.
3. Subject to the provisions of its domestic laws and its extradition treaties, the requested Party may, upon being satisfied that the circumstances so warrant and are urgent and at the request of the requesting Party, take a person whose extradition is sought and who is present in its territory into custody or take other appropriate measures to ensure his or her presence at extradition proceedings.
4. A Party in whose territory an alleged offender is found, if it does not extradite such person in respect of an offence established in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention applies solely on the ground that he or she is one of its nationals, shall, at the request of the Party seeking extradition, be obliged to submit the case without undue delay to its competent authorities for

the purpose of prosecution. Those authorities shall take their decision and conduct their proceedings in the same manner as in the case of any other offence of a grave nature under the domestic law of that Party. The Parties concerned shall cooperate with each other, in particular on procedural and evidentiary aspects, to ensure the efficiency of such prosecution.

5. For the purpose of this Article, each Party shall designate a central authority to be notified to the depositary of this Convention.

## **Article 20**

### **Law Enforcement Cooperation**

1. The Parties shall cooperate closely with one another, consistent with their respective domestic legal and administrative systems, to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement action to combat the offences covered by this Convention. Each Party shall, in particular, adopt effective measures:
  - a. To enhance and, where necessary, to establish as well as utilise existing channels of communication between their competent authorities, agencies and services in order to facilitate the secure and rapid exchange of information concerning all aspects of the offences covered by this Convention, including, if the Parties concerned deem it appropriate, links with other criminal activities;
  - b. To cooperate with other Parties in conducting inquiries with respect to offences covered by this Convention concerning:
    - (i) The identity, whereabouts and activities of persons suspected of involvement in such offences or the location of other persons concerned;
    - (ii) The movement of proceeds of crime or property derived from the commission of such offences;
    - (iii) The movement of property, equipment or other instrumentalities used or intended for use in the commission of such offences;
  - c. To provide, when appropriate, necessary items or quantities of substances for analytical or investigative purposes;
  - d. To facilitate effective coordination between their competent authorities, agencies and services and to promote the exchange of personnel and other experts, including, subject to bilateral agreements or arrangements between the Parties concerned, the posting of liaison officers;

- e. To exchange information with other Parties on specific means and methods used by traffickers, including, where applicable, routes and conveyances and the use of false identities, altered or false documents or other means of concealing their activities;
  - f. To exchange information and coordinate administrative and other measures taken as appropriate for the purpose of early identification of the offences covered by this Convention.
2. With a view to giving effect to this Convention, the Parties shall consider entering into bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements on direct cooperation between their law enforcement agencies and, where such agreements or arrangements already exist, amending them. In the absence of such agreements or arrangements between the Parties concerned, the Parties may consider this Convention as the basis for mutual law enforcement cooperation in respect of the offences covered by this Convention. Whenever appropriate, the Parties shall make full use of agreements or arrangements, including international or regional organisations, to enhance the cooperation between their law enforcement agencies.
  3. The Parties shall endeavour to cooperate within their means to respond to trafficking in persons and other offences covered by this Convention committed through the use of modern technology.

### **Article 21** **International Cooperation for Purposes of Confiscation**

1. A Party that has received a request from another Party having jurisdiction over an offence covered by this Convention for confiscation of proceeds of crime, property, equipment or other instrumentalities referred to in Article 17, Paragraph 1 of this Convention situated in its territory shall, to the greatest extent possible within its domestic legal system:
  - a. Submit the request to its competent authorities for the purpose of obtaining an order of confiscation and, if such an order is granted, give effect to it; or
  - b. Submit to its competent authorities, with a view to giving effect to it to the extent requested, an order of confiscation issued by a court in the territory of the requesting Party in accordance with Article 17, Paragraph 1 of this Convention insofar as it relates to proceeds of crime, property, equipment or other instrumentalities referred to in Article 17, Paragraph 1, situated in the territory of the requested Party.

2. Following a request made by another Party having jurisdiction over an offence covered by this Convention, the requested Party shall take measures to identify, trace and freeze or seize proceeds of crime, property, equipment or other instrumentalities referred to in Article 17, Paragraph 1 of this Convention for the purpose of eventual confiscation to be ordered either by the requesting Party or, pursuant to a request under Paragraph 1 of this Article, by the requested Party.
3. The provisions of Article 18 of this Convention are applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to this Article. In addition to the information specified in Article 18, requests made pursuant to this Article shall contain:
  - a. In the case of a request pertaining to Paragraph 1 (a) of this Article, a description of the property to be confiscated and a statement of the facts relied upon by the requesting Party sufficient to enable the requested Party to seek the order under its domestic laws;
  - b. In the case of a request pertaining to Paragraph 1 (b) of this Article, a legally admissible copy of an order of confiscation upon which the request is based issued by the requesting Party, a statement of the facts and information as to the extent to which execution of the order is requested;
  - c. In the case of a request pertaining to Paragraph 2 of this Article, a statement of the facts relied upon by the requesting Party and a description of the actions requested.
4. The decisions or actions provided for in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be taken by the requested Party in accordance with and subject to the provisions of its domestic laws and its procedural rules, any bilateral or multilateral treaty, agreement or arrangement to which it is bound in relation to the requesting Party, and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
5. If a Party elects to make the taking of the measures referred to in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article conditional on the existence of a relevant treaty, that Party shall consider this Convention the necessary and sufficient treaty basis.
6. The provisions of this Article shall not be construed to prejudice the rights of *bona fide* third parties.
7. The Parties shall consider concluding bilateral or multilateral treaties, agreements or arrangements to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation undertaken pursuant to this Article.

**Article 22**  
**Disposal of Confiscated Proceeds of Crime or Property**

1. Proceeds of crime or property confiscated by a Party pursuant to Article 17 or Article 21, Paragraph 1 of this Convention shall be disposed of by that Party in accordance with its domestic laws and administrative procedures.
2. When acting on the request made by another Party in accordance with Article 21 of this Convention, Parties shall, to the extent permitted by domestic laws and if so requested, give priority consideration to returning the confiscated proceeds of crime or property to the requesting Party so that it can give compensation and assistance to the victims of trafficking in persons or return such proceeds of crime or property to their legitimate owners.
3. When acting on the request made by another Party in accordance with Article 17 and Article 21 of this Convention, a Party may give special consideration to concluding agreements or arrangements on sharing with other Parties, on a regular or case-by-case basis, such proceeds of crime or property, or funds derived from the sale of such proceeds of crime or property, in accordance with its domestic laws or administrative procedures.

**CHAPTER VII**  
**FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 23**  
**Establishment of Coordinating Structures**

Each Party shall consider establishing coordinating structures in the fight against trafficking in persons, including enhancing cooperation under all areas of this Convention.

**Article 24**  
**Monitoring, Reviewing and Reporting**

1. The ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) shall be responsible for promoting, monitoring, reviewing and reporting periodically to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) on the effective implementation of this Convention.

2. The ASEAN Secretariat shall provide the support for supervising and coordinating the implementation of this Convention and assist the SOMTC in all matters relating thereto.

#### **Article 25**

##### **Confidentiality of Documents, Records and Information**

1. Each Party shall preserve the confidentiality and secrecy of documents, records and other information received from any other Party, including the source thereof.
2. No document, record or other information obtained pursuant to this Convention shall be disclosed to or shared with any other Party, State or person except with the prior written consent of the Party which provided such document, record or information.

#### **Article 26**

##### **Relationship with Other International Instruments**

This Convention shall not derogate from obligations subsisting between the Parties pursuant to other international agreements nor, where the Parties agree, shall it prevent the Parties from providing assistance to each other pursuant to other international agreements or the provisions of their respective domestic laws.

#### **Article 27**

##### **Settlement of Disputes**

Any difference or dispute between the Parties arising from the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Convention shall be settled amicably through consultation and negotiation between the Parties through diplomatic channels or any other peaceful means for the settlement of disputes as agreed upon between the Parties.

#### **Article 28**

##### **Ratification, Approval and Depositary**

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification or approval in accordance with the internal procedures of the Parties.
2. The instruments of ratification or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN who shall promptly inform the other Parties of such deposit.

**Article 29**  
**Entry into Force and Amendment**

- a. This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) day following the date of the deposit of the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) instrument of ratification or approval with the Secretary-General of ASEAN in respect of those Parties that have submitted their instruments of ratification or approval.
- b. For any Party ratifying or approving this Convention after the deposit of the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) instrument of ratification or approval, but before the day the Convention enters into force, the Convention shall also apply to that Party on the date the Convention enters into force. In respect of a Party ratifying or approving this Convention subsequent to its entry into force pursuant to Paragraph 1, it shall enter into force for that Party on the date its instrument of ratification or approval is deposited.
- c. This Convention may be modified or amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties. Such modification or amendment shall enter into force on such date as shall be mutually agreed upon by Parties and shall form part of this Convention.
- d. Any modification or amendment shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from or based on the provisions of this Convention before the entry into force of such modification or amendment.

**Article 30**  
**Withdrawal**

1. Any Party may withdraw from this Convention at any time after the date of the entry into force of this Convention for that Party.
2. The withdrawal shall be notified by an instrument of withdrawal to the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
3. The withdrawal shall take effect one hundred and eighty (180) days after the receipt of the instrument of withdrawal by the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
4. The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall promptly notify all the other Parties of any withdrawal.

**Article 31**  
**Registration**

This Convention shall be registered by the Secretary-General of ASEAN to the United Nations Secretariat pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

**DONE** at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty-First Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam:

**HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH**  
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

**SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECO HUN SEN**  
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia:

**JOKO WIDODO**  
President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

**THONGSING THAMMAVONG**  
Prime Minister

For Malaysia:

**DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK**  
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

**THEIN SEIN**  
President

For the Republic of the Philippines:

**BENIGNO S. AQUINO III**  
President

For the Republic of Singapore:

**LEE HSIEN LOONG**  
Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

**GENERAL PRAYUT CHAN-O-CHA (RET.)**

Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

**NGUYEN TAN DUNG**

Prime Minister

# ASEAN Declaration to Prevent and Combat Cybercrime

Manila, the Philippines  
13 November 2017

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (herein referred as ASEAN) namely 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 Vietnam, gathered in Manila, Philippines for the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**MINDFUL** of the importance of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) as the key driver of ASEAN Member States in governance, economy, commerce and trade, social well-being and all other aspects;

**COGNIZANT** of the imperative to have National Action Plans in place that will contain national policies and strategies to prevent and combat cybercrime as well as the implementation of anti-cybercrime-related measures;

**CONCERNED** about the emerging harmful effects of crimes caused by the misuse and abuse of ICTs and considering the inherently technical and trans-border nature of cybercrime which affects every sovereign State;

**RECOGNIZING** the need to enhance cooperation against cybercrime aimed at the protection of our community in the region including by, inter alia, formulating concrete and effective regional approaches;

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime, signed by the ASEAN Ministers of Interior/Home Affairs on 20 December 1997 in Manila, Philippines, during the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), which agreed to strengthen the commitment of Member States to cooperate at the regional level in combating transnational crimes;

**RECALLING FURTHER** the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime 2016-2025, which was adopted by the AMMTC on 26 July 2017 wherein ASEAN Member States have agreed to continue to cooperate closely in their efforts to prevent and combat cybercrime, along with terrorism and transnational organized crimes such as trafficking in persons, illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, arms smuggling and sea piracy;

**PURSUANT** to the provision of the agreed Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crimes as adopted during the Preparatory SOMTC for the 10<sup>th</sup> AMMTC on 28 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, particularly on cybercrime components such as information exchange, regulatory and legal matters, law enforcements, capacity building and extra-regional cooperation;

**IN SUPPORT** of the common framework for ASEAN cybercrime enforcement capacity building that was adopted during the 7<sup>th</sup> SOMTC on 26-27 June 2007, and the subsequent establishment of a Working Group on Cybercrime as endorsed in the 9<sup>th</sup> AMMTC on 17 September 2013, both held in Vientiane, Lao PDR;

**AFFIRMING** the key points in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Statement on Cooperation in Fighting Cyber Attack and Terrorist Misuse of Cyber Space which was adopted on 28 July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, including the commitment to continue working together in the fight against cybercrime through activities aimed at enhancing each Member State's national framework for cooperation and collaboration in addressing the misuse of cyberspace;

**NOTING** the ARF Statement on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security adopted on 12 July 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and the ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the Use of ICTs, and synergising ASEAN efforts on issues on cybercrime;

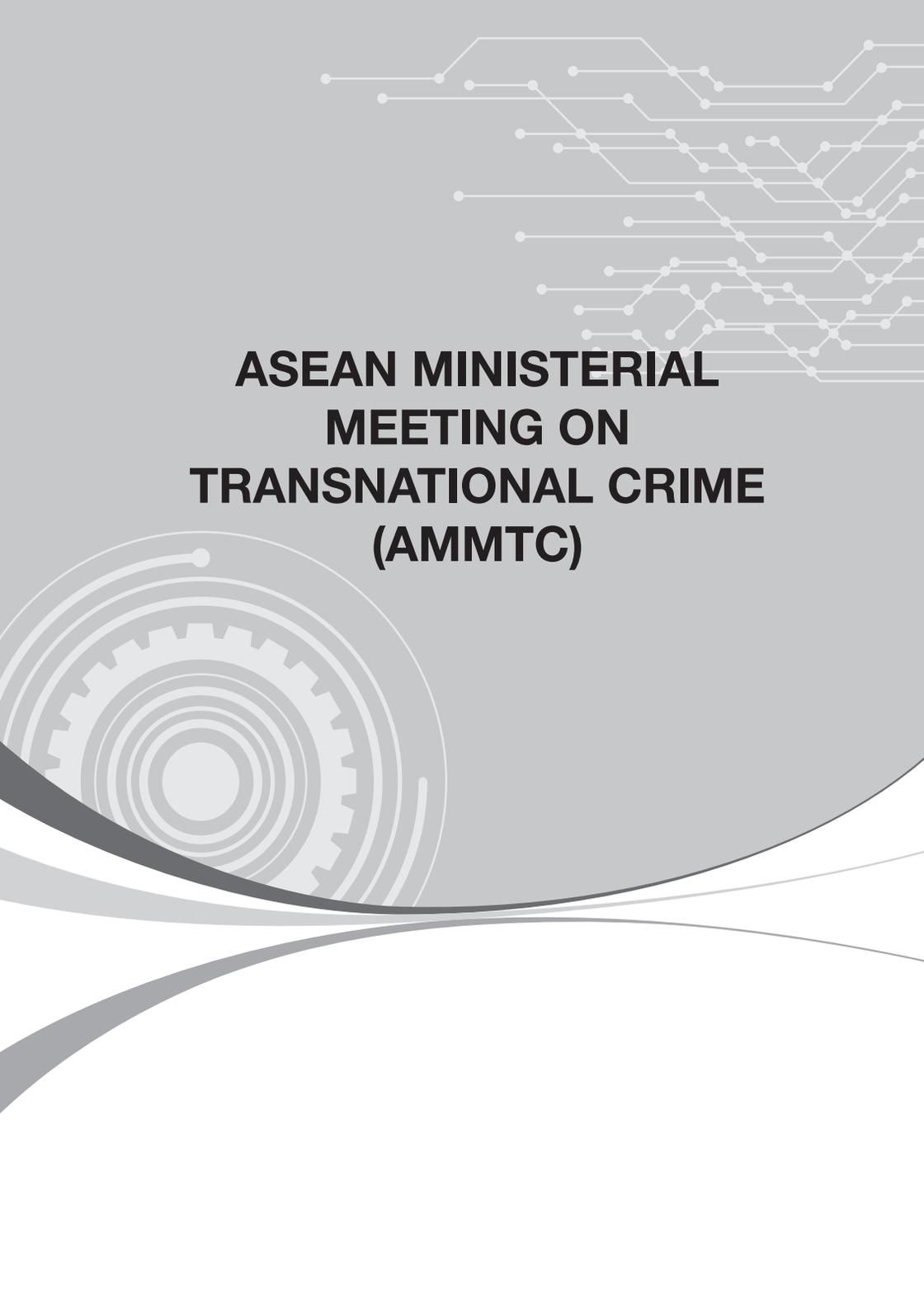
**CONVINCED** that just like in other transnational crimes, the continuity of existing global framework against cybercrime rests on consolidated regional action in the institutional and operational spheres:

**HAVE RESOLVED TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMITMENT OF ASEAN MEMBER STATES TO COOPERATE AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL IN PREVENTING AND COMBATING CYBERCRIME THROUGH THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:**

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the importance of harmonization of laws related to cybercrime and electronic evidence;
2. **ENCOURAGE** ASEAN Member States to explore the feasibility of acceding to existing regional and international instruments in combating cybercrime;
3. **ENCOURAGE** the development of national plans of actions in addressing cybercrimes;

4. **STRENGTHEN** international cooperation among ASEAN Member States based on common interests, including but not limited to, technical expertise which is needed to tackle cybercrimes;
5. **ENHANCE** cooperation and coordination among ASEAN bodies and other relevant national agencies or organizations in dealing with cybercrime to reinforce efforts through exchanges of information, experiences and good practices;
6. **STRENGTHEN** capacities of each ASEAN Member States in addressing cybercrime through provision of assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres;
7. **PROMOTE** cooperation among ASEAN Member States on community education and awareness to prevent cybercrime;
8. **ENHANCE** cooperation between ASEAN Member States and its Dialogue Partners, as well as relevant agencies and organizations at regional and international levels, such as ASEANAPOL, EUROPOL and INTERPOL, among others, to enhance cyberspace security, prevention and response capabilities with regard to cybercrime and cyber-related matters;
9. **REINFORCE** ASEAN's abilities to build and enhance its capabilities to prevent and combat cybercrime by working closely with the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI), including by voluntarily seconding or stationing cybercrime specialists there; and
10. **MONITOR AND REVIEW** the implementation of this Declaration through the Lead Shepherd for consideration and adoption by the SOMTC and AMMTC, to be facilitated by the ASEAN Secretariat.

**ADOPTED** in Manila, the Philippines on the Thirteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen.

The background is a light gray gradient. In the upper right, there is a network of white lines and dots resembling a circuit board or data flow. In the lower left, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent gear shapes. A thick, dark gray curved line sweeps across the bottom of the page, separating the main content area from a white footer area.

**ASEAN MINISTERIAL  
MEETING ON  
TRANSNATIONAL CRIME  
(AMMTC)**



## **Joint Press Statement of the 14<sup>th</sup> DGICM**

**Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
14 December 2010**

1. The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) was held on 13-14 December 2010 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. It was chaired by U Maung Maung Than, Director-General of the Department of Immigration and National Registration, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Myanmar, and was attended by the Directors-General of Immigration and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States, representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, and DGICM's dialogue partner, Australia.
2. The Meeting noted the updates on implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption, and lauded the successful conclusion of the bilateral MOUs among Lao PDR and Myanmar and Cambodia and Thailand.
3. The Meeting recommended to conduct another Ad-Hoc Technical Working Group Meeting on the financial reimbursement procedures related to the Provision of Emergency Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member States in 2011 as deliberated during the Consular Luncheon.
4. The Meeting also noted the report of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) held on 13 December 2010 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Meeting commended the important role of the AIIF in sharing immigration intelligence information among ASEAN Member States and highlighted that the AIIF can serve as a forum to identify the gaps in immigration intelligence sharing.
5. While noting the need for strengthening regional collaboration and cooperation on immigration, DGICM would further pursue the possibility of holding Consultations with its Dialogue Partners, regional and international organizations to discuss the issues of mutual interest and benefit.
6. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN and the Meeting expressed gratitude to the warm hospital accorded by the Government and the People of Union of Myanmar.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 15<sup>th</sup> DGICM**

**Singapore  
5 October 2011**

1. The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) was held between 3 and 5 October 2011 in Singapore.
2. The Meeting is a regular annual gathering of Heads of Immigration Departments of the ASEAN Member States to discuss and coordinate regional cooperation on immigration matters towards the achievement of ASEAN goals. It meets annually and the chairmanship is rotated in alphabetical order among the ASEAN Member States.
3. The DGICM epitomizes the essence of the ASEAN Vision 2020 which is to have a shared vision of achieving an ASEAN Community that is outward looking, stable and prosperous through collaboration, cooperation and capacity-building.
4. Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Masagos Zulkifli, Minister of State for Ministry of Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs, officially graced the DGICM meeting on 4 October. Mr. Clarence Yeo, Commissioner of the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) of Singapore chaired the meeting. About 70 delegates including the Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States, representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and DGICM's dialogue partner from Australia were present.
5. The Meeting had fruitful discussions and achieved the objectives of the meeting as all ASEAN Member States charted out the directions and strategies for further collaboration on immigration and cross border issues.
6. The ASEAN Member States shared on challenges and updated on important national developments in immigration matters. These included immigration control, development of its infrastructure and technologies, information sharing, visa exemption arrangements, and capacity-building of immigration personnel. The Meeting also reviewed the progress of the Work Programme which operationalized the ASEAN Plan of Action on Immigration Matters.

7. The Meeting was updated on the progress of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption. Most of the ASEAN Member States have generally implemented the visa-free facility to ASEAN nationals holding ordinary passports.
8. In line with capacity building efforts, the Meeting noted the ASEAN Member States' sharing on their capability development efforts through the various training programmes such as e-learning, Game-based learning and capacity-building initiatives like e-Passport and Auto-gates.
9. The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) was held in conjunction with the 15<sup>th</sup> DGICM. The AIIF encouraged regional and international cooperation in the area of immigration, and discussed topics on the information sharing cycle, threat assessment and fraud detection. The Meeting endorsed the Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> AIIF and recognized the important role of the AIIF in gathering immigration information among ASEAN Member States.
10. The 7<sup>th</sup> AIIF and 15<sup>th</sup> DGICM Meetings were held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality. The delegates appreciated the warm hospitality and congeniality of the Government and the people of the Republic of Singapore during the Meetings.
11. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Thailand to host the 16<sup>th</sup> DGICM in Phuket, Thailand from 3 to 7 September 2012.
12. The Meetings concluded with the recognition of the importance of continued collaboration and cooperation on immigration-related issues among ASEAN Member States, and between them and Australia, which is a key Dialogue Partner of ASEAN on immigration matters.

## **Joint Statement of the Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime**

**Bali, Indonesia  
11 October 2011**

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers overseeing the responsibilities of combating transnational crimes, gathered in Bali, Indonesia on 11 October 2011, to consolidate and further strengthen regional cooperation in combating transnational crimes. His Excellency Police General Timur Pradopo, Chief of Indonesian National Police, chaired the meeting. The Secretary-General of ASEAN also attended the Meeting. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as “AMMTC”) held on 10 October 2011.
2. We noted with satisfaction the productive discussions on wide-ranging issues as well as achievements attained under the purview of various sectoral bodies responsible for transnational crimes, including the work programme and action plan. This is in line with our commitment to take necessary steps to suppress transnational crimes as threat to peace, security and stability of the region.
3. We are pleased to note that the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) has entered into force on 27 May 2011, following the ratification of the Convention by six ASEAN Member States. We called for the accession of the ACCT by the remaining ASEAN Member States.
4. We also expressed our appreciation to the work of the SOMTC Working Group on Counter Terrorism for their efforts in finalizing the Second Phase of ASEAN-Japan Counter Terrorism Dialogue (March 2011-March 2015) and efforts to synergise the SOMTC Work Programme with other forums, such as ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting (ADMM) Plus and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
5. We welcomed the recommendation of the Aviation Security Seminar held in Jakarta, 5-6 July 2011, under the framework of ASEAN-Japan Cooperation on Counter Terrorism which will enhance the capacity of ASEAN in addressing terrorism threat against civil aviation.

6. We lauded the SOMTC for their work to finalise the SOMTC Work Programme 2010-2012 and tasked them to implement the Work Programme.
7. During our Retreat, we had an in-depth discussion and exchanged views, and agreed to follow up the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia, particularly in accelerating the establishment of ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) or other legal instruments which will ensure the protection of our people against such transnational crimes and review of the progress and future work. We expressed our appreciation to the effort of ASEAN Member States to study the feasibility of the establishment of an ACTIP and took positive note the outcomes of the Second Experts' Meeting to Study the Feasibility of Developing an ACTIP held in the Philippines on 21-23 September 2011. We further tasked the SOMTC to discuss and follow up such outcomes. We also discussed our cooperation in counter-terrorism after the entry into force of the ACCT and agreed to enhance our future cooperation in more extensive programmes and approaches.
8. We noted with satisfaction the progress report of the implementation of the SOMTC Work Programme (2010-2012). We tasked SOMTC Lead Shepherds to actively implement SOMTC Work Programme under their purview and conduct concrete activities which support the attainment of our objectives in addressing transnational crimes and convene coordination meetings before the next AMMTC meeting. We also strongly encouraged the Lead Shepherds as well as the ASEAN Member States to step up their efforts to initiate and implement practical projects and activities under SOMTC.
9. We took note of the outcomes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) held on 3-6 October 2011 in Singapore and reiterated its role as an important forum in ASEAN to discuss immigration and consular issues.
10. We noted that money laundering and terrorism financing issues have been considered as the backbone of most transnational crimes activities. We also further noted that cyber crime has been growing so rapidly. Therefore, we should also step up our efforts and cooperation in preventing and eradicating those crimes.
11. We commended the efforts made by our senior officials on drug matters in achieving ASEAN Drug Free 2015 and tasked the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) to determine specific targets and timeline to the ASOD

work plan and report the progress of its implementation to the next AMMTC. We agreed that in achieving ASEAN Drug Free 2015, cooperation within the broader ASEAN community should be further strengthened and coordinated. It should be done by strengthening regional framework, mainstreaming drug concerns in other relevant ASEAN Bodies and supporting and sustaining other development efforts.

12. We were pleased to note the report of the Chairman of the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Chief of National Police (ASEANAPOL) recommending to harmonise and synergise cooperation among existing regional sectoral bodies responsible for transnational crime which would complement the progressive measures in building ASEAN Political and Security Community by 2015.
13. We welcomed the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) held in Pattaya, Thailand on 17-19 August 2011. We stressed the need to strengthen the AMF and utilise it as a means to identify maritime cooperation and discuss different ways to counter transnational crimes and to provide solutions to related issues and challenges.
14. We welcomed the kind offer of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to host the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in Vientiane in November 2013.
15. We expressed our profound gratitude to the Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia Prof. Dr. Boediono for graciously granting an audience to the Ministers and Senior Officials and for his invaluable advice in advancing regional cooperation in combating transnational crime.
16. We sincerely thanked the Government and the people of the Republic of Indonesia for their warm and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 16<sup>th</sup> DGICM**

**Phuket, Thailand  
6 September 2012**

1. The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) was held on 5-6 September 2012 in Phuket, Thailand. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Pol. Lt. Gen. Wiboon Bangthamai, Commissioner, Immigration Bureau, Royal Thai Police, and was attended by the Directors-General of Immigration and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States, representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and DGICM's Dialogue Partner, Australia.
2. The Meeting noted the progress on implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption. The Meeting commended Lao PDR for exempting visas for all ASEAN Nationals. In realizing the ASEAN Community by 2015 and in conjunction with the ASEAN Connectivity, ASEAN Member States are looking forward to the full ratification of the Agreement.
3. The Meeting welcomed Thailand's progress in having ASEAN Immigration Lanes established at Suvarnabhumi and Phuket international airports. They were encouraged to be informed that other ASEAN Member States are in the process of establishing ASEAN Lanes to facilitate intra-ASEAN travels.
4. The Meeting agreed to follow up on the Provision of Emergency Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member States in Crisis Situation. The Meeting welcomed the generous offer of Thailand to host the Third ASEAN Technical Working Group.
5. The Meeting produced the report of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) held on 4 September 2012 in Phuket, Thailand. The Forum highlighted the significance of immigration intelligence sharing amongst ASEAN Member States particularly in the fight against migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons, drugs trafficking and other transnational crime. Concerned by the increasing threat of criminal network operating on migrant smuggling, the immigration authorities unanimously agreed to take on the issues of People/Migrant Smuggling and Irregular Movement of People under their purview.

6. As such, ASEAN Plan of Action on Cooperation on Immigration Matters would be reviewed by the Technical Working Group in line with ASEAN Community Building Blueprints as well as in response to the prevailing threats in the region.
7. The Meeting agreed that in realizing the establishment of ASEAN Community, secure, practical and systematic immigration and border management system is integral so as to detect, deter and prevent transboundary crimes. The Meeting thus called for a tactical and consolidated regional programme on border management and immigration with a view to further strengthening regional and inter-agency collaboration.
8. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN and the Meeting expressed gratitude to the warm hospital accorded by the Government and the People of Thailand.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 17<sup>th</sup> DGICM**

**Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam  
30 August 2013**

1. The Seventeenth Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs (17<sup>th</sup> DGICM) was held on 29-30 August 2013. The Meeting was chaired by H.E Major General Le Thanh Dzung, Director-General, Immigration Department, Ministry of Public Security, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and was attended by the Directors-General of Immigration and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States, representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, and Australia.
2. The Meeting welcomed the progress on implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption and further encouraged the ratification of the Agreement by the remaining ASEAN Member States.
3. The Meeting took note on Singapore's implementation of the ASEAN Immigration Lanes established at Changi Airport. The other Member States which have yet to establish the lanes were invited to do so in support of the ASEAN Connectivity initiatives.
4. The Meeting agreed to follow up on the Provision of Emergency Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member States in Crisis Situation.
5. The Meeting produced the report of the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) held on in Phuket, Thailand. The Forum highlighted the significance of immigration intelligence sharing amongst ASEAN Member States particularly in the fight against migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons, drugs trafficking and other transnational crime. Concerned by the increasing threat of criminal network operating on migrant smuggling, the immigration authorities unanimously agreed to take on the issues of People/Migrant Smuggling and Irregular Movement of People under their purview.
6. As such, ASEAN Plan of Action on Cooperation on Immigration Matters would be reviewed by the Technical Working Group in line with ASEAN Community Building Blueprints as well as in response to the prevailing threats in the region.

7. The Meeting agreed that in realizing the establishment of ASEAN Community, secure, practical and systematic immigration and border management system is integral so as to detect, deter and prevent transboundary crimes. The Meeting thus called for a tactical and consolidated regional programme on border management and immigration with a view to further strengthening regional and inter-agency collaboration.
  
8. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN and the Meeting expressed gratitude to the warm hospital accorded by the Government and the People of Thailand.

## **Joint Statement of the Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime**

**Vientiane, Lao PDR  
17 September 2013**

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers overseeing the responsibilities of combating transnational crimes, gathered in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 17 September 2013, to consolidate and further strengthen regional cooperation in combating transnational crime. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as "9<sup>th</sup> AMMTC") held on 16 September 2013. The 9<sup>th</sup> AMMTC was chaired by Dr. Thongbanh Sengaphone, Minister of Public Security of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
2. We welcomed the convening of two ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters held consecutively on 31 August 2012 and 3 September 2013.
3. We took note of the outcomes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) and looked forward to the successful implementation of ASOD Work Plan.
4. We also took note of the outcomes of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) and encouraged the respective Senior Officials to strengthen regional collaboration on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
5. We adopted the SOMTC Work Programme 2013-2015 and tasked the Voluntary Lead Shepherds to lead SOMTC to fulfil the respective areas of the Work Programme under their purview.
6. We took note that all ASEAN Member States had ratified the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) by 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2013. We tasked the SOMTC to implement the ASEAN Comprehensive Action Plan on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT) to fulfil the ACCT.
7. We took note the report of the Chairman of the 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conference (ASEANAPOL Conference XXXIII).

8. We deliberated in depth and exchanged views during our Retreat on the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security (APSC) Blueprint, and on ASEAN's possible future direction in combating transnational crime beyond 2015.
9. We tasked the Voluntary Lead Shepherds to implement the SOMTC Work Programme 2013-2015. We expressed our appreciation on the progress made by the SOMTC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons (WG on TIP) and further tasked the SOMTC to finalise the legally binding ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), and the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (RPA) which will ensure the protection of our people against trafficking in persons. We welcomed SOMTC's decision on the creation of the new SOMTC Working Group on Cybercrime and looked forward to its meaningful deliberations.
10. We welcomed the convening of the 10<sup>th</sup> AMMTC in Malaysia in 2015.
11. We expressed our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 18<sup>th</sup> DGICM**

**Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam  
3 September 2014**

1. The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of The ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of The Ministries of Foreign Affairs (18<sup>th</sup> DGICM) was convened in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 2-3 September 2014. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Azmi bin Haji Hafneh, Acting Director of Immigration and National Registration, Brunei Darussalam and was attended by the Directors-General of Immigration and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States, and the representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. Guest of Honour, The Honorable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Awang Haji Othman, Minister of Home Affairs, officially graced the Opening Ceremony of the 18<sup>th</sup> DGICM.
3. The meeting is an annual gathering of ASEAN Immigration Departments and the Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs to share valuable insights and experiences over issues of common interest and concerns in the progression of realising the ASEAN Community goals.
4. The Meeting commended the continuous efforts of and commitment by the ASEAN Member States in addressing irregular movement of people, illegal migration, trafficking in persons and labour trafficking and encouraged enhanced collaboration in these areas.
5. The Meeting welcomed the ratification by Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption for ASEAN Nationals on 16 November 2013 and 15 May 2014, respectively.
6. The Meeting took note of the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on ASEAN Common Visa held in Jakarta on 30 September to 1 October 2013 where the workshop agreed that the concept of an ASEAN Common Visa would require the study of the various legal, operational and infrastructural pre-requisites. The Meeting agreed to elaborate the issues through an Ad-Hoc Working Group on ASEAN Common Visa.

7. As per the request from the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM), the meeting was briefed on SEOM's proposal regarding the ASEAN Business Travel Card (ABTC). The Meeting agreed that more discussions would be required.
8. The Heads of Consular Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs deliberated on the outstanding Guidelines for the Provision of Emergency Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member States in Crisis Situations. The meeting agreed to hold an Ad-Hoc Working Group meeting to discuss this matter further. The meeting was also briefed on the outcome of the ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Consular, Contingency Planning and Crisis Management held on 20-21 May 2014 in Bali, Indonesia.
9. The 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Intelligence Forum (AIIF) took place on 1 September 2014, back to back with the 18<sup>th</sup> DGICM. The AIIF accentuates bilateral and regional cooperation in the area of immigration, fraudulent visa and travel documents, border management, and modus operandi of transnational criminal networks in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. Cognizant of the fact that more challenges will be encountered upon the relaxing of regional borders after the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015, the AIIF also made recommendations to ASEAN's Post-2015 Agenda and priority areas.
10. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Cambodia to host the 19<sup>th</sup> DGICM in Phnom Penh in 2015.
11. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN and expressed gratitude to the warm hospitality accorded by the Government of Brunei Darussalam.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 19<sup>th</sup> DGICM**

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

**9 September 2015**

1. The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of The ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of The Ministries of Foreign Affairs (19<sup>th</sup> DGICM) was convened in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 8-9 September 2015. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Pol. Gen. Sok Phal, Director-General of the General Department of Immigration, Ministry of Interior, Kingdom of Cambodia and was attended by the Directors-General of Immigration and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States and the representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting was officiated by Guest of Honour, Samdech Krolahorm Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
3. The Meeting exchanged views, shared information and best practices on border management and immigration related matters. It was noted that ASEAN Member States have enhanced their national efforts to further strengthen border management.
4. The Meeting took note of Cambodia's proposal for the establishment of an ASEAN Immigration Secretariat to serve as a permanent secretariat for ASEAN Immigration and DGICM-related matters. The Meeting agreed that further discussions would be required on this matter.
5. The Meeting welcomed Brunei Darussalam's initiative to develop the SOP or Guidelines for the Provision of Consular Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to the Nationals of ASEAN Member States. The Meeting agreed that a Working Group will be convened to discuss the subject in-depth.
6. Taking into consideration the growth in trade and investment flows in ASEAN, the Meeting welcomed Malaysia's offer to convene a Meeting to study and explore further the feasibility of developing an ASEAN Business Travel Card (ABTC).
7. The Meeting took note of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime's recommendation at the Emergency AMMTC Concerning Irregular

Movement of Persons in the Southeast Asia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2 July 2015, to discuss further on the irregular movement of persons and to consider the possibility of establishing a special task force or heads of specialist unit on people smuggling. The Meeting discussed and agreed that this recommendation would be further deliberated as part of the DGICM's post-2015 agenda.

8. The Meeting was preceded by the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Intelligence Forum (AIIF) on 7 September 2015 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Forum deliberated on the AIIF Contact Points, Immigration-24/7 Hotline, Intelligence Data Sharing Protocol (IDSP), and Irregular Movement of Persons from the intelligence perspective, as well as initiative to establish a forum for Heads of Major Immigration Checkpoints for ASEAN Member States.
9. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN and expressed gratitude to the warm hospitality accorded by the Royal Government of Cambodia.
10. The Meeting welcomed Indonesia's offer to host the 20<sup>th</sup> DGICM in Indonesia in 2016.

# Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
30 September 2015

**WE**, the ASEAN Ministers 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 crimes in our respective states, gathered here in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 30 September 2015 for the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as the AMMTC):

**REAFFIRM** our commitment to the aims and purposes of ASEAN as set forth in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967;

**BEARING IN MIND** the purpose and the specific objectives of the 1997 ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime and the 1999 ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime;

**EMPHASISE** the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, which reflect the desire and collective will of our people to live in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, enjoying sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress;

**SATISFIED WITH** the implementation of the relevant provisions in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2015, that stipulates our commitment to strengthen cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues, particularly in combating transnational crimes and other transboundary challenges;

**ACKNOWLEDGE** that all ASEAN Member States have ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT);

**NOTE** the good progress made in the implementation of the provisions of these Conventions;

**REAFFIRM** also our commitment to the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT);

**ACKNOWLEDGE** the emergence of new forms of transnational crimes including those closely linked to the issue of irregular movement of persons;

**RECOGNISE** the continued need to be vigilant and address effectively and in a timely manner, existing and emerging transnational and trans-boundary challenges and threats that have the potential to undermine the stability and well-being of each Member State and the peoples of our region; and

**REITERATE** our commitment to combat the areas of transnational crimes under the purview of AMMTC and the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), namely terrorism; illicit drug trafficking; trafficking in persons; arms smuggling; sea piracy; money laundering; international economic crime; and cybercrime.

**DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:**

1. **Reaffirm** the commitment of Member States to continue to cooperate closely in efforts to prevent and combat transnational crimes;
2. **Convene** the AMMTC on an annual basis for regular consultations due to the rapid progress and evolution of transnational crime issues, including the emergence of new forms of transnational crimes;
3. **Convene** emergency ministerial sessions, if necessary, to respond immediately and effectively to imminent challenges and threats of transnational crimes;
4. **Endorse** illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber and people smuggling as new areas of transnational crimes under the purview of the AMMTC;
5. **Support** the work towards the elevation of the MLAT to an ASEAN Treaty;
6. **Support** the work of the ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALAWMM) to enhance cooperation on the issue of extradition;
7. **Promote** enhanced cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and external parties;

8. **Preserve** the central role of ASEAN and the region's interests in appropriate regional frameworks and mechanisms, including those with ASEAN's external parties, established to prevent, address and combat transnational crimes;
9. **Expand** the scope of responsibility where necessary to effectively address new methods and forms of transnational crimes;
10. **Continue** to effectively implement the ACCT, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT) and the SOMTC Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime;
11. **Encourage** ratification of existing international legal instruments designed to serve as legal frameworks in combating transnational crimes;
12. **Consider** the formulation of regional legal instruments and harmonisation of relevant national policies, laws and regulations among ASEAN Member States to further strengthen regional efforts to combat transnational crimes;
13. **Endorse** the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and encourage its early ratification and its effective implementation, and also endorse the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA);
14. **Initiate** the formulation of a new ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime;
15. **Encourage** the effective implementation of the relevant provisions on combating transnational crimes identified in the post-2015 APSC Blueprint;
16. **Strengthen** the capacity of the criminal justice system, including judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, through cooperation within ASEAN and with relevant regional and international organisations;
17. **Enhance** cooperation and coordination among ASEAN law enforcement operational as well as intelligence units responsible for tackling transnational crimes;
18. **Streamline and improve** work processes including coordination with other ASEAN bodies under the APSC pillar, namely the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting; ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters; ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting; ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights; as well

as with ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus and the ASEAN Regional Forum; and other ASEAN sectoral bodies to ensure effective implementation of decisions;

19. **Strengthen** cross-sectoral coordination and improve information sharing with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies under the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community pillars on issues pertaining to combating transnational crimes including through, *inter alia*, enhancing cooperation on border management information sharing, and intelligence exchange; and
20. **Collaborate** and implement effective information exchange with all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, media and civil society in combating transnational crimes.

**DONE** at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Thirtieth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:

**PEHIN DATO (DR) MOHAMMAD YASMIN UMAR**

Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:

**POLICE GENERAL MR EM SAM AN**

Secretary of State of the Ministry of Interior

For the Republic of Indonesia:

**POLICE GENERAL BADRODIN HAITI**

Chief of the Indonesian National Police

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

**BRIGADIER GENERAL SOMKEO SYLAVONG**

Minister of Public Security

For Malaysia:

**DATO' SERI DR AHMAD ZAHID HAMIDI**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs

For the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

**BRIGADIER GENERAL KYAW KYAW TUN**

Deputy Minister of Home Affairs

For the Republic of the Philippines:

**PETER IRVING CORVERA**

Undersecretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government

For the Republic of Singapore:

**MASAGOS ZULKIFLI BIN MASAGOS MOHAMAD**

Second Minister for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs

For the Kingdom of Thailand:

**SUTEE MARKBOON**

Deputy Minister of Interior

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

**PROF DR GENERAL TRAN DAI QUANG**

Minister of Public Security

# Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
29 September 2015

**WE**, the ASEAN Ministers 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 crimes in our respective states, gathered here in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 29 September 2015 for the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as the AMMTC);

**RECALLING** the outcomes of the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (EAMMTC) Concerning the Irregular Movement of Persons in the Southeast Asia Region, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 2 July 2015;

**NOTING** the outcomes of the Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean held on 29 May 2015 in Bangkok to discuss the irregular movement of persons among the countries involved;

**CONCERNED** over the recent increase in the irregular movement of persons in the Southeast Asia region and its serious impact on the national security of the affected countries namely Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia;

**RECOGNISING** irregular movement of persons as a global phenomenon which requires concerted effort to address in accordance with the principle of international burden sharing and shared responsibility;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the commitment and the need for ASEAN Member States to work together to address the irregular movement of persons irrespective of whether they are the countries of origin, transit or destination;

**RECOGNISING** the urgency of the current situation which requires immediate regional responses;

**VIEWING** the increasing challenges posed by the irregular movement of persons in this region, particularly the close connection between trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants;

**STRONGLY CONDEMNING** trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants while expressing the collective determination of the ASEAN Member States to combat both crimes;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that in addition to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, the irregular movement of persons could also contribute to the commission of other forms of transnational crime;

**RECOGNISING** the need for coordinated responses amongst the ASEAN Member States in addressing the issues of trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and related transnational crime, including enhanced regional cooperation on border management;

**FURTHER RECOGNISING** the need to expedite the adoption of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children (APA);

**AFFIRMING** the commitment to cooperate and coordinate more closely with the Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) on the issue of smuggling of migrants;

**WELCOMING** the offer by ASEAN Dialogue Partners on aspects of assistance in capacity building, and enhancement of law enforcement cooperation, including expert-level advisory services; and

**DO HEREBY AGREE TO:**

1. Include people smuggling as one of the transnational crimes under the purview of SOMTC and AMMTC and to work in tandem with the DGICM on this issue;
2. Look forward to the discussions in the DGICM on irregular movement of persons including the possibility of establishing a Special Task Force or Heads of Specialist Unit on this issue;
3. Strengthen law enforcement efforts in combating trafficking in persons and people smuggling as well as other forms of transnational crime at the national and regional level, among others, through the sharing of information and intelligence and, where appropriate, the establishment of a special investigative taskforce;

4. Utilise the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters to ensure that ASEAN Member States are well-equipped to prosecute perpetrators of the heinous crimes of trafficking in persons and people smuggling, and bringing such perpetrators to justice through due process;
5. Conduct analysis and studies on the irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia and its connection with trafficking in persons and people smuggling as well as other forms of transnational crime with a view to assist ASEAN Member States in their efforts to address the long-term impact of this issue;
6. Develop and implement, together with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, comprehensive regional communication campaigns to send a strong message to the community to prevent irregular migration that is closely linked to trafficking in persons and people smuggling;
7. Strengthen cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and related International Organisations in combating trafficking in persons and people smuggling, including through law enforcement cooperation, sharing of information and expertise, exchange of intelligence and capacity building;
8. Endorse the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by the ASEAN Secretariat for voluntary contributions from ASEAN Member States and members of the international community to support the humanitarian and relief efforts involved in dealing with challenges resulting from the irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia;
9. Recommend to the ASEAN Leaders to task relevant ASEAN bodies to explore the possibility of setting up a Task Force to respond to crisis and emergency situation arising from irregular movement of persons in Southeast Asia; and
10. Look forward to the early ratification of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the effective implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA).

**ADOPTED** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on this Twenty-Ninth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

# **ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
29 September 2015**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

In line with the relevant ASEAN instruments and Roadmap for an ASEAN Community relating to trafficking in persons, there is a need to have strong international cooperation and a comprehensive regional approach to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in all forms of sexual, labour, and organ trafficking. This ASEAN Plan of Action, which complements the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), aims to provide specific action plans within ASEAN Member States' domestic laws and policies, as well as relevant international obligations, to effectively address regional challenges common to all ASEAN Member States in the identified major concerns, to wit: (1) Prevention of trafficking in persons; (2) Protection of victims; (3) Law enforcement and prosecution of crimes of trafficking in persons; and (4) Regional and International cooperation and coordination.

In undertaking this ASEAN Plan of Action, ASEAN Member States are mindful of the equal rights and inherent human dignity of women, and men, as well as the rights of children, as reflected in the following international and regional instruments, among others:

1. Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (“ASEAN Charter”);
2. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
3. Convention on the Rights of the Child;
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
5. United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;
6. ASEAN Human Rights Declaration;

7. ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children adopted in 2004;
8. Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons: Ending Impunity for Traffickers and Securing Justice for Victims in 2007 (“ASEAN Practitioner Guidelines”);
9. ASEAN Leaders’ Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in South East Asia in 2011; and
10. ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime.

## **II. CHALLENGES**

Based on the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, there are generally three (3) types of trafficking in persons. These are sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and organ trafficking. In some ASEAN Member States, not all of these three types of trafficking are criminalised, while in some, no specific laws on trafficking in persons have been adopted.

While some ASEAN Member States are considered countries of destination, others are considered countries of origin and transit. Depending on whether they are origin, transit or destination countries, the challenges, national priorities, and strategies of ASEAN Member States are different. Nonetheless, they share a common interest and commitment in preventing and combatting trafficking in persons.

Common challenges among the ASEAN Member States include:

1. Alleviating the factors that make persons, especially women and children vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as organised crime, government corruption, poverty, different levels of social economic development, economic instability, inefficient law enforcement and legal systems, and discouraging the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons especially women and children that leads to trafficking;
2. Having appropriate legislation to effectively combat trafficking in persons;

3. The need to enhance capabilities of frontline officers for early detection and prevention of movements of victims of trafficking from countries of origin, through transit countries, to countries of destination;
4. The proper identification of victims and provision of suitable protection to them;
5. The need to improve investigation and prosecution of traffickers, especially relating to complex trafficking in persons cases;
6. The need to enhance direct communication and coordination between and among competent authorities of ASEAN Member States; and
7. The lack of effective regional legal and other mechanisms to further international cooperation in combatting trafficking in persons.

### **III. OBJECTIVE**

The ASEAN Member States seek to effectively address these challenges so as to progressively prevent, suppress and punish all forms of trafficking in persons including the protection and assistance to victims of trafficking in the region and work towards an enhanced comprehensive and coordinated regional approach to achieve this objective.

### **IV. ACTION PLANS**

We, Member States of ASEAN resolve to translate our political will into concrete actions by adopting a Plan of Action to:

1. Strengthen the rule of law and border control among ASEAN Member States;
2. Intensify efforts to prosecute trafficking in persons cases; and
3. Strengthen regional cooperation based on shared responsibilities to effectively address demand and supply that fosters all forms of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking.

## **A. Prevention of Trafficking in Persons**

- a. Increase awareness campaigns to educate all levels of society on trafficking in persons and its linkage to violation of human rights, targeting those most at risk with effective involvement of mass media, relevant non-governmental organisations, private sectors, and community leaders;
- b. Continue capacity building of law enforcement, immigration, education, social welfare, labour and other relevant officials in the prevention of trafficking in persons, taking into account the need to respect human rights, child and gender-sensitive issues, and encourage cooperation, where appropriate, with civil society, non-governmental organisations and other relevant organisations;
- c. Put in place effective mechanisms and ensure their proper implementation to effectively prevent the movement of traffickers and victims of trafficking in persons through appropriate border control systems, issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through measures that prevent counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents;
- d. Enhance cross-border cooperation and sharing of intelligence and exchange of information to disrupt the operations of traffickers;
- e. Adopt and implement appropriate labour laws or other mechanisms that promote and protect the interests and rights of workers to reduce their risk of being trafficked;
- f. Adopt and ensure implementation of national action plans, where applicable, to identify and prioritise key policies and programmes aimed at preventing trafficking in persons, and strengthen the implementation and coordination and monitoring mechanisms of such plans;
- g. Conduct or support research studies on relevant topics to be used by ASEAN Member States in combatting trafficking in persons and collect suitable data to enable analysis and better understanding of the nature and extent of trafficking in persons both nationally and regionally;
- h. Develop national data collection systems in relation to trafficking in persons and methods of exchange of such data between and among ASEAN Member States with a view to developing a regional database for trafficking in persons;

- i. Utilise existing regional guidelines as well as develop or strengthen national guidelines for the identification of victims of trafficking in persons, including applying appropriate and non-discriminatory measures that help to identify victims of trafficking in persons among groups who are more susceptible to trafficking. The early detection of possible cases of trafficking in persons will allow swift responses to deter and prevent trafficking in persons and minimise the exploitation of victims;
- j. Increase and support prevention efforts in each ASEAN Member State by focusing on discouraging both the demand and supply that fosters the exploitation of persons, especially women and children that leads to trafficking;
- k. In the case of cross-border trafficking, to explore how the country of origin can implement intensive preventive measures in cooperation with the receiving country who can provide useful information gathered from the victim of trafficking; and
- l. Strengthen prevention measures to discourage demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking, including to protect victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, from revictimisation.

**B. Protection of Victims**

- a. Reaffirm that the promotion and protection of human rights for all victims of trafficking and effective measures to respond to trafficking in persons are complementary and mutually reinforcing;
- b. In line with Article 14, Paragraph 10 of the ACTIP, continue development of appropriate care, protection and support for victims of trafficking in persons;
- c. Provide specialised services to identified victims of trafficking in persons, consistent with the ACTIP and other relevant international instruments, including access to health services, such as for the purpose of prevention, treatment, care and support services for HIV and AIDS and other blood-borne and communicable diseases for those victims of trafficking in persons that have been sexually exploited, taking into account the fact that trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation has serious, immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health;

- d. Subject to domestic laws, rules, regulations and policies, and in appropriate cases, consider not holding victims of trafficking in persons criminally or administratively liable, for unlawful acts committed by them, if such acts are directly related to the acts of trafficking in persons;
- e. Ensure that there are avenues for victims of trafficking in persons, with particular attention to child victims, to be provided with protection, assistance and services for the physical, psychological, social recovery and rehabilitation in cooperation with non-governmental organisations and other relevant organisations and sectors of civil society, where appropriate, such as the establishment of a network of service providers to provide for medical care, counselling, education and training opportunities, legal aid and translation services;
- f. Develop and utilise an appropriate procedure for the rescue, protection, recovery, repatriation, and reintegration of the victim into his or her family and community, in accordance with domestic laws, with particular attention to child victims;
- g. Ensure that domestic legal or administrative systems include measures to provide information to victims of trafficking in persons, in a language they understand, regarding their legal rights and the relevant court and administrative proceedings and facilitate their access to assistance in order to enable their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of such proceedings against offenders in a manner not prejudicial to the rights of the defence, consistent with the ACTIP;
- h. Recognise the important role of civil society organisations in each ASEAN Member State in providing assistance and empowerment to victims of trafficking in persons, helping them to seek redress and facilitating the care of and provision of appropriate services to victims, including close cooperation and coordination with law enforcement officials.

### **C. Law Enforcement and Prosecution of Crimes of Trafficking in Persons**

- a. Establish trafficking in persons as a criminal offence, consistent with Article 5 of the ACTIP;
- b. Develop pro-active investigation methods and where appropriate, to conduct surveillance and other pro-active measures to gather evidence to establish a case to prosecute trafficking in persons cases even without the testimony of victims;

- c. Enhance efforts to investigate alleged cases of trafficking in persons, strengthen the means to combat trafficking, prosecute the perpetrators, including through more systematic use of freezing assets for the purpose of eventual confiscation in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the ACTIP, and ensure that penalties are proportionate to the gravity of the crime;
- d. Designate specialised prosecutors and establish prosecutorial specialised units that will handle trafficking in persons cases, where applicable;
- e. Prosecute crimes of trafficking in persons that encompass all forms of exploitation and enact, enforce and strengthen legislation that criminalises all forms of trafficking in persons, especially women and children;
- f. Combat and prosecute organised criminal groups engaged in trafficking in persons, in accordance with domestic laws;
- g. Investigate, prosecute and punish corrupt public officials who engage in or facilitate trafficking in persons and promote a zero-tolerance policy against those corrupt officials consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime;
- h. Continue the development of suitable and effective protection mechanism for witnesses of trafficking in persons, where appropriate;
- i. Ensure the liability of all categories of perpetrators of trafficking in persons, including the liability of legal persons and entities as appropriate, in line with the ACTIP;
- j. Waive, to the extent possible under domestic laws, immigration fees to facilitate the entry and stay of the victim of trafficking in persons temporarily in the territory of an ASEAN Member State for purposes of testifying or otherwise cooperating in the prosecution of traffickers;
- k. Intensify capacity building, where appropriate, of law enforcers, prosecutors, judges, immigration officers, foreign service officers, labour inspectors, social welfare officers and other relevant personnel involved in combatting trafficking in persons;

- I. Strengthen the information-sharing, investigation and prosecution processes for cases of trafficking in persons, including the setting up of specialised enforcement teams, encouraging joint enforcement between domestic agencies and fast-tracking the investigation and prosecution of serious or aggravated cases, especially at the regional level.

**D. Regional and International Cooperation and Coordination**

- a. Strengthen the Heads of Specialist Units (HSU) mechanism within ASEAN;
- b. Utilise existing international mechanisms, including INTERPOL tools and resources such as INTERPOL database;
- c. Strengthen the coordination and cooperation among ASEAN Member States in combating crimes that might be connected with trafficking in persons, including money laundering, corruption, smuggling of migrants and all forms of organised crime;
- d. Strengthen the operational cooperation between ASEAN Member States, in accordance with their domestic laws and bilateral or multilateral agreements, joint investigation teams to be put together by the concerned ASEAN Member States, where appropriate;
- e. Strengthen capacity building activities for the purposes of improving the preparation and receiving of requests relating to mutual legal assistance, extradition and cross-border law enforcement cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons;
- f. Render to one another the widest possible measure of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters to prosecute and punish crimes of trafficking in persons in accordance with the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and bilateral undertakings;
- g. Utilise international cooperation, including through mutual legal assistance in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, and consistent with domestic laws and regulations of each ASEAN Member State, to ensure the effective investigation, prosecution and confiscation of assets relating to trafficking in persons;
- h. Strengthen and enhance collaboration and coordination among the ASEAN platforms dedicated to facilitating cooperation among ASEAN Member States in combating trafficking in persons, including the Senior Officials Meeting on

Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the HSU Meeting, taking into account the relevant work undertaken by other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;

- i. Promote mutually beneficial collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations to combat trafficking in persons, including through the provision of technical and sustainable funding assistance by Dialogue Partners and relevant organisations aimed at strengthening the collective and individual capacities of ASEAN Member States in combatting all forms of trafficking in persons;
- j. Enhance cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and other international organisations on trafficking in persons to strengthen the region's capacity to effectively combat trafficking in persons and provide assistance to victims of trafficking in persons;
- k. Improve capacity building as a very important component in combating trafficking in persons and encourage and enhance coordination and coherence within ASEAN;
  1. Identify focal points to facilitate communication, data sharing and exchange of information on trafficking in persons to strengthen prevention and protection policies and programmes among ASEAN Member States;
  2. Promote cooperation and coordination among governmental institutions, civil society organisations, private sector, media, and all relevant stakeholders, to strengthen prevention and protection policies and programmes;
- l. Enhance and continue the development of regional guidelines, in light of national and bilateral guidelines, to combat trafficking in persons by strengthening coordination partnership, and international cooperation and implement effectively the relevant existing guidelines.

## **V. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM**

1. Endeavour to incorporate the relevant programmes and activities of this Plan of Action into the respective ASEAN Members States' national plans of action against trafficking in persons to ensure its success.
2. The SOMTC, supported by the SOMTC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, will oversee the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action.

## **Joint Statement of the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
29 September 2015**

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers 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 in our respective states, gathered here in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 29 September 2015 for the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as the AMMTC) to consolidate and further strengthen regional cooperation in combating transnational crime. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for the 10<sup>th</sup> AMMTC on 28 September 2015. The 10<sup>th</sup> AMMTC was chaired by Hon. Dato' Seri' Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Malaysia.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the 15<sup>th</sup> SOMTC and Its Related Meetings, the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) and the 19<sup>th</sup> Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM).
3. We took note of the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014, Jakarta, Indonesia and welcomed the institutionalisation of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters and the convening of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Langkawi, Malaysia from 27-29 October 2015.
4. We also took note of the report of the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEANAPOL (ASEANAPOL – XXXV) in Jakarta, Indonesia from 3-7 August 2015.
5. We exchanged views during the Retreat and agreed upon the following:
  - i. Convene the AMMTC annually beginning 2017;
  - ii. Consider holding consultations with other Dialogue Partners in order to enhance regional cooperation to combat transnational crime;

- iii. Noted the progress on the development of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Trust Fund to Support Emergency Humanitarian and Relief Efforts for the Victims of the Irregular Movement of Persons and tasked the SOMTC to finalise the document;
  - iv. Enhance coordination with the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters on addressing the challenges posed by drug trafficking and its linkages with other aspects of transnational crime;
  - v. Endorse illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber and people smuggling as new areas under our purview; and
  - vi. Welcomed Malaysia's offer to convene a conference to discuss the scope of non-traditional maritime security issues/crime.
6. We endorsed the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA).
  7. We adopted and signed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime.
  8. We also adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia.
  9. We welcomed the convening of the 11<sup>th</sup> AMMTC in Myanmar in 2017.
  10. We expressed our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Malaysia for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this Meeting.

# **Chairman's Statement of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2 October 2015**

1. ASEAN Ministers overseeing the responsibilities of combating transnational crime and Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, 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 met in Kuala Lumpur on 2 October 2015 for the convening of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (SAMMRRVE). The Meeting was also attended by the Deputy-Secretary General of ASEAN.
2. The Meeting was presided over by the Hon. Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Malaysia. The purpose of the Meeting was to provide a platform for ASEAN Member States to exchange experiences, views and ideas on the best practices in handling the issues of radicalisation and violent extremism, particularly in Southeast Asia. The holding of this meeting is consonant with the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2178 adopted on 24 September 2014 which requires all United Nations Member States to take concrete steps to address the threats posed by Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) by building community resilience in countering violent extremism to prevent terrorism.
3. The Meeting deliberated on three (3) main issues, namely, (i) the Challenges in Dealing with Radicalisation and Violent Extremism; (ii) Rehabilitation/ Reintegration; and (iii) Regional Cooperation to Counter Radicalisation and Violent Extremism.
4. The Meeting noted the challenges and the concrete measures taken by the respective ASEAN Member States in dealing with the aspects of radicalisation and violent extremism encompassing promulgation of new laws, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and activities to engage as well as to create awareness among civil society, the private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

5. The Meeting further noted the presentations by the representatives from ASEAN Member States on their experiences, methods and approaches to the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of radicalised or extremist individuals.
6. The Meeting has resolved to:
  - (i) Call upon ASEAN Member States to speak up against and reject extremism and support moderation in line with the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of the Moderates adopted on 27 April 2015. The Langkawi Declaration aims to promote moderation and tolerance as core values for the region and its peoples to ensure that it would continue to be a peaceful and prosperous region;
  - (ii) Counter radicalisation and violent extremism in all forms and manifestations that lead to terrorism, including preventing radicalisation, financing, recruitment and mobilisation of individuals into terrorist groups.
  - (iii) Place strong emphasis on the aspect of deradicalisation in rehabilitation and reintegration programs as part of comprehensive measures in countering terrorism, besides applying force or punitive measures, so as to ensure that radicalised or extremist individuals are ready to reintegrate into society as well as to prevent 'relapse' or their return to militant/terrorist activities;
  - (iv) Conduct analyses and studies on the factors, including root causes, that create a conducive environment for the spread of radicalisation and violent extremism in Southeast Asia with a view to assisting ASEAN Member States by providing them with a better understanding to effectively address both issues that could lead to terrorism;
  - (v) Develop programmes to counter violent extremism that build trust and strengthen cooperation between communities vulnerable to radicalisation and the Police. These initiatives might focus on community-police relations such as through community policing. Additionally, ASEAN Member States should also develop more community-based approaches to countering radicalisation and violent extremism;
  - (vi) Develop and implement, together with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, comprehensive regional communication campaigns to counter terrorist narratives through all information and communication technologies aimed at denying radicals and extremist proponents the means and opportunities to pursue extremist/terrorist activities and promote their misconstrued ideologies;

- (vii) Strengthen cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and related International Organisations through exchange of experiences, views and ideas including best practices in handling the issues of radicalisation and violent extremism.
7. The Meeting appreciated the initiative of the Government of Malaysia in convening the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (SAMMRRVE).

## **Joint Press Statement of the 20<sup>th</sup> DGICM**

**Bali, Indonesia  
22 September 2016**

1. The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) was held on 21-22 September in Bali, Indonesia. It was chaired by Dr. Ronny F. Sompie, Director General of Immigration Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Republic of Indonesia, and was attended by the ASEAN Heads of Immigration and Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting exchanged views on challenges and important national developments in immigration, information, capacity building programs and best practices on border management and immigration related matters.
3. The Meeting agreed to issue the Joint Statement of the DGICM on the Prevention of the Movement of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs).
4. The Heads of Consular Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs deliberated on the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of Working Group to Study Consular Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member States (DWGCA) and agreed to circulate the revised draft TOR for further consideration. The Heads of Consular Division also discussed on the Guideline for the Provision of Emergency Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of ASEAN Member States in Crisis Situations and agreed to defer the discussion on this issue to a later stage.
5. The Meeting agreed on the Establishment of Ad Hoc Working Group on ASEAN Common Visa and the inaugural Working Group meeting will be conducted in due time.
6. The Meeting took note of the presentation by The Habibie Center on the proposed comprehensive study on visa research under the framework of EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme II (EA-MBMP II) and looked forward to the outcomes of the Study. The Meeting also noted the presentation from the ASEAN Coordinating Committee of Services (CCS) on the ASEAN Business Travel Card.

7. The Meeting was preceded by the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) on 20 September 2016 in Bali, Indonesia. The Forum highlighted the significance of immigration intelligence sharing amongst ASEAN Member States particularly in the fight against people smuggling and other transnational crimes. The Forum adopted *ad referendum* the TOR of ASEAN Heads of Major Immigration Checkpoints Forum (AMICF). The Forum also agreed to follow up Indonesia's proposal of immigration cooperation on the prevention of FTFs' movement between ASEAN Member States through, *inter alia*, developing data sharing mechanism and convening of workshop(s).
8. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Lao PDR to host the 21<sup>st</sup> DGICM in 2017.
9. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality and the warm hospitality offered by the people and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.

## **Joint Statement of the DGICM on the Prevention of the Movement of Foreign Terrorist Fighters**

**Bali, Indonesia  
23 September 2016**

**WE**, the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) from ASEAN Member States namely, 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;

**RECOGNISING** that the evolving threat from foreign terrorist fighters poses risk to the security and stability of the region and deeply affects religious tolerance, economic development as well as social cohesion of all countries concerned;

**REAFFIRMING** the relevant principles contained in the United Nations Charter and the ASEAN Charter as well as the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to counter terrorism and relevant resolutions of the United Nations on measures aimed at countering international terrorism;

**REAFFIRMING FURTHER** our commitment to prevent, suppress and eliminate all forms and manifestations of international terrorism in accordance with the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and the 2009 ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism;

**RECALLING** the outcomes of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (SAMRRVE), in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2 October 2015;

**EMPHASISING** the need to strengthen cooperation and to undertake priority actions aimed at preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters;

### **DO HEREBY RESOLVE TO:**

1. Enhance cooperation and coordination among our respective immigration officers as well as other relevant stakeholders in developing and implementing comprehensive approaches and measures in efforts to prevent cross-border movement of foreign terrorist fighters;

2. Explore practical ideas and initiatives to prevent the movement and curb the flow of foreign terrorist fighters through, *inter alia*, dialogues, sharing of lessons learned and adoption of best practices;
3. Take appropriate measures in order to strengthen and reinforced border control and border security measures;
4. Intensify and accelerate the availability of information including intelligence information, and increase awareness on actions and movements of foreign terrorist fighters' including through, *inter alia*, better utilisation of existing information and database sharing platforms; and
5. Utilise all available tools to prevent the misuse of travel documents for foreign terrorist fighters travel by, among others, implementing international standards for passport control and the use of biometric information.

We reaffirm our commitment to accomplish the elements of this Joint Statement as may be necessary and in accordance with our respective national laws, regulations and policies.

Done in Bali, Indonesia on the Twenty Third Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen, in Bali, Indonesia.

# **ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016-2025)**

**Manila, Philippines  
20 September 2017**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016-2025) is established to follow up the mandate of the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime and contribute to the realisation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025.

The aim of the Plan of Action is to continue ASEAN Member States' close cooperation to prevent and combat transnational crimes as well as to enhance ASEAN's capacity to address transnational crimes in an effective and timely manner.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

The inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Interior/Home Affairs on Transnational Crime on 20 December 1997 in Manila, Philippines, adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime. This landmark instrument, among others, established the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and requested a high-level *ad hoc* Experts Group to formulate an ASEAN Plan of Action on Transnational Crime. The ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime was adopted on 23 June 1999, in Yangon, Myanmar.

The 1999 ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime espoused its general and specific objectives of strengthening regional commitment and capacity to combat transnational crimes. Its specific objectives included developing regional strategy aimed at preventing, controlling and neutralizing transnational crimes; fostering regional cooperation at the investigative, prosecutorial and judicial level; enhancing coordination among ASEAN bodies dealing with transnational crimes; strengthening regional capacities and capabilities in dealing with transnational crimes; and developing sub-regional and regional treaties on cooperation in criminal justice, including mutual legal assistance and extradition. The 1999 ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime also as part of its institutional framework established the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC).

The commitment to combating transnational crimes under the frameworks of AMMTC and SOMTC was focused on eight areas, namely counter-terrorism; illicit drug trafficking; trafficking in persons; arms smuggling; sea piracy; money laundering; international economic crime; and cybercrime. To date under the SOMTC, three Working-Groups have been established, namely the Working Group on Counter Terrorism (WG on CT); Working Group on Trafficking in Persons (WG on TIP); and Working Group on Cybercrime (WG on CC). These institutional frameworks are also supported by the Voluntary Lead Shepherd mechanism, where ASEAN Member States volunteer to lead one or several specific area(s) of transnational crime under the purview of the AMMTC and SOMTC. The most notable work of the AMMTC and SOMTC was the development and adoption of two legally binding regional instruments, namely the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) and the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP).

Throughout the years, the AMMTC and SOMTC have developed strong ties and engaged positively with ASEAN external parties, in particular ASEAN Dialogue Partners, which eventually developed into AMMTC/SOMTC Plus Dialogue Partners Consultations. Moreover, various documents, including joint declarations and memoranda of understanding have been discussed, signed and adopted with ASEAN external parties in undertaking common efforts to combat transnational or specific areas of transnational crime, such as terrorism and trafficking in persons.

### **III. THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION IN COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME**

At the sidelines of the 10<sup>th</sup> AMMTC held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for overseeing the prevention and combating of transnational crimes signed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime on 1 October 2015. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration acknowledged the emergence of new forms of transnational crime and recognised the continued need for the ASEAN Member States to be vigilant and to effectively address in a timely manner the existing as well as emerging transnational and trans-boundary challenges and threats that have potentials to undermine the stability and well-being of ASEAN Member States and the region. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration declared, among others to:

1. Continue to cooperate closely in efforts to prevent and combat transnational crimes;
2. Convene the AMMTC on an annual basis for regular consultations and emergency ministerial sessions, if necessary;

3. Endorse illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber and people smuggling as new areas of transnational crimes under the purview of the AMMTC;
4. Support the work towards the elevation of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters to an ASEAN Treaty and the work of the ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALAWMM) to enhance cooperation on the issue of extradition;
5. Promote enhanced cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and external parties, while preserving the central role of ASEAN and the region's interests in appropriate regional frameworks and mechanisms;
6. Consider the formulation of regional legal instruments and harmonization of relevant national policies, laws and regulations among ASEAN Member States to further strengthen regional efforts to combat transnational crimes;
7. Strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system and enhance cooperation and coordination among ASEAN law enforcement operational as well as intelligence units responsible for tackling transnational crimes;
8. Streamline and improve work processes including coordination with other ASEAN bodies under the ASEAN Political-Security Community pillar and strengthen cross-sectoral coordination and improve information sharing with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies under the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community pillars;
9. Encourage the effective implementation of the relevant provisions on combating transnational crimes identified in the post-2015 APSC Blueprint; and
10. Initiate the formulation of a new ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime.

#### **IV. OBJECTIVES**

1. Cooperate closely to prevent and combat transnational crimes under the purview of the AMMTC and SOMTC, namely on terrorism; illicit drug trafficking; trafficking in persons; arms smuggling; sea piracy; money laundering; international economic crime; cybercrime; illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber; and people smuggling, as well as where necessary and mutually agreed, expand its scope of responsibility to deal effectively with new methods and forms of transnational crime;

2. Enhance regional investigative, prosecutorial and judicial cooperation, including by supporting the work of ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALAWMM) towards the elevation of the MLAT to an ASEAN Treaty as well as enhancing cooperation on the issue of extradition;
3. Enhance the capacity of law enforcement officials, including judges, on preventing and combating transnational crimes within ASEAN through, among others, cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations, to the extent permitted by domestic laws, including through exchange of information and intelligence sharing, mutual assistance, coordinated patrols, as well as the return of the proceeds of crime;
4. Enhance and improve coordination, including through sharing of information and joint training and other relevant activities, with other ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies and relevant organs on issues related to preventing and combating transnational crimes;
5. Strengthen cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and external parties, such as INTERPOL, as well as collaborate and implement effective information exchange with all relevant stakeholders, including private sector, media and civil society in addressing transnational crimes.

## **V. ACTIONS/PRIORITY AREAS**

In order to achieve the general and specific objectives, the ASEAN Member States, subject to its national policies and legislation, are encouraged to:

### **National Strategies/Action Plans**

1. Adopt a national strategy and/or action plan to prevent and combat transnational crimes, in accordance with the current ASEAN Plan of Action;
2. Streamline national strategies and/or action plans as guided by the "ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together", related ASEAN instruments and plans of action or declarations in the areas of transnational crime, such as the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT) and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA);
3. Establish specialist units/task forces within the law enforcement agencies, where appropriate, to effectively prevent and combat transnational crimes;

4. Review national policies and laws, where necessary, to strengthen regional cooperation in areas such as mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition, as well as law enforcement cooperation;
5. Adopt national measures, policies and laws for the confiscation of the proceeds of crime, and establish national measures, policies and laws for the sharing and/or return/disposal of proceeds of crime;
6. Develop the capacity of financial intelligence/authorised units and other relevant agencies involved in anti-money laundering measures to better detect, analyse and investigate the laundering of proceeds of crime;
7. Allow for the use of controlled delivery of other special investigative techniques such as electronic surveillance and undercover operations to effectively combat transnational crime, to the extent permitted by its domestic laws;
8. Develop criminal records and/or databases of respective ASEAN Member States on transnational crimes, such as trends, methods and modus operandi of transnational organised groups;
9. Strengthen the criminal justice system by enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials, such as the police, prosecutors and judges to effectively and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and adjudicate transnational crimes, through among others trainings, workshops and seminars;
10. Strengthen national measures, policies and laws, to provide effective protection from potential retaliation or intimidation for witnesses in criminal proceedings, and take appropriate measures within its means to provide assistance and protection to victims;
11. Collaborate and implement effective information exchange with relevant stakeholders, including private sector, media and civil society in addressing transnational crimes.

### **Legal Matters**

1. Strive to sign, ratify and/or accede as well as implement effectively international instruments related to transnational crimes;
2. Effectively implement the ACCT and accelerate the internal ratification process of the ACTIP and its effective implementation;

3. Explore the possibility of developing new regional legal instruments in the areas of transnational crimes under the purview of the AMMTC and SOMTC;
4. Harmonise relevant national policies, laws and regulations among ASEAN Member States to further strengthen regional efforts to prevent and combat transnational crimes;
5. Establish, where appropriate, as a criminal offense the illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber in an effective manner, in accordance with relevant international laws;
6. Establish as a criminal offense the act of people smuggling to prevent and combat people smuggling in an effective manner;
7. Support the work of ALAWMM towards the elevation of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters to an ASEAN Treaty and the work of the ALAWMM to enhance cooperation on the issue of extradition;
8. Conduct a study of the possibility of creating a regional programme/arrangement on the protection of witnesses and victims of transnational crimes from retaliation of organised criminal groups.

### **Information Exchange**

1. Utilise existing international/regional database to facilitate and analyse critical intelligence information, such as wanted and arrested persons, *modus operandi*-organised criminal groups, and maritime offences;
2. Utilise the INTERPOL's tools, such as the i-24/7, to facilitate coordination and information exchange to effectively address transnational crime;
3. Utilise and improve the exchange of information and sharing of information mechanism between Heads of Specialist Units (HSUs) on Trafficking in Persons in order to enable the law enforcement agencies to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate trafficking in person cases;
4. Strengthen collaboration with the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) by exchanging information to prevent and deter transnational crimes;

5. Establish a regional repository to compile national laws and legislation of ASEAN Member States related to transnational crimes at the ASEAN Secretariat, and to this end by strengthening the functions of the ASEAN Secretariat;
6. Identify relevant national contact points, such as national central authorities for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition requests; financial intelligence authorities/units (FIUs); and law enforcement agencies;
7. Augment the use of modern telecommunications technology in facilitating the rapid exchange of information/data on, among others, criminals, methodologies, arrests, legal documents, and requests for assistance, and ensure its restricted transmission.

### **Law Enforcement Matters**

1. Continue appointing Police Attaché or Police Liaison Officers, where possible, in the capitals of ASEAN Member States to act, among others as points of contact for matters related to addressing transnational crimes;
2. Continue exchange programmes among ASEAN officials in the policy, legal, law enforcement and academic fields on addressing transnational crimes;
3. Enhance cooperation and coordination, including through exchange of information and intelligence sharing among ASEAN's law enforcement agencies to effectively prevent and combat transnational crimes;
4. Enhance cooperation and coordination, including through exchange of information and intelligence sharing among law enforcement agencies to effectively and in a timely manner prevent and combat illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber;
5. Enhance cooperation and coordination, including through exchange of information and intelligence sharing among law enforcement agencies to effectively and in a timely manner prevent and combat people smuggling;
6. Enhance cooperation and coordination, including through exchange of information and intelligence sharing among law enforcement agencies to prevent, deter, and suppress effectively radicalism and violent extremism leading to acts of terrorism;

7. Undertake joint investigations and using special investigative techniques, where feasible, among ASEAN Member States for the purpose of combating transnational crimes;
8. Enhance cooperation and coordination among ASEAN law enforcement agencies in the protection of witnesses and the protection of, and assistance to, victims of transnational crimes;
9. Enhance cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including private sector, media and civil society in preventing and deterring transnational crimes.

### **Training and Institutional Capacity-Building**

1. Develop training programmes and conduct workshops, seminars and other capacity building activities to enhance existing capability in investigation, intelligence, surveillance, detection, prosecution and adjudication of transnational crimes;
2. Conduct workshops and seminars, and develop training programmes for ASEAN law enforcement officials, including training modules on the protection of witnesses and the protection, and assistance to, victims of transnational crimes, in full respect of their human rights, including international and ASEAN human rights as well as humanitarian instruments;
3. Utilise as well as upgrade training centres of ASEAN Member States, such as the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC), in providing training programmes for law enforcement officials on addressing transnational crimes;
4. Establish, when necessary, Heads of Specialist Units (HSUs) on other areas of transnational crimes under the purview of the AMMTC and SOMTC.

### **Relations with Dialogue Partners and Other External Parties**

1. Enhance and expand cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other external parties in the spirit of common and mutual benefit, based on the “Guidelines for AMMTC to Engage with External Parties”, as approved by the AMMTC;
2. Promote ASEAN's common position in various multilateral and regional forums related to preventing and combating transnational crimes, as approved by the AMMTC.

## VI. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND WAY FORWARD

1. Convene the AMMTC on an annual basis through three formats: the annual ministerial meeting, ministers' retreat and ministers plus dialogue partner consultations;
2. Establish, when necessary, working groups on other areas of transnational crime under the purview of the AMMTC and SOMTC;
3. Mainstream the issues related to illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, and people smuggling into the agenda of the AMMTC and SOMTC;
4. Continue the on-going discussion on expanding the scope of responsibility of the AMMTC and SOMTC in dealing effectively with new methods and forms of transnational crime, such as non-traditional maritime security issues as well as radicalism and violent extremism leading to acts of terrorism;
5. Continue to implement effectively, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism (ACPoA on CT), ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA), and the SOMTC Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime (1999) with due regard to incorporate the current ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime and the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025;
6. Streamline and improve work processes of the AMMTC and SOMTC, including through coordination with other ASEAN sectoral bodies under the APSC as well as ASEAN-led mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of their decisions;
7. Strengthen cross-sectoral coordination and improve information sharing with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies under the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community on issues pertaining to combating transnational crimes, including through, *inter alia*, enhancing cooperation on border management information sharing, and intelligence exchange;
8. Secure, upon request, technical assistance, including funding, from ASEAN Dialogue Partners and external parties based on common interest and mutual benefit for the implementation of the Actions/Priority Areas identified by this ASEAN Plan of Action, as approved by the SOMTC and/or AMMTC.

## **VII. IMPLEMENTATION**

1. The implementation of the Plan of Action shall be done through the SOMTC Work Programme, which will subsequently be titled “SOMTC Work Programme to Implement the Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime”.
2. The SOMTC Work Programme shall contain components of all areas of transnational crime under the purview of AMMTC/SOMTC.
3. The SOMTC Work Programme shall be reviewed every three years.

## **VIII. EFFECTIVITY, REVIEW AND MONITORING**

1. The effectivity of the current ASEAN Plan of Action shall follow that of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025.
2. ASEAN Member States shall report the progress and implementation of the current ASEAN Plan of Action by reviewing the SOMTC Work Programme on an annual basis, to be led by the SOMTC Chair and compiled by the ASEAN Secretariat. In addition, the review of each component shall be led by the Voluntary Lead Shepherd.
3. The compilation report will be submitted by the ASEAN Secretariat to the AMMTC annual ministerial meeting. The format of the annual report shall be formulated by the SOMTC and approved by the AMMTC.
4. A Mid Term Review in monitoring the progress and implementation of the current ASEAN Plan of Action shall be conducted by the SOMTC in 2020. The SOMTC, with the support and assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat shall report the achievements made by ASEAN Member States, including recommendations to effectively implement the current ASEAN Plan of Action, to the AMMTC for its endorsements.
5. A Final Review shall be conducted by the SOMTC with the support and assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat in 2025. The Final Review shall contain a report detailing the achievements made by ASEAN Member States and ASEAN in the implementation of the current ASEAN Plan of Action, including recommendations for future ASEAN Plan of Action, to the AMMTC for its endorsements.

# **ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT)**

**Manila, Philippines  
20 September 2017**

## **I. GENERAL / INTRODUCTION**

- 1. Pursuant to the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) and in accordance with the mandate of the Seventh ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (7<sup>th</sup> SOMTC), the SOMTC WG is mandated to develop the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism (ACPOA on CT) that will elaborate the ASEAN Action Plan on Counter terrorism. The 1<sup>st</sup> SOMTC WG meeting was held in Jakarta on June 5, 2008. In accordance with the key principles of the ACCT, the Plan of Action aims, among others, to:**
  - 1.1. Enhance cooperation among the law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and other relevant authorities of ASEAN Member States to counter, prevent and suppress terrorism, terrorist organisations and their associations, to disrupt their support networks and impede their plan of terror acts, and to bring them to justice.
  - 1.2. Prevent the acts of terrorism by addressing its root causes and the conditions conducive to its spread.
  - 1.3. Protect the peoples of ASEAN and reduce the vulnerability of critical infrastructures and critical information infrastructures of ASEAN Member States against terrorist attacks.
- 2. As the primary responsibility for countering terrorism rests with the ASEAN Member States, the Plan of Action shall complement their national efforts by adding values towards the common objectives through the following:**
  - 2.1. Strengthening national capabilities of ASEAN Member States to counter terrorism by sharing best practices, exchange of knowledge, expertise, technology and information on how to prevent, protect people against, disrupt and respond to terrorism.

- 2.2. Enhancing ASEAN cooperation on counter terrorism by establishing effective mechanisms to facilitate cooperation among the relevant law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities of ASEAN Member States involved in counter terrorism.
- 2.3. Developing collective capability at the regional level to prevent, protect against, disrupt and respond to terrorism by making best use of the capability of the existing ASEAN bodies involved in combating terrorism, including AMMTC and SOMTC.
- 2.4. Promoting international cooperation through close cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue and Sectoral Partners, as well as relevant international organisations in implementing the Joint Declaration on Combating International Terrorism.
- 2.5. Implementing the relevant activities of the ACPOA on CT through existing training centers and facilities for law enforcement in ASEAN Member States such as Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement and Cooperation (JCLEC), Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) and International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA).

## **II. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

### **3. Adherence to Relevant United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolutions and relevant international instruments pertaining to terrorism**

- 3.1. Introduce appropriate legislation to implement the obligations and to enable ratification of international instruments pertaining to terrorism to which ASEAN Member States are parties to.
- 3.2. Ensure that all counter terrorism measures should respect and promote applicable provisions of international law, in particular international human rights, and humanitarian law.
- 3.3. Implement appropriate Security Council Resolutions related to international terrorism and to cooperate with the counter terrorism subsidiary bodies of the Security Council in fulfilment of their tasks in accordance with the principles as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint.

**4. Implementation of the existing regional legal frameworks, instruments and agreements pertaining to terrorism**

- 4.1. Establish appropriate jurisdiction by among others prosecution or extradition, as stipulated in article VII of the ACCT, in order to bring terrorists to justice and deny them safe haven, and suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.
- 4.2. Enhance the activities of the existing ASEAN bodies engaged in counter terrorism, such as AMMTC and SOMTC and other relevant stakeholders.
- 4.3. Exchange experience in introducing the appropriate legislation to implement the obligations under international counter terrorism conventions and protocols, and assist ASEAN Member States that are not yet parties to those instruments.
- 4.4. Enhance the terrorism-related legislative archives of ASEAN Member States, with a view to sharing legislative information, by utilising the ASEAN Legal Information Network System.
- 4.5. Continue to work towards an ASEAN Model Treaty on Extradition.
- 4.6. Promote the sharing of best practices and exchange of lessons learnt on witness protection, including protection of justice and criminal justice officials involved in terrorism cases, with the objective of establishing an appropriate mechanism in ASEAN.
- 4.7. Enhance the cooperation on mutual legal assistance in accordance with the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

**5. Addressing the root causes of terrorism and conditions conducive to its spread**

- 5.1. Promote the objectives of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals on the eradication of poverty and sustain economic development in the region.
- 5.2. Develop programmes aimed at improving the quality of life of the people through adequate provision of basic needs, equal opportunities and proper education so as to prevent them from being manipulated and recruited by terrorist groups to further their ends.

- 5.3. Support the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (2006) and UN Secretary General Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2015) to address the root causes of terrorism and conditions conducive to its spread in the region.
- 5.4. Promote international and regional initiatives that encourage tolerance and utilise the moderation agenda that espouses tolerance, mutual respect, understanding and promotion of inter-faith and intra-faith dialogues in the region through, among others, the ASEAN Committee for Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) and to take part in the UN Initiative on the Alliance of Civilisations, and to involve all levels of society including religious leaders, private sector, academia, media, non-governmental organisations, community groups and other relevant institutions.
- 5.5. Strengthen cooperation to enhance the moderation agenda in line with the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of the Moderates adopted on 27 April 2015, and deradicalisation initiatives to negate and defuse terrorism and violent extremism in ASEAN, including through exchange of experience and best practices on deradicalisation, rehabilitation and re-education programs to prevent and suppress terrorist acts.
- 5.6. Conduct research on the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism in Southeast Asia by involving all levels of society, including religious leaders, the private sector, academics, the media, non-governmental organisations, community groups and other relevant institutions.
- 5.7. Conduct analyses and studies on the factors, including root causes, that create a conducive environment for the spread of radicalism and violent extremism in Southeast Asia with a view to assisting ASEAN Member States by providing them with a better understanding to effectively address both issues that could lead to terrorism.
- 5.8. Share analysis of the radicalisation process, including the motivation of terrorism, and the misuse of information and communication technology for terrorism purposes, and share good practices including success stories in deradicalisation programs.

- 5.9. Exchange ASEAN Member States' success stories and best practices on rehabilitation and re-education programmes to prevent the perpetration of terrorist acts and the propagation of terrorist cells.
- 5.10. Place strong emphasis on the aspect of deradicalisation in the rehabilitation and reintegration programs as part of comprehensive measures to prevent the spread of radicalism and violent extremism in ensuring that the radicalised or extremist individuals are ready to reintegrate into society as well as to prevent their return to militant/terrorist activities.
- 5.11. Develop programmes, as may be necessary, aimed at protecting and supporting victims of terrorism.
- 5.12. Develop programmes to promote and empower public participation, including private sectors and local communities on counter terrorism measures, such as through counter terrorism narratives.
- 5.13. Encourage the private sector to adopt business approaches that will facilitate counter terrorism measures, e.g. development of "security-oriented" design of industrial facilities, public transport facilities, etc.
- 5.14. Develop programmes to counter violent extremism that build trust and strengthen cooperation between communities vulnerable to radicalisation and the Police. These initiatives might focus on community-police relations such as through community policing. Additionally, ASEAN Member States should also develop more community-based approaches to countering radicalism and violent extremism;
- 5.15. Promote public and media awareness on terrorist threats and terrorism activities including through, public education on counter terrorism measures.
- 5.16. Develop and implement, together with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, where appropriate, comprehensive regional communication campaigns to counter terrorist narratives through information and communication technologies.
- 5.17. Enhance regional cooperation to address and combat the root causes of terrorism and conditions conducive to terrorism, violent extremism and radicalism, as well as to prevent and suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

**6. Exchange of best practices on how to protect critical infrastructures and critical information infrastructures, including telecommunications facilities, power stations, water supply facilities, air and sea ports, rail and road transportation facilities, key government and business buildings, etc. against terrorist attacks**

- 6.1. Enhance cooperation to improve the security and protection of particularly vulnerable targets such as critical infrastructures, critical information infrastructures and public facilities.
- 6.2. Promote exchange of experience to classify the risk levels of security of critical infrastructures, critical information infrastructures and soft targets, such as telecommunications facilities, power stations, water supply facilities, military facilities, air/seaports, public transportation, government buildings, historic buildings and public places.
- 6.3. Exchange of best practices and development of standard operating procedures on managing security of potential targets other than the critical infrastructure, i.e. “soft targets” such as public places, religious facilities, etc. against terrorist attacks.

**7. Improvement of the security of passports, other travel documents and other documents issued by ASEAN Member States**

- 7.1. Intensify efforts and cooperation at every level, as appropriate, to improve the security measures in the manufacture and issuance of identity and travel documents and to detect and prevent the use of fraudulent passports and other travel documents.
- 7.2. Promote harmonisation of the security features of travel documents with international standards to facilitate the detection of fraudulent travel documents and deter the movement of terrorists in the region.
- 7.3. Encourage ASEAN Member States to implement national identification system to complement efforts in countering terrorism.

**8. Improvement of information sharing on lost and stolen passports, lost and stolen vehicles, fingerprints, wanted persons, etc, in close cooperation with INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL**

- 8.1. Provide data and updates for the INTERPOL I-24/7 databases, including its Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database, the INTERPOL-

United Nations Security Council Special Notices, Orange Notices, fingerprints, and DNA and other related data to counter terrorism, as appropriate.

- 8.2. Provide terrorism-related updates to the ASEANAPOL Database System 2.0 (e-ADS 2.0), as appropriate, in order to enhance regional cooperation on counter terrorism.
- 8.3. Enhance capacity and mechanisms for the dissemination of terrorism-related information - especially information obtained through ASEANAPOL and INTERPOL - to front-line law enforcement officers involved in counter terrorism activities.
- 8.4. Develop at the national and regional level to the extent possible, a linked migration database system that will improve border security without impinging upon legitimate migration flows.

**9. Development of integrated surveillance and movement control methods at vulnerable areas along common borders in ASEAN Member States and the commencement of coordinated patrols to prevent terrorist infiltration**

- 9.1. Enhance bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation, as appropriate, to improve border and customs controls, in order to prevent and detect the cross-border movement of terrorists and to prevent and detect the illicit traffic in, inter alia, small arms and light weapons (SALW), conventional ammunition and explosives, nuclear, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons (CBRN) and dual-use goods as well as materials that may be used in terrorist acts.
- 9.2. Ensure that border officials have direct and timely access to national, regional and international databases containing notices and lookout information for the screening/inspection of travel documents.
- 9.3. Enhance the effectiveness of efforts to detect forged/falsified/counterfeit travel documents and to process data from INTERPOL, ASEANAPOL and other sources, by providing training to officers with immigration duties.
- 9.4. Promote studies and research on specific issues such as movements of terrorists and terrorist networks; forged/falsified/counterfeit travel documents; trafficking of arms, explosives or other hazardous materials;

use of communications technologies by terrorist groups; and the threats posed by the possession of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist groups.

- 9.5. Conduct training and seminars for immigration officers of ASEAN Member States in order to disseminate specialised knowledge about all aspects of ASEAN Member States' travel documents and enhance the detection of fraudulent travel documents.
  - 9.6. Organise thematic regional committees for the exchange of information, best practices and approaches in order to address the relevant challenges.
  - 9.7. Involve immigration officers, customs officers, police officers and other officers engaged in counter terrorism activities where necessary at border points in order to encourage the mutual exchange of practices.
  - 9.8. Develop programmes for joint tactical exercises and simulations in the area of national border security; implement and/or enhance coordinated patrols and surveillance at vulnerable national borders in order to prevent terrorist infiltration and the smuggling of weapons.
  - 9.9. Introduce early-warning mechanisms to notify countries in the region of the movement of terrorists, explosive materials, CBRN weapons and cash and other negotiable instruments suspected to be intended for terrorists financing.
- 10. Establishment of institutionalised mechanisms for the exchange of information and intelligence on the surveillance and tracking of suspected terrorist organisations including their associated organisations and their activities with a view to preventing their acts of terror**
- 10.1. Strengthen coordination and cooperation among ASEAN Member States and establish focal points for information exchange and early warning on suspicious terrorist activities.
  - 10.2. Introduce a system for the designation/proscription of terrorists/terrorist groups, without prejudice to domestic law and in accordance with international standards, and share such information with other ASEAN Member States in order that they may take the appropriate action, including, inter alia, monitoring and deterring terrorist movement, freezing assets/property, and preventing recruitment.

- 10.3. Exchange experience and learn best practices to suppress recruitment of members of terrorist groups, including preventive measures and take appropriate actions.
  - 10.4. Establish mechanisms (including periodic meetings, secure communications and joint activities) to enable focal points to share analyses and risk assessments, exchange information, and share experience and good practices, in order to strengthen regional and national counter terrorism efforts.
  - 10.5. Intensify contacts among the counter terrorism agencies with a view to discuss, inter alia, individual measures and initiatives, strategies and approaches, and the provision of assistance.
  - 10.6. Study the principal active terrorist groups in the ASEAN region in order to understand typologies, ideologies, modus operandi, links to other groups within and outside the region, share outputs and results and establish databases on terrorist organisations and their associations in order to share information and take collective actions.
  - 10.7. Promote mutual exchange of information, on the possible existence of terrorists' training camps.
  - 10.8. Coordinate efforts at the international and regional level to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on the Internet, and; use the Internet as a tool for countering the spread of terrorism, while recognising that States may require assistance in this regard.
- 11. Establishment of computerised shared databases on terrorist organisations and their associations as well as transnational organised crime groups with possible links to terrorist organisations with a view to developing a joint risk and threat assessment**
- 11.1. Conduct study on existing regional databases to capture terrorist activities that currently are not included, with the objective of enhancing existing cooperation toward strengthening regional databases. Encourage ASEAN Member States to contribute to the said database to increase its prolific contents.
- 12. Enhancement of the capabilities of and the cooperation among Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of ASEAN Member States, particularly on matters related to combating terrorist financing**

12.1. Encourage ASEAN Member States to implement anti-money laundering/counter-financing of terrorism measures in accordance with the framework of membership of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG).

12.2. Encourage Member States to implement the comprehensive international standards embodied in the Financial Action Task Force Forty Recommendations on Money Laundering, possibly seeking assistance from dialogue partners in capacity building in implementing these standards and recommendations.

**13. Enhancement of cooperation among the intelligence community, law enforcement agencies and financial supervisory authorities of ASEAN Member States on matters related to combating terrorist financing**

13.1. Establish a national financial intelligence unit with effective operational links to all reporting entities, relevant domestic agencies as well as regional and international counterparts.

13.2. Participate, to the fullest extent possible, in regional efforts to prevent transnational organised crime and terrorism in the ASEAN region through the adoption, effective implementation and enforcement of internationally accepted norms and standards against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

13.3. Exchange information on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism among ASEAN Member States, to the extent permitted by its respective laws, regulations and policies, with the objective of promoting an early-warning system.

**14. Enhancement of the existing regulations/procedures in the control of illicit trade of arms and explosives, including CBRN materials, with a view to improving their effectiveness. ASEAN Member States who have yet to establish such regulations are encouraged to do so**

14.1. Criminalise acts relating to illegal manufacturing of, and trafficking in, firearms, taking into account the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

14.2. Enhance legislation to control arms and explosives, including in relation to their manufacture, possession, stockpile, brokerage, transfer, export

and import, pursuant to the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

- 14.3. Identify ASEAN Member States' legal and administrative measures and programmes on how to combat trafficking in SALW, and take cooperative measures.
- 15. Enhancement of cooperation among the Bomb Data Centres of ASEAN Member States, with a view to developing standard operating procedures on the handling of explosives, detonators, fire-arms and CBRN materials. ASEAN Member States who possess more advanced knowledge on the matter are encouraged to extend assistance to other Member States who have yet to acquire such capability**
- 15.1. Enhance cooperation among the Bomb Data Centres of ASEAN Member States with a view to developing standards for operating procedures on the handling of explosives, detonators, firearms and CBRN materials, and extend assistance to ASEAN Member States, as may be necessary.
- 15.2. Promote cooperation to strengthen the anti-CBRN Units in the ASEAN Member States.
- 16. Development and adoption of procedures, which would enable the commencement of joint exercises on counter terrorism among law enforcement agencies of ASEAN Member States and, where possible, coordinated law enforcement operations, particularly in border areas**
- 16.1. Exchange best practices in counter terrorism efforts in order to enhance mutual understanding.
- 16.2. Where relevant and permitted by domestic laws, conduct joint cross-border investigation of terrorist cases.
- 17. Development and adoption of procedures, in accordance with the existing agreements and/or legal instruments including the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, which would enable cross-border investigation and prosecution of terrorist activities**
- 17.1. Promote the early ratification of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, by the remaining signatory states.

- 17.2. Provide adequate safeguards to ensure that no person is returned or extradited to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that there is a danger of torture.
- 17.3. Study differences and gaps in criminal procedures, including admissibility of evidence, among ASEAN Member States, and find solutions aimed at rendering the widest possible mutual legal assistance in criminal matters (MLA).
- 17.4. Study difficulties in rendering expeditious extradition among ASEAN Member States, and find solutions.
- 17.5. Introduce comprehensive provisions on laws relating to extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, ensuring that terrorism is not recognised as a political offence for the purpose of refusing requests.

**18. Development and adoption of standard operating procedures for protection of civilian population in the event of a terrorist attack, such as Civil Protection Modules/Civil Protection Mechanism**

- 18.1. Make full use of the existing regional agreements and mechanisms on disaster management.
- 18.2. Exchange of best practices on how to engage the public in the aftermath of a terrorist attack, including provision of first aid to the victims.

**III. COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE AND SECTORAL PARTNERS AS WELL AS RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER EXTERNAL PARTIES**

**19. Enhance cooperation on counter terrorism with ASEAN Dialogue and Sectoral Partners and external parties**

- 19.1. Elaborate cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners in implementing the Joint Declaration on Combating International Terrorism and with other relevant regional and international organisations engaged in counter terrorism.
- 19.2. Promote sharing of best practices and lessons learnt in countering terrorism.

- 19.3. Enhance cooperation on capacity building and technical cooperation in areas covered by the ACPOA on CT.

#### **IV. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW**

##### **20. Implementation**

- 20.1. Relevant units or agencies of ASEAN Member States may as appropriate integrate the Plan of Action into their national strategy/policy in order to ensure that the ACPOA on CT is reflected in their programs and activities.
- 20.2. Line agencies shall, in accordance with domestic policies, be provided with adequate resources and funding including where necessary through appropriate mechanism.
- 20.3. To improve the flows of communication and coordination among agencies or units related to counter terrorism, each ASEAN Member State shall assign contact person in each respective agency or units. Other existing lines of communication within ASEAN law enforcement agencies including in ASEANAPOL or other relevant units may be used to further complement communication and coordination mechanisms of the ASEAN Member States.
- 20.4. SOMTC may cooperate with other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to ensure the implementation of the ACPoA on CT as well as to collect information needed in completing the report of ACPoA on CT.
- 20.5. ASEAN Member States may propose appropriate project activities in line with recommendations set out in the ACPoA on CT, to be implemented under the counter terrorism component of SOMTC Work Programme.

##### **21. Monitoring**

ASEAN Member States shall prepare an annual report as well as other reports, where necessary, on the implementation of measures under the Plan of Action and shall submit the report to SOMTC and the AMMTC. The Lead Shepherd on counter terrorism with the assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat should formulate an annual report on the implementation of ACPoA on CT.

## **22. Review**

- 22.1. SOMTC WG on CT shall meet at least twice a year or whenever it deems necessary to examine progress made in the implementation of the ACPoA on CT, and to consider updating it to respond to dynamic or unpredictable situation pertaining to terrorism.
- 22.2. The ACPoA on CT shall be reviewed and evaluated every three years after the adoption of the ACPoA on CT by SOMTC and AMMTC, to ensure that all activities are responsive to the needs and priorities of ASEAN, taking into account the changing dynamics of the region and the global environment.

# Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism

Manila, Philippines  
20 September 2017

WE, the ASEAN Ministers 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 crimes in our respective states, gathered in Manila, Philippines on 20 September 2017 for the Eleventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as the AMMTC);

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the aims and purposes of ASEAN as stipulated in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967, the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, and the relevant provisions in the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025;

**REAFFIRMING** also our commitment to the aims and objectives of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of the Moderates adopted on 27 April 2015;

**EMPHASIZING** our commitment to the aims and objectives of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime on 30 September 2015;

**NOTING** the Chairman's Statement of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2 October 2015 and the Chairman's Statement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism on 19 September 2017 held in Manila, Philippines and **ACKNOWLEDGING** the initiative of the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in convening these two important Ministerial Meetings;

**RECALLING** that the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2178 adopted on 24 September 2014;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the full implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT), the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of

Action on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT) adopted by the 11<sup>th</sup> AMMTC on 20 September 2017, and the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Work Programme to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime 2016 - 2025;

**NOTING** the East Asia Summit Statement on “*The Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organizations in Iraq and Syria*” 2014, and the East Asia Summit Statement on “*Countering Violent Extremism*” 2015; and

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the role of civil society organizations, private sector and non-government organizations in collaboration with ASEAN Member States, preventing the process of radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism and their transnational nature, methods and operations.

**DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:**

1. Counter radicalisation and violent extremism, in particular those which lead to terrorism in all forms and manifestations, through means such as the prevention of radicalisation, financing, recruitment, and mobilization of individuals into terrorist groups;
2. Place strong emphasis on the aspect of deradicalisation in rehabilitation and reintegration programs as part of comprehensive measures in countering terrorism, besides applying force or punitive measures, so as to ensure that radicalised or extremist individuals are ready to reintegrate into society as well as to prevent ‘relapse’ or their return to militant/terrorist activities;
3. Adopt a sustained and proactive approach through capacity building programmes, including short and long-term initiatives focused on promoting education, in particular peace education and especially to the youth in the region emphasizing and inculcating the importance on moderation, and acquiring knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflict as well as social and ethical values as part of the awareness and prevention efforts against violent extremism and radicalisation, in line with the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movements of Moderates;
4. Continue information sharing and exchanges on best practices among ASEAN Member States on countering and preventing radicalisation and the tools of extremism;

5. Continue also to provide mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition related to the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism that leads to terrorism, in conformity with the respective domestic laws of the ASEAN Member States;
6. Develop an integrated, evidence-based approach to addressing the threats of the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism by:
  - a. Promoting dialogue and conflict prevention;
  - b. Strengthening good governance, human rights and the rule of law;
  - c. Engaging communities;
  - d. Empowering youth;
  - e. Empowering women and promoting gender equality;
  - f. Providing education, skills development and employment facilitation; and
  - g. Strengthening strategic communications, the internet and social media.
7. Develop programmes to counter violent extremism that build trust and strengthen cooperation between communities vulnerable to radicalisation and the Police that focuses on community-police relations such as through community policing and also develop more community-based approaches to countering radicalisation and violent extremism;
8. Develop and implement, together with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, a comprehensive regional communications campaign plan to counter radical narratives using all forms of information and communication technologies and to deny radicals and extremist proponents the means and opportunities to pursue extremist/violent activities and promote their extreme ideologies;
9. Strengthen the existing mechanism for addressing terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism including through the conduct of a regular regional dialogue such as through focal points of relevant law enforcement agencies to share analyses, factors, root causes, and risk assessment in order to strengthen national and regional counter terrorism efforts;
10. Pursue strong collaborations with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, related international organizations and other stakeholders through the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices in addressing radicalisation and violent extremism; and

11. Task an Ad-hoc Experts Working Group under the SOMTC to formulate and develop an ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, and welcomes Indonesia's proposal to host the Ad-hoc Experts Working Group meeting.

**ADOPTED** in Manila, Philippines on the Twentieth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen.

## **Chairman's Statement of the Second Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism**

**Manila, Philippines  
19 September 2017**

1. ASEAN Ministers responsible for overseeing the prevention and combating of transnational crime 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 met on 19 September 2017 for the Second Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2<sup>nd</sup> SAMMRRVE).
2. The Meeting was chaired by AMMTC Leader Philippines Catalino S. Cuy, Officer-in-Charge of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Republic of the Philippines. The purpose of the Meeting was to provide a venue for the ASEAN Member States to exchange views, ideas, experiences, and best practices in combating the rise of radicalization and violent extremism.
3. The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> SAMMRRVE held on 2 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The 1<sup>st</sup> SAMMRRVE was a milestone for ASEAN as it tackled issues that were long overlooked by the region.
4. The 2<sup>nd</sup> SAMMRRVE focused on three main points, namely exchange of views on the challenges in dealing with the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism; experience on the rehabilitation aspect of radicalisation and violent extremism; and the way forward for regional cooperation to counter radicalisation and violent extremism.
5. The Meeting took note of the accomplishments presented by each ASEAN Member States in addressing the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism. The formulation of new laws that encompass concerns pertaining to peace and security as well as advocacy campaigns to engage private citizens, government and non-government organisations, and civil society organisations paved way for a multi-sectoral and holistic approach in addressing radicalisation and violent extremism.

6. The Meeting further noted the challenges in the implementation of the discussions and recommendations during the 1<sup>st</sup> SAMMRRVE. The Meeting recognised the difficulty the ASEAN Member States might have encountered given the differences in the domestic security landscape of each country.
7. The Meeting acknowledged the suggestions presented by each ASEAN Member States, further noting items that provide opportunities for closer cooperation and coordination among all ASEAN Member States. The Meeting recognised the importance of partnership between and among ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners since combating radicalisation and violent extremism require a holistic and inclusive approach for it to be resolved.
8. The Meeting has resolved to:
  - (i) Undertake collaborative measures to address the looming threats of violent extremism within the ASEAN Region. The rise of radicalization can be seen in the scope of influence of the ISIS newly-formed extremist groups. This threat calls for an all-inclusive approach as this affects not only a single country, but the region as a whole;
  - (ii) Continue the counter-radicalisation and violent extremism programs, projects, and activities implemented since the SAMMRRVE was first convened. The sustainability of efforts both in the national and regional level is necessary in achieving lasting peace within the ASEAN Region;
  - (iii) Closely coordinate with relevant institutions in employing rehabilitation and reintegration measures for former extremists;
  - (iv) Strengthen existing advocacy and communication campaigns on counter terrorism and violent extremism to heighten the awareness of the public in the possible threats brought about by these pressing issues;
  - (v) Encourage the involvement of various sectors such as the academe and the police in countering radicalism and violent extremism so as to address all;
  - (vi) Formulate a regional plan of action in countering the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism as part of the work of the SOMTC/AMMTC; and

- (vii) Utilize existing mechanisms that may be applied by the ASEAN Member States to counter the rise of radicalization and violent extremism.
9. The Meeting expressed its utmost gratitude to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for convening the 2<sup>nd</sup> SAMMRRVE as it is seen to be relevant considering the current realities in the ASEAN region particularly in Southern Philippines.

## **Joint Statement of the Eleventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime**

**Manila, Philippines  
20 September 2017**

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers 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 in our respective countries, gathered here in Manila, Philippines on 20 September 2017 for the Eleventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as the 11<sup>th</sup> AMMTC) to consolidate and further strengthen regional cooperation in combating transnational crime. The Meeting was preceded by a Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for the 11<sup>th</sup> AMMTC on 18 September 2017. The 11<sup>th</sup> AMMTC was chaired by AMMTC Leader Philippines Catalino S. Cuy, Officer-in-Charge of the Department of the Interior and Local Government of the Republic of the Philippines.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the 17<sup>th</sup> SOMTC and Its Related Meetings held on 22-27 May 2017 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and the 20<sup>th</sup> Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM).
3. We also took note of the report of the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEANAPOL (ASEANAPOL – XXXVII) in Singapore from 11-14 September 2017.
4. We are pleased to note the progress in the implementation of the SOMTC Work Programme 2016-2018. We also took note of SOMTC's adoption of the Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife and Timber Component of the SOMTC Work Programme 2016-2018.
5. We reiterated our commitment in addressing the irregular movement of persons in the region and underscored the importance of the contribution made to the Trust fund to Support Emergency Humanitarian and Relief Efforts in the Event of the Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia from ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners and international community.

6. We adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016-2025) and looked forward to the full implementation of the Plan of Action.
7. We welcomed SOMTC's recommendation to establish the SOMTC Working Group on Arms Smuggling as well as the SOMTC Working Group on Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife and Timber and look forward to the meaningful deliberations in these Working Groups.
8. Recognising the changing trends of terrorism in the region and globally, we adopted the revised ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism to deal with current challenges.
9. We adopted the Terms of Reference of the AMMTC to facilitate our cooperation and coordination in preventing and combating transnational crime in the region.
10. We took note of the progress made in the development of the Bohol Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Work Plan 2017-2020 to implement the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. In this regard, we commended all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies involved in the development of the work plan. In this connection, we adopted in principle and looked forward to the full endorsement of all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies of the Bohol TIP Work Plan 2017-2020. We agreed to submit the Bohol TIP Work Plan 2017-2020 to the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit for notation.
11. We welcomed the Joint Statement of the ASEAN Director-Generals of Immigration and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) on the prevention of the Movement of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, adopted *ad referendum* on 23 September 2016.
12. We adopted the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism and endorsed the ASEAN Declaration to Prevent and Combat Cybercrime, which demonstrates ASEAN's strong commitment to collectively address these issues that threaten the peace, security and stability of the region.
13. We welcomed the kind offer by Myanmar to host the 12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC and Its Related Meetings in 2018.

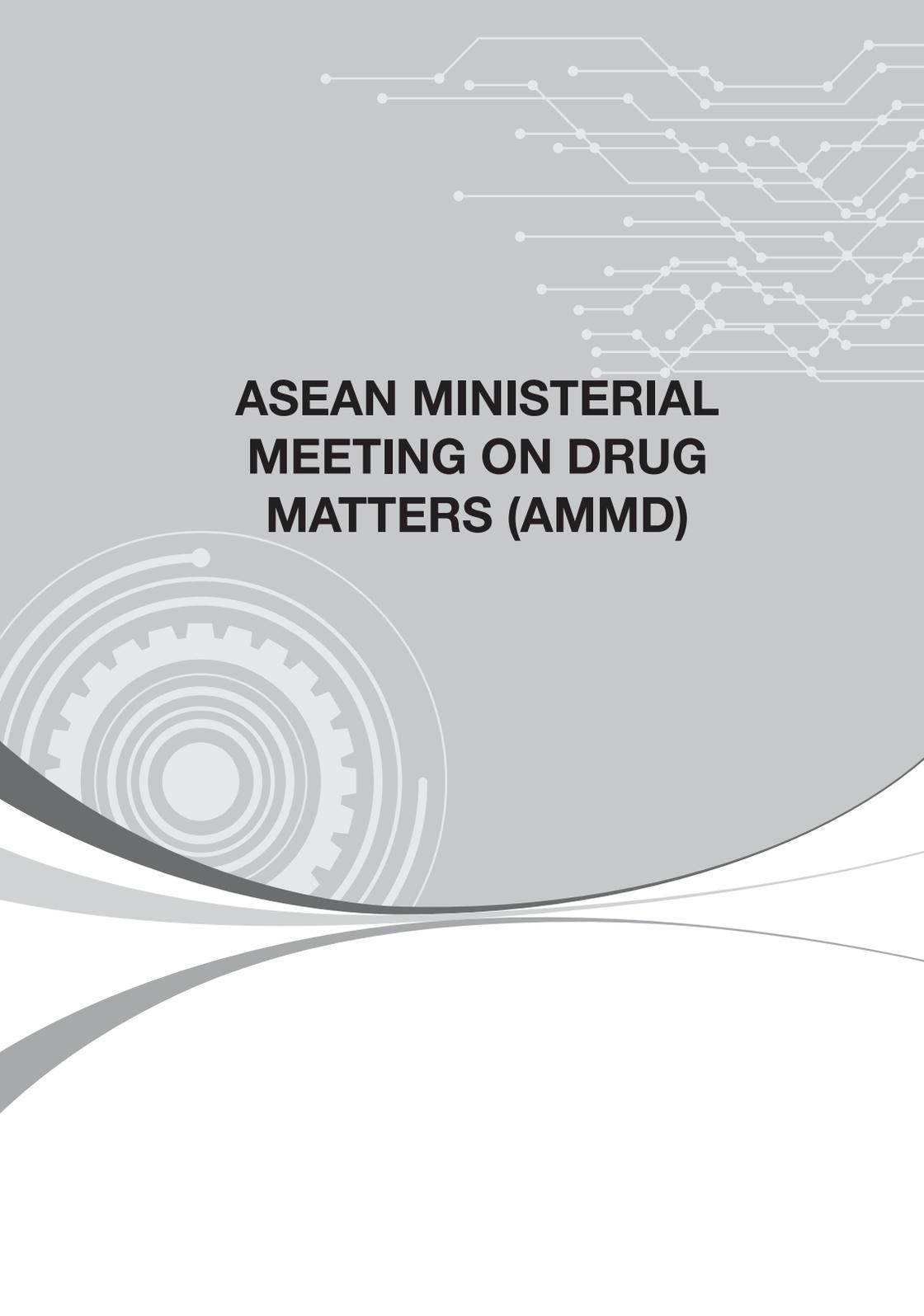
14. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines for their warm welcome and the generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations, as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 21<sup>st</sup> DGICM**

**Vientiane, Lao PDR  
23 November 2017**

1. The 21<sup>st</sup> DGICM and Its Related Meetings were held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 22-23 November 2017. It was chaired by Pol. Lt. Col. Saysaming SIVILAY, Director-General of Immigration, General Department of Public Security, Ministry of Public Security of the Lao PDR, and attended by the ASEAN Heads of Immigration and Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the ASEAN Secretariat.
2. The Meeting was preceded by the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum (AIIF) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Ad Hoc* Working Group on ASEAN Common Visa (AHWG on ACV) on 21 November 2017 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Forum highlighted the significance of immigration intelligence sharing amongst the ASEAN Member States, particularly in addressing people smuggling and other immigration-related transnational crimes. At the *Ad Hoc* Working Group, the ASEAN Member States deliberated on the way forward for the development of the ASEAN Common Visa initiative.
3. The Meeting exchanged views on challenges and significant national and international developments in immigration, information, capacity building programmes and best practices in border management, consular and immigration-related matters.
4. The Meeting discussed on the development of the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Business Travel Card (ASEAN BTC) and the ASEAN Common Visa initiatives. The Meeting also exchanged views on the ASEAN BTC and Initiative 13 of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 to ease ASEAN travel by facilitating visa processes. The Meeting discussed the possibility of expanding Consultation with relevant partners. The Meeting looked forward to future discussions on these initiatives.
5. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Malaysia to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> DGICM in 2018.

6. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR for the excellent arrangement and the warm hospitality accorded to the delegates.
7. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

The background features a light gray gradient. In the upper right, there is a complex network of white lines and dots, resembling a circuit board or a data network. In the lower left, there are several overlapping circular gear-like patterns in shades of gray, with a prominent dark gray curved band sweeping across the bottom of the page.

**ASEAN MINISTERIAL  
MEETING ON DRUG  
MATTERS (AMMD)**



## **Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN Special Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters**

**Bangkok, Thailand  
31 August 2012**

1. The ASEAN Special Ministerial Meeting on Drugs was held on 31 August 2012 in Bangkok. The Meeting was hosted by Thailand and was attended by ASEAN Ministers in charge of anti-narcotics matters and Heads of National Bureaus for Drugs. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Political Security Community Department was also in attendance.
2. The Ministers shared the efforts and achievements obtained in their respective countries and made tactical recommendations in response to the prevailing challenges being encountered.
3. The Meeting also took note of the Mid-term Review on the Implementation of ASOD Work Plan and the Executive Summary prepared by Indonesia and encouraged the forthcoming 33<sup>rd</sup> ASOD Meeting to deliberate in detail so as to adequately and effectively address the identified challenges in realizing the regional goal.
4. The Meeting expressed concern about the continuing threat of illicit production, trafficking, and abuse of drugs and recommended the following:
  - to consider interception of illicit drug trafficking as a priority in order to address the drug smuggling across the borders;
  - to continue enhanced and consolidated regional efforts in addressing the precursor chemicals control; demand reduction through sharing best practices and education and public awareness programmes targeting the youth and Rehabilitation Programme; supply reduction measures, such as law enforcement and inter-agency cooperation and Alternative Development;
  - to work on the effective cooperation amongst relevant Sectoral Bodies under the APSC and ASCC Communities.
5. The Meeting encouraged ASOD to review their operational mechanism with a view to effectively implementing their delegated responsibilities.
6. The Meeting also urged the development of cross-border investigation and cooperative programmes under the framework of MPAC.

7. The Meeting unanimously agreed that all ASEAN Member States must continue to work towards the realization of ASEAN Drug-Free by 2015.
8. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

# **Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters**

**Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam  
3 September 2013**

## **Chairman's Statement**

1. ASEAN Ministers, SOM Leaders and the Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013. The Meeting aimed, through ASOD, to monitor the progress of the implementation of the ASOD Work Plan 2009-2015.
2. The Meeting expressed their profound gratitude to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for graciously granting an audience to the Ministers and Senior Officials and for his invaluable advice in advancing regional cooperation in combating transnational crime.
3. The Meeting took note that the Leaders of ASEAN called for intensified concerted efforts to realise the vision and goal of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 to be a high priority agenda. The Meeting also recognised that the drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health, security and safety and the well-being of humanity.
4. The Meeting shared views, efforts and achievements in facing the challenges posed by the drug problem in the respective countries of ASEAN, which includes, among others:
  - (i) Emphasised that ASEAN Member States have the gigantic task to achieve the desired target of a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015;
  - (ii) All ASEAN Member States shared their best practices on treatment and rehabilitation programmes;
  - (iii) Highlighted the need for a new paradigm to combat the threat of drugs, with the attainment of a balance between treatment and prevention approach with the law enforcement approach;
  - (iv) Recommended ASEAN Member States to fully participate in and contribute to data collection and Standardised Country Reports which would substantively attribute to the regional actions that ASEAN would inspire to undertake;

- (v) Highlighted the importance of adopting the approach of strengthening of national programs and combining bilateral cooperation agreements and regional ASEAN collaboration to combat the drug problem;
  - (vi) To protect our community especially the young generation of ASEAN Member States from the drug menace;
  - (vii) Shared the concern on increasing threats of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and recommended sharing of information on profiling of new drugs.
5. We commended ASOD in its relentless efforts to achieve its mission of realizing a vision of drug-free ASEAN by 2015 and urged ASOD and other relevant bodies to discuss necessary measures to work towards a post-2015 agenda for ASEAN to further realise this vision.
  6. The Meeting commended the significant progress made by the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force on Drugs (AAITF), and looks forward to the expansion of the operational cooperation to include sea/maritime and land border interdiction. The Meeting noted the interest of ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other external parties in collaborating with the AAITF.
  7. We agreed to task the ASEAN Secretariat to develop a comprehensive concept paper on the institutionalisation of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters and on the strengthening of coordination and cooperation between ASEAN sectoral bodies on drug matters.
  8. It is imperative to continue the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters in 2014 and 2015 in order to strengthen ASEAN cooperation and monitor the progress on cross cutting issues relating to drug matters. The Meeting welcomed Indonesia's offer to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters in 2014.
  9. We took note of Thailand's proposal to establish the office of ASEAN-NARCO which will serve as the coordinating office for ASEAN Member States on drug matters.
  10. We affirmed their determination and resolve to work closely together to realise the vision of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 and beyond, realising that combating the drug menace is no longer just the individual responsibility of each ASEAN Member State, but the collective responsibility of all.
  11. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality, in line with this year ASEAN's "Our People, Our Future Together".

## **Chairman's Statement of the Third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters**

**Jakarta, Indonesia  
3 December 2014**

### **Chairman's Statement**

1. The Third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (3<sup>rd</sup> AMMDM) was held on 3 December 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Head of the National Narcotics Board of the Republic of Indonesia, Police Commissioner General Anang Iskandar chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMMDM. The Meeting was attended by ASEAN Ministers responsible for drug matters, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Heads of anti-drugs Agencies and their respective delegations.
2. The Meeting was officiated by H.E. Jusuf Kalla, the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia.
3. The Ministers took note of several achievements and progress made, since the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July 2000 in Bangkok, when the ASEAN Foreign Ministers agreed to advance the target year for realizing a Drug-Free ASEAN from 2020 to 2015. In this regard, the Meeting commended the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) and its five Working Groups for their strong commitment and collective contribution to the realisation of ASEAN's regional goal. Notwithstanding the progressive development achieved at the national and regional level, the Ministers expressed their grave concern about the escalating threat of the production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs in the region and through the region. The Ministers therefore re-affirmed their strong commitment and readiness to enhance regional cooperation and to continue their relentless work in mitigating the scourge of illicit drugs.
4. In realising the ASEAN's regional vision of ASEAN being free from the menace of illicit drugs, the Ministers agreed the regional aspiration of "Drug Free ASEAN," which signifies ASEAN's resilience and commitment towards a zero tolerance approach to protect the people and communities from illicit drugs, shall be maintained.
5. The Ministers also shared their views that as many challenges remain, and new challenges such as New Psychoactive Substances are emerging, strong national and regional commitment should be translated into operational and

concrete actions. To deal with this new challenge, the Ministers may consider the possibility of conducting a study on New Psychoactive Substances in the region.

6. In compliance with the ASEAN Leaders' recommendation for intensified and concerted efforts to realise the vision and goal of Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 and in facing the formidable challenge that threaten the health, security and prosperity of ASEAN people and in responding to the drug problem in the region beyond 2015, the Ministers expressed their views and underlined the following points:
  - i) Underscored that as the relentless action against threat of drugs and abuse is a continuing and life-long effort, further hard work and more coordinated and effective actions beyond 2015 are needed;
  - ii) Noted the contribution and progress made in the implementation of the work program of ASOD and further tasked ASOD to continue their concerted efforts in the attainment of a healthy and secure ASEAN Community beyond 2015;
  - iii) Re-emphasized the need for implementing a new paradigm to manage the risk of drugs, with a new strategy and approach that attain the balance between the treatment and prevention approach with the law enforcement approach;
  - iv) Recognised the importance of ensuring the availability of treatment services with recognised evidence based practices for drug users to be able to reintegrate into society;
  - v) Assigned ASOD to develop best practices and standards for key measures on drug control in Post 2015 such as treatment and rehabilitation as well as drug prevention and legal measures to be nearly at the same level throughout the region;
  - vi) Acknowledged that regional integration can facilitate illicit activity and can expose ASEAN to a greater number of drug syndicates activity that require enhanced cooperation and well-coordinated national and regional responses; and
  - vii) Underlined the importance of securing an appropriate national budgetary allocation so that national drug agencies can maximise progress to cut drug supply and demand.
7. The Ministers lauded the successful collaboration among the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF) which resulted, *inter alia*, in the apprehension of drug syndicates through control delivery and sharing of information.

8. The Meeting appreciated Thailand's briefing on the progress of the ASEAN-NARCO establishment and called on ASEAN Member States to continue its good work so that ASEAN-NARCO can support national and regional efforts in reducing both supply and demand.
9. The Meeting welcome the comprehensive concept paper from the ASEAN Secretariat on the institutionalisation of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters, and agreed to propose the institutionalization to the ASEAN Leaders through the ASEAN Political Security Community Council in order to strengthen regional collaboration against drugs at the highest level.
10. The Meeting noted the ongoing work on the regional review by the UNODC Experts on "Achieving a Drug Free ASEAN 2015: Review and Recommendations Post 2015," and looks forward to the finalization of the report during the Regional Review Meeting which will be held on 4-7 February 2015.
11. The Meeting welcomed with great appreciation the offer by the Government of Malaysia to host the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters in 2015.
12. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality, in keeping with ASEAN's journey towards a region of "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".

# **Chairman's Statement of the Fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters**

**Langkawi, Malaysia  
29 October 2015**

## **Chairman's Statement**

1. The Fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (4<sup>th</sup> AMMD) was held on 29 October 2015 in Langkawi, Malaysia. The Honourable Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Malaysia officiated and chaired the 4<sup>th</sup> AMMD. The Meeting was attended by ASEAN Ministers responsible for drug matters, the Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Political-Security Community Department, Heads of Anti-drugs Agencies and their respective delegations.
2. The Ministers recognised the achievements and progress made in the fight against drugs, through the first three AMMDs. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) and its five working groups for their efforts towards achieving the common regional aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN.
3. The Ministers also welcomed the institutionalisation of AMMD at the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 27 April 2015. The institutionalisation of AMMD will ensure high-level political commitment to the fight against drugs and provide strategic guidance to the work of ASOD.
4. The Ministers expressed grave concern about the escalating threat of the production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs in the region. The Ministers therefore re-affirmed their strong commitment and readiness to enhance regional cooperation and to continue their relentless work in mitigating the scourge of illicit drugs.
5. The Ministers appreciated the work of the UNODC Regional Survey titled *Drug Free ASEAN 2015: Evaluation and Recommendations Post-2015* and took note the recommendations outlined to be used as an ASEAN internal reference document to develop the Post-2015 ASOD Work Plan.
6. The Ministers agreed to pursue the aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN and endorsed ASOD's proposal to establish a post-2015 *Work Plan on*

*Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use.* ASOD will adopt a balanced approach, involving both demand and supply reduction measures, and strengthen the areas of enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, research and alternative development. The Ministers welcomed Indonesia's proposal to host a workshop to develop the Post-2015 ASOD Work Plan.

7. Notwithstanding the progressive developments achieved at the national and regional level, the Ministers shared their concerns about the following:
  - a. Increased opiate drug production in the Golden Crescent;
  - b. Threat of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and diversion of precursors that continue to flow into this region;
  - c. Increased threat of synthetic drugs, particularly New Psychoactive Substances, and the challenges posed to law enforcement.
8. The Ministers noted the following measures that have been made to address these concerns by:
  - a. Eliminating illegal crop cultivation, engaging communities whose livelihoods depend significantly on such cultivation, and providing sustainable alternatives to these communities;
  - b. Improving prevention efforts and access to treatment and rehabilitation of drug users, and ensuring that they receive appropriate standards of care for their reintegration into society;
  - c. Tackling the illicit precursor trafficking and international drug syndicates, high value targets and profits of drug crime through robust, targeted actions by enforcement agencies;
  - d. Increasing collaborative efforts among ASEAN Member States and its Dialogue Partners; and
  - e. Promoting awareness of the danger of illicit drugs through preventive anti-drug education campaigns and adopting the green-and-white ribbon as the region's symbol of our commitment to a Drug-Free ASEAN.
9. The Ministers recognised the importance of continuous education campaigns, especially for youth and high risk groups, as these groups are vulnerable to drug abuse. Hence, effective education campaigns are necessary to raise awareness of these vulnerable groups on the danger of drug abuse.

10. The Ministers commended the efforts made by the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF) and the ASEAN-Narcotics Coordination Centre (ASEAN-NARCO) to strengthen cooperation among members. These efforts have contributed to the aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN. These efforts are important as they prevent our regional trade routes from being exploited for illicit purposes, as the region moves towards closer integration. Hence, the Ministers also look forward to the expansion of operational cooperation in seaport and border interdiction to tackle drug syndicates and activities. The Ministers welcomed the hosting of the ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF) in Indonesia in 2016.
11. The Ministers called on all Member States to continue their efforts to improve treatment and rehabilitation programmes, with consideration for scientific and evidence-based practices. The involvement of families, communities and NGOs in such programmes is highly recommended.
12. The Ministers agreed and endorsed the ASEAN Position, appended at the Annex of this Chairman's Statement, to be reflected in a Statement to be delivered at the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in March 2016, and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem in April 2016. This ASEAN Statement will reaffirm ASEAN's commitment to a zero-tolerance approach in realising its aspiration for a Drug-Free ASEAN, and to the three international drug control conventions, which should continue to serve as the basis for the world drug policy.
13. The Ministers requested the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2015 to endorse the proposal for ASEAN to submit a Joint Statement at the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the CND in March 2016 and the UNGASS 2016.
14. The Ministers welcomed the offer by Singapore to host the 5<sup>th</sup> AMMD in 2016.
15. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality, in keeping with ASEAN's journey towards a region of "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".

# Chairman's Statement of the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters

Singapore  
20 October 2016

## Chairman's Statement

1. The Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (5<sup>th</sup> AMMD) was held on 20 October 2016 in Singapore. His Excellency Mr. Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security was the Guest of Honour at the Opening Ceremony of the 5<sup>th</sup> AMMD and officially opened the Meeting. The 5<sup>th</sup> AMMD was chaired by His Excellency Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Singapore. The Meeting was attended by ASEAN Ministers responsible for drug matters, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies and their respective delegations.
2. The Ministers recognised significant achievements made over the past four AMMDs, which had strengthened ASEAN's resolve against drug abuse and renewed the commitment towards the Drug Free ASEAN aspiration. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) and its five working groups for their efforts in addressing the regional drug situation. They also acknowledged the contributions made through regional cooperative mechanisms, such as the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF), ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF) and ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN-NARCO), including the establishment of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network.
3. The Ministers commended ASEAN's coordinated response at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem including at the meetings leading to the momentous event. Of significance were the joint ASEAN statements delivered by Singapore at the 59<sup>th</sup> Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) on 14 March 2016 in Vienna, and Malaysia at the UNGASS on the World Drug Problem on 19 April 2016 in New York. The Statements asserted ASEAN's commitment to:
  - Remain united in our commitment to a vision of Drug-Free ASEAN, so as to provide our people and communities with a society free from drug abuse and its ill-effects;

- Supporting the centrality of the UN international drug control conventions, and the role of the CND as the principal policy-making organ;
  - Respecting the sovereign right of countries in deciding the most appropriate approaches to address their national drug situations; and
  - Promoting cooperation with other regions, as part of a larger global effort to tackle the drug problem.
4. The Ministers called on Member States to maintain ASEAN unity and solidarity in their participation at the UN CND and related meetings, especially during discussions on the future global drug plan that will succeed the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. As an expression of our unity, the Ministers launched the green-and-white Anti-Drug Abuse Ribbon, which signifies health, vitality and strength. Member States are encouraged to use the symbol in preventive education activities and campaigns throughout ASEAN, spreading a common message among youths and communities to be resilient against drugs.
5. The Ministers acknowledged that illicit drug production, misuse and trafficking remains a challenge for ASEAN. In this regard, they noted with appreciation Thailand's Concept Paper proposing ASEAN Cooperation to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle. The Ministers tasked ASOD to consider the operational strategies in greater detail.
6. In their statements, the Ministers also shared the following concerns:
- Widespread misuse of illicit drugs, especially opiates and Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS), in our communities;
  - New challenges, such as the emergence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), and diversion of precursor chemicals;
  - Involvement of transnational criminal syndicates in the region, especially in the manufacturing and trafficking of illicit drugs;
  - Exploitation of new technology and the region's interconnectivity for illicit purposes;
  - Providing sustainable alternatives and poverty alleviation solutions for communities affected by illegal crop cultivation;
  - The continuing threat posed by smuggling of precursors into and the production and trafficking of illicit drugs from the Golden Triangle; and
  - Growing trend of trafficking of illicit drugs by sea in the region.

7. In response to these challenges, the Ministers recognised the achievements of ASOD in implementing the ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use (2009- 2015), which has forged closer regional cooperation and integration. Moving forward, the Ministers appreciated the work of ASEAN Secretariat and ASOD in developing the Post-2015 ASEAN Work Plan, and thanked Indonesia and Thailand for hosting workshops to facilitate the important discussions on the new Work Plan.
8. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025 (ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2025) and its regional theme. Aligned with the ASEAN Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Blueprints 2025, the ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2025 will guide Member States activities and cooperation on drug matters. The regional theme of “Securing ASEAN Communities Against Illicit Drugs” provides the motivation for ASEAN to remain resilient and committed to protect our people and communities from the dangers of illicit drugs. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2025 will be reviewed in 2020 (Mid-Term Review) and 2024 (Final Review), accompanied by interim internal reviews in 2018 and 2022.
9. The Ministers recalled the institutionalisation of the AMMD on 27 October 2015, which raised the importance of the AMMD in providing political impetus and strategic guidance to regional efforts in combating the drug problem. To complete the institutionalisation process, the Ministers adopted the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters.
10. In keeping with the ToR, the AMMD will be held every two years, hosted on a rotational basis as per ASEAN practice. Noting that Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore have hosted the AMMD, the Ministers welcomed the offer by Viet Nam to host the 6<sup>th</sup> AMMD in 2018.
11. Concluding, the Ministers reaffirmed ASEAN’s commitment to combat the drug problem in the region with a view to “Securing ASEAN Communities Against Illicit Drugs”.
12. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality, in keeping with ASEAN’s journey towards a region of “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.

## **ASEAN Statement at the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) Special Session on UNGASS Preparation**

**Vienna, Austria  
14 March 2016**

Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the ASEAN group, I would like to congratulate and welcome Your Excellency as the Chair of the 59<sup>th</sup> CND.
  - I am confident that under your able leadership, this session will be a positive and fruitful one.
  - ASEAN would also like to extend our appreciation to the Chair of UNGASS Board, His Excellency Ambassador Shamaa, for his dedication and hard work towards the important preparatory work for UNGASS.
  - The ASEAN group assures the CND of its full cooperation and dedication in carrying out its duties and functions.
2. I now seek the Chair's permission to deliver a statement as agreed upon by the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam during the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) held in October 2015.

### Affirming the International Drug Conventions

3. ASEAN shares the concern of many in this room on the world drug problem.
  - The problem is evolving and nations need to work with one another to tackle this common and shared threat.
  - Our leaders had recognised the global nature of this drug problem and formulated three international drug conventions.
  - These conventions allowed us to tackle the drug problem together in three ways:
    - a. First, it enables a collective determination and response from all nations.
    - b. Second, it builds and taps on the collective wisdom of all nations.
    - c. Third, it provides a collective platform for all nations to discuss issues, like what we are doing today.

4. While we work collectively on such platforms, we also respect the sovereign right of each state to decide and implement policies that best cater to its individual needs, based on the unique circumstances and norms of its society.
  - ASEAN remains steadfast in our dedication to the three international drug conventions as the cornerstone of all drug policies.
  - We also pledge equal support to the CND in its role as the principal body for all drug related policies and issues. ASEAN strongly supports this affirmation in the outcome document.

#### Implementing the Conventions Holistically

5. ASEAN had, over the years, put in our best efforts to implement the conventions. As a result, we have prevented the scourge of drugs from overwhelming our communities, crippling our economies, and robbing our youths of their future.
6. Our collective efforts must continue.
  - We are acutely aware of the disastrous effects of drugs, not just on the drug abuser and the society at large, but also on national security and development.
  - We are committed to suppress and eliminate the scourge of drugs to achieve the vision of a Drug-Free ASEAN.
7. To achieve this vision, ASEAN has continued to intensify its efforts to implement a comprehensive and balanced approach to tackling drugs, giving equal importance to both demand and supply reduction efforts.
  - This approach recognises that a wide spectrum of factors may contribute to the drug problem, such as insufficient family support for individuals or a lack of enforcement effort to reduce supply.
  - The overall outcome of our efforts is to protect individuals and families from the dangers of drugs, and wean abusers off their addiction.
8. Our approach includes targeted preventive education to protect our young and vulnerable, as well as rehabilitation and recovery programmes that incorporate scientific evidence-based practices.
  - To end the vicious cycle of drug abuse, we also actively engage the community and nongovernmental organisations to build support for the effective reintegration of the individuals into the society.

9. We have also undertaken efforts to tackle supply side problems, including taking a tough stance against drug traffickers, with equal importance and urgency.
  - For instance, in ASEAN, we have created new platforms, such as an Airport Interdiction Task Force and a regional Narcotics Coordination Centre to enhance joint operations and investigations to disrupt the network of regional drug syndicates.
10. Effective laws have to be implemented in concert with an effective enforcement and criminal justice system.
11. We are confident that with our comprehensive approach, in both demand and supply reduction efforts, we will be able to realise the regional vision of a Drug-Free ASEAN, so as to provide our people and communities with a society free from drug abuse and its ill-effects.

#### Shared Responsibility

12. With UNGASS approaching next month, ASEAN looks forward to the discussions on policy evaluation and the sharing of best practices.
  - We will remain grounded in our work, support the centrality of the international drug control conventions and stand firm against drugs, including being resolute against calls to legalise controlled drugs.
  - We will participate actively in all the roundtable sessions, including at the plenary, with this respect and humility.
13. UNGASS reminds us of the responsibility entrusted to us by our countries to work comprehensively together to achieve a society free from drugs.
14. We look forward to the adoption of the outcome document to better achieve the goals set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action.
15. In conclusion, the ASEAN group extends our best wishes and cooperation for the 59<sup>th</sup> CND as well as for a successful UNGASS ahead. Thank you.

Delivered by  
Mr. Desmond Lee  
Senior Minister of State  
For Home Affairs and National Development  
Singapore

## **ASEAN Statement at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem 2016**

**New York, U.S.A.  
19 April 2016**

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

1. On behalf of the ASEAN group, I would like to congratulate and welcome Your Excellency as the President of this General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem. I am confident that under your able leadership, this session will be a positive and fruitful one.
2. ASEAN would also like to extend our appreciation to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for its dedication and hard work towards the important preparatory work for UNGASS.

Mr. President,

3. I now seek your permission to deliver a statement as agreed upon by the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, consisting of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, during the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) held in October 2015.
4. ASEAN is proud to have contributed constructively to the successful completion of the UNGASS Outcome Document, which we recognise as an important milestone in the discussions for a new drug plan in 2019. We look forward to the adoption of the outcome document to achieve the goals set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action. We share the understanding that the recommendations put forth in the outcome document will be undertaken with the aim of bolstering our national and regional efforts in achieving a drug free society.

5. Despite our diverse drug situations, ASEAN remains united in our core commitment to a drug free vision, so as to provide our people and communities with a society free from drug abuse and its ill-effects. We are acutely aware of the disastrous effects of drugs, not just on the drug abuser and the society at large, but also on national security and development.

#### Affirming the International Drug Conventions

Mr. President,

6. ASEAN strongly supports the centrality of the three international drug control conventions which remain relevant and shall continue to serve as the cornerstone of the world drug policy. Besides empowering a collective determination and response from all nations, these conventions also build and tap on the collective wisdom of all and provide a collective platform for us to discuss the emerging challenges of drug control. In light of this, ASEAN stands firm against drugs, including being resolute against calls to legalise controlled drugs.

#### Supporting the Role of CND

7. We also pledge equal support to the CND in its role as the principal policy making organ of the UN for all drug related policies and issues. ASEAN strongly supports this affirmation in the outcome document.

#### Respect the Sovereignty of Each Member State

8. While we work collectively on such platforms, we also respect the sovereign right of each state to decide and implement policies that best cater to its individual needs, based on the unique circumstances and norms of its society. There is no one-size-fits-all approach towards addressing the drug issue, as each country has its own unique set of challenges. While some countries may choose to adopt certain approaches, depending on their own circumstances, these approaches should not be imposed on other countries, including those in ASEAN.

#### Implementing the Conventions Holistically

Mr. President,

9. ASEAN is committed to suppress and eliminate the scourge of drugs to achieve the vision of a Drug-Free ASEAN. Thus, we have continued to

intensify our efforts to implement a comprehensive, balanced and holistic approach to tackling drugs, giving equal importance to both demand and supply reduction efforts.

10. This approach recognises that a wide spectrum of factors may contribute to the drug problem, such as insufficient family support for individuals or a lack of enforcement effort to reduce supply. Therefore, upstream preventive measures, as well as downstream enforcement, intervention and rehabilitation measures, are necessary to address the drug problem.
11. The overall objective of our efforts is to protect individuals and families from the dangers of drugs, wean abusers off their addiction and protect the security of our region.

#### Shared Responsibility & International Cooperation

Mr. President,

12. ASEAN affirms that supply reduction efforts remain an integral part of all drug control policies and have taken progressive steps in integrating our regional efforts. Within ASEAN, we have created new platforms, such as the Airport Interdiction Task Force and the regional Narcotics Coordination Centre to enhance joint operations and investigations to disrupt the network of regional drug syndicates.
13. ASEAN is also fully committed to take collaborative and cooperative operational measures with other regions to a higher level, as part of a global collaborative effort to address and mitigate the scourge of illicit drugs. We look forward to continue our cooperation and partnership with UN agencies, in particular the UNODC on this matter.
14. In conclusion, the ASEAN group extends our best wishes and cooperation for a successful UNGASS 2016.

Thank you.

# **ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025**

**Singapore  
20 October 2016**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The *ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025* was adopted by the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) held in Singapore on 19-20 October 2016. The Work Plan details the components and proposed activities for its effective implementation to address illicit drug activities and mitigate its negative consequences to society.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

ASEAN has always been committed in combating the drug menace in the region. The region's ultimate goal shall be to achieve a 'Drug-Free ASEAN.' The realisation of a Drug-Free ASEAN is to successfully and effectively address illicit drug activities and mitigate its negative consequences to society, through significant and sustainable reduction in illicit crop cultivation, illicit manufacture and trafficking of drugs and drug-related crimes, and prevalence of illicit drug use.

The ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) has been the main ASEAN body responsible for handling drug-related matters. It is the main body to monitor the implementation of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025*, and is supported by five working groups, namely, Preventive Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation, Law Enforcement, Research, and Alternative Development. To further provide political impetus and to take a more focused and combined effort, the AMMD has been institutionalised. The ASOD will report the progress of implementation of the Work Plan to the AMMD which will meet once every two years beginning in 2016.

## **III. ASEAN WORK PLAN ON COMBATING ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING AND USE 2009-2015**

This *ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025* represents a continuation of the previous *ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use 2009-2015* adopted at the 30<sup>th</sup> ASOD Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2009. Aligned with the vision of Drug-Free ASEAN

2015, the ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015 focused on successfully and effectively addressing illicit drug activities and mitigating its negative consequences to society, which includes significant and sustainable reductions in (i) illicit crop cultivation; (ii) illicit manufacturing and trafficking of drugs and drug-related crimes; and (iii) the prevalence of illicit drug use.

The ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015 was implemented and annually reported through the ASOD Standardized Country Report. A mid-term review and final assessment were undertaken in 2012 and 2014, respectively, to monitor, review and evaluate the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015. The mid-term review for a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 concluded that whereas ASEAN's commitment to combating illicit drugs remains resolute and there are significant achievements, challenges are still prevalent and new threats are emerging. Therefore, the Review recommended that a strong effort in both supply and demand reduction still need to be undertaken.

The final assessment to monitor, review and evaluate the implementation progress of the ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015 was conducted by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2014. The outcomes were reflected in the "*Drug Free ASEAN 2015: Evaluation and Recommendations Post-2015*" report. The Report discovered that the drug situation in the region is worsening due to the reported proliferation of methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances (NPS). The Report concluded that the governments of the ASEAN Member States need a more holistic approach to overcome the challenges posed by illicit drug trafficking. The Report underlined the importance for the ASEAN's drug agencies and authorities to evolve from a one-dimensional control approach to multi-dimensional management approaches.

The new Work Plan has taken into account the above-mentioned report and its recommendations.

#### **IV. COMPONENT OF THE ASEAN WORK PLAN ON SECURING COMMUNITIES AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS 2016-2025**

The proposed activities range from national and regional level, preventive education, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, research, alternative development, and extra-regional cooperation.

In developing the Work Plan, the following considerations were taken into account:

- i. conditions in the region and the rapidly changing drug market;

- ii. the lessons learnt from previous Work Plans;
- iii. increase multilateral and collective cooperation without undermining proactive individual efforts and actions in addressing the drug problem in each country;
- iv. include a broad and balanced approach that includes efforts to significantly reduce the supply and demand of illicit drugs;
- v. reinforce existing collective efforts and exercise a strong collaboration among ASEAN Member States; and
- vi. set achievable targets and measures in order to develop an effective and foreseeable Work Plan.

The references used in developing the Work Plan include the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025 and Report of the Drug Free ASEAN 2015: Evaluation and Recommendations Post-2015. This Work Plan also represents a continuation of the previous ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015.

The Work Plan is divided into 7 sections with 26 components, namely, (i) General (ii) Preventive Education (iii) Law Enforcement (iv) Treatment and Rehabilitation (v) Research (vi) Alternative Development and (vii) Extra-regional Cooperation.

No.	COMPONENTS	ACTIVITIES
<b>I. GENERAL</b>		
1.	Strengthen the role of the AMMD in coordinating a coherent, comprehensive, and effective ASEAN strategy in realising the aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Convene the AMMD biennially on rotational basis beginning 2016; and</li> <li>b. Collaborate with other Sectoral Bodies, including sharing information on drug matters, such as drug trafficking, transnational crime and drug-related health issues.</li> </ul>
2.	Recognise the need to address the continuing threat posed by the production and related distribution of illicit drugs from the Golden Triangle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Collaborate on information gathering; and</li> <li>b. Enhance regional cooperation to address this threat.</li> </ul>

3.	Combine the management of risks and national standards on drug control measures in order to reduce the threat of drugs.	<p>a. Review the national drug control plans to identify challenges to drug control and develop responses appropriate to the circumstances of each country;</p> <p>b. Consider increasing resources to meet the identified challenges in (a); and</p> <p>c. Increase and enhance partnerships between public and private sectors and civil society organisations in response to the abuse of illicit drugs.</p>
4.	Integrate an increased understanding among national drug agencies in relation to the economic impact of regional connectivity on the supply and demand of drugs.	<p>a. Governments of the ASEAN Member States shall facilitate greater cooperation between relevant national agencies and authorities by conducting and participating in cross-sectoral seminars, workshops, and/or trainings;</p> <p>b. Exchanges of information through ASOD-related meetings/activities; and</p> <p>c. Monitoring of illicit drug trend on both supply and demand through the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN).</p>
5.	Increase participation among relevant national agencies, including those responsible for education, health, social matters and home affairs, to address various aspects of drug control and challenges.	<p>a. Coordinate with other relevant Ministries/agencies in anti-drug efforts, which may include drug enforcement, education, health, drug and food control, social and family agencies as part of an overall drug management strategy; and</p> <p>b. Conduct cross-Ministries/agencies workshops, trainings and/or seminars.</p>

<b>II. PREVENTIVE EDUCATION</b>		
6.	Promote awareness through the convening of education campaign across the region with a common message to build the resilience of youth against drugs and educate communities on the impact of drugs on at-risk groups.	<p>a. Adopt the green-and-white ribbon developed by Singapore as ASEAN's common symbol for preventive education activities and campaigns against drugs;</p> <p>b. Develop an ASEAN campaign in preventing drug abuse, especially focusing on building resilience of youth against harmful substance and educating the general public about the risk of drug addiction;</p> <p>c. Convene national and regional-scale preventive education campaign;</p> <p>d. Develop national campaign, as appropriate, in preventing trafficking of illicit drugs by vulnerable individuals/groups;</p> <p>e. Announce the prohibition and serious punishment of drug smuggling in international flights and display such warnings at land/ sea border checkpoints; and</p> <p>f. Integrate prevention curriculum programme into the national educational system and/or other educational institutions.</p>
7.	Develop and implement regional programs on how to reach out-of-school youth and other highly at-risk groups.	<p>a. Continue sharing experience and best practices among ASEAN Member States;</p> <p>b. Collaborate with national agencies and social organisations, where relevant, in conducting workshops and/or seminars on developing programmes on how to reach out-of-school youth and other highly at-risk groups; and</p> <p>c. Consider to include self-resilience component in early intervention programmes for highly at-risk groups including out-of-school youth.</p>

8.	Formulate and implement, where appropriate, family-based, school-based, community-based, work place-based and environment-based prevention, intervention and policies based on scientific evidence.	Adopt evidence-based prevention intervention and policies based on international standards in prevention, where applicable, to each ASEAN Member State's unique situations.
<b>III. LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>		
9.	<p>Work towards a significant and sustainable reduction in illicit manufacturing and trafficking of drugs and drug-related crime, where appropriate, to each country's unique national drug situation, which includes:</p> <p>(i) increase in the number of drug related operations and investigations, seizure of precursors, number of cases/arrests involving precursor traffic;</p> <p>(ii) reduction in diversion of pharmaceuticals, number of illicit drug production facilities, and number of hectares used for illicit cultivation; and</p> <p>(iii) gradual decrease in national or regional traffic of precursors.</p>	<p>a. Enhance ASEAN Member States' national efforts in the eradication of illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug manufacture and trafficking;</p> <p>b. Strengthen national capacities of law enforcement and regulatory agency personnel in the field of precursor control, which may include the scientific laboratory capacity of ASEAN Member States in precursor identification and drug signature analysis;</p> <p>c. Enhance cross-border and transnational law enforcement collaboration, cooperation, and capacity building on drug control including air, land, sea and waterways, such as the Mekong River, without prejudice to freedom of navigation and transportation;</p> <p>d. Sharing information concerning the profile of drug crime syndicates as well as the watch-list of their drug activities through the existing mechanisms as well as ASOD-related meetings and identifying commonly targeted drug syndicates;</p> <p>e. Sharing of information and best practices on efforts in tackling NPS through existing mechanisms as well as ASOD-related meetings;</p>

		<p>f. Maximise the utilisation of the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN-NARCO) especially in sharing information and handling joint cases;</p> <p>g. Implement or strengthen preventive, enforcement, and legislative measures such as asset forfeiture and anti-money laundering to combat drug-related crimes; and</p> <p>h. Enhance collaboration with concerned authorities on the nature, use, extent and impact of cybertechnology on trafficking of dangerous drugs, precursor and essential chemicals used for illicit drug production.</p>
10.	Work towards the improvement of access to equitable justice for all individuals in the ASEAN region while respecting the sovereignty, national legislation and policies of each country.	<p>a. Review national policies in order to ensure that financial and technical resources are in place to meet the demands of an equitable system of justice; and</p> <p>b. Strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system particularly law enforcement officials on drug control.</p>
11.	Improve levels of governance by adopting a transparent approach in the enforcement of drug laws.	<p>a. Publish drug enforcement statistics;</p> <p>b. Advertise national programmes against drugs;</p> <p>c. Publish information on drug-related programmes and assistance to different risk groups; and</p> <p>d. Ensure that the information as stated in point 11(a)-11(c) is available to the general public via official website or in any other public publishing platform.</p>
12.	Tackle the problem of corruption and the direct impact of corrupt practices on illicit drug production, traffic, and trade.	Put in place anti-corruption strategies within the drug enforcement agencies which focus on the most vulnerable units or groups that may face enticement of corruption in carrying out their duties.

13.	ASEAN Member States should strengthen and expand existing arrangements such as provision of mutual legal assistance (MLA), cross-border liaison offices (BLOs), port intelligence and controlled units, the Airport and Seaport Interdiction Task Force, including land border, and the regional data collection mechanism.	a. Continue convening annual meetings of the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF), ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF), Inter-sessional Working Group and sharing best practices of BLOs operation among ASEAN Member States;
		b. Develop the ASEAN-NARCO database for data/information sharing on fugitives and commonly targeted drug syndicates.
14.	Develop intelligence in countering drugs, precursor and essential chemicals.	a. Increase activities that strengthen capacities, capabilities, and systems to better gather and share information, such as sharing of best practices; and
		b. Provide transfer of knowledge on best practices on the control and the disposal of precursor and essential chemicals.
<b>IV. TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION</b>		
15.	Increase access to treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare services to drug users, where appropriate, to each country's unique national drug situation, for the purpose of ensuring full reintegration into society.	a. <u>Accessibility</u> Scale up treatment coverage and widen the social net for drug users in order to facilitate accessibility to treatment services.
		b. <u>Treatment and Rehabilitation Modality</u> i. provide and/or support range of treatment and rehabilitation modalities for specific groups of drug users; ii. develop treatment and rehabilitation programmes for drug dependent offenders in prison/custodial settings; iii. develop treatment and rehabilitation as well as aftercare programmes for vulnerable/specific groups in the population;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. adopt evidence-based treatment protocols based on international standards in treatment, where applicable, to each ASEAN Member State's unique situations.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. <u>Aftercare</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. expand community-based supervision and aftercare programmes;</li> <li>ii. optimise family and community support and involvement in the recovery process; and</li> <li>iii. provide aftercare services for rehabilitated drug users to assist them in their reintegration into society.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. <u>Capacity Building/Enhance Cooperation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. provide capacity building and skills development of service providers with the possible cooperation with external partners;</li> <li>ii. provide support and technical know-how, where possible, to the establishment and maintenance of treatment and rehabilitation centres;</li> <li>iii. provide marketable job skills for drug users undergoing treatment and rehabilitation with the possible partnership with relevant organisations including communities, civil service and the private sector; and</li> <li>iv. develop an effective management information system for monitoring treatment progress, discharge status, and follow-up evaluation as a mechanism to refine programme operations and improve treatment service delivery effectiveness.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>V. RESEARCH</b>		
16.	Establish a regional clearing house to share best practices, publish research findings (including scientific research), and collect international knowledge.	Build a repository of research findings and international knowledge related to recent developments for supply and demand reduction.
17.	Ensure that all relevant stakeholders in the ASEAN Member States have access to the most recent methods for supply and demand reduction.	a. Develop a website which will collate, publish, and disseminate research findings and international knowledge related to the recent developments for supply and demand reduction;
		b. Publish and disseminate research findings and international knowledge related to the recent developments for supply and demand reduction through the website developed.
<b>VI. ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT</b>		
18.	Work towards a significant and sustainable reduction in illicit crop cultivation through the utilisation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development as a guideline, where appropriate.	a. Allocate funds from the government and private sector as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to provide support to farmers and communities that stop illicit opium poppy and cannabis cultivation;
		b. Integrate relevant policies in national development plans to mainstream alternative development in the economic environment and communities;
		c. Involve all levels of stake holders for the process of alternative development namely, the central government, local authorities, local leaders and communities;
		d. Continue the implementation, if applicable, of annual opium and cannabis surveys to identify and measure illicit cultivation and production;

		<p>e. Develop effective information management systems on illicit opium poppy and cannabis cultivation;</p>
		<p>f. Provision of sustainable livelihood to former illicit crops-producing farmers;</p>
		<p>g. Strengthen the rule of law, good governance and security in order to provide a conducive environment that enhances peace, stability and trust at all levels of stakeholders;</p>
		<p>h. Promote the access to productive land, land rights and formal or informal land tenure systems to ensure a sufficient and sustainable livelihood;</p>
		<p>i. Address the root causes, such as socio-economic factors, which motivate farmers to cultivate illicit crops.</p>
<p>19.</p>	<p>Promote wider access for alternative development products in markets within the country and the region consistent with national and international obligations and applicable multilateral trade rules.</p>	<p>a. Coordinate with relevant Ministries in promoting and marketing alternative development products at national and regional levels;</p>
		<p>b. Develop a marketing strategy that is suitable for each country to promote alternative development;</p>
		<p>c. Promote the diversification of source of income and value added of alternative development products. The private sector can play a valuable role by sharing skills, providing financial and technical support and marketing assistance for alternative development products.</p>

20.	Develop technical assistance that would help each other in identifying new alternative crops as substitute to illicit crops and institute sustainable policy reforms.	a. Increase partnership with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private enterprises, and international organisations;
		b. Organise trainings, workshops and/or seminars in identifying alternative crops as substitute to illicit crops;
		c. Conduct survey with farmers for feedback on the alternative development programmes. In addition, other methods of survey can include satellite imagery and cheaper imagery alternatives by using drones;
		d. Collect baseline data for every new alternative development programmes;
		e. Conduct research and/or comparative study to provide applicable recommendations to formulate sustainable policy reforms.
<b>VII. EXTRA-REGIONAL COOPERATION</b>		
21.	Enhance cooperation with external parties, including Dialogue Partners and international organisations, on combating drug trafficking and drug-related crimes.	a. Collaboration between ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners and external parties in implementing activities set out in Plan of Actions, Declarations and/or Agreements on eradication of illicit drug trafficking and alternative development;
		b. Increase collaboration in practical projects and initiatives between ASOD and its Dialogue Partners, through organising trainings, workshops, seminars and/or video conference.
22.	Consider to engage with external parties to strengthen cooperation on transnational challenges with a focus on the diversion of precursor chemicals, tackling criminal syndicates and improving law enforcement efforts.	a. Continue the existing cooperation dialogue with China through the ASOD-China Coordination Meeting;
		b. Establish a cooperation dialogue with India.

23.	<p>Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the existing funding mechanism to facilitate regional cooperation and to support drug agencies at the national level in the implementation of relevant projects.</p>	<p>Maximise the utilisation of other existing funding mechanism in ASEAN, i.e. ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD), Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 2.0, ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APTCF), ROK-ASEAN Special Cooperation Fund (SCF), etc.</p>
24.	<p>Strengthen and expand the existing bilateral and regional cooperation regimes including MLA, BLOs, port intelligence and control units, AAITF, ASITF and the regional data collection mechanism, Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP).</p>	<p>Conduct research, projects, workshops and seminars to strengthen and expand the existing cooperation regimes.</p>
25.	<p>Adopt and support a cooperation framework that includes all governments and has support from regional and international organisations. The framework should build on existing agreements and seek to become a dynamic vehicle for monitoring progress; increasing regional cooperation; establishing links with non-ASEAN governments; and mobilising resources.</p>	<p>Develop an updated framework for cooperation that takes into account previous efforts, including ACCORD, ASEAN-NARCO, AAITF and ASITF.</p>
26.	<p>Encourage ASEAN Member States to participate at UN-related forums, including the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) to demonstrate ASEAN unity and solidarity.</p>	<p>Increase participation of ASEAN Member States at these meetings.</p>

## **V. REVIEW, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

An internal review of this Work Plan will be undertaken in 2018 and 2022 by ASOD. The mid-term and end-of-term reviews of this Work Plan will be undertaken in 2020 and 2024 by ASOD, assisted by the ASEAN Secretariat. The results of the reviews and evaluation shall be reported to the AMMD.

The ASEAN Member States are encouraged to monitor the progress and the implementation of this ASEAN Work Plan and to evaluate achievements and address challenges.





# **ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING (ADMM)**





## **Joint Statement of Special ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting on Countering Violent Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism**

**Clark, Philippines**  
**23 October 2017**

**WE**, the Defence Ministers of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Defence Minister and Minister with Special Functions of 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, the Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, gathered here in Manila, Philippines on 23 October 2017;

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime dated 20 December 1997;

**MINDFUL** of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and the 2001 ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism, which, inter alia, undertakes to strengthen cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels in combating terrorism;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of the Moderates adopted on 27 April 2015 which aims to promote moderation and tolerance as core values for the region and its peoples to ensure that it would continue to be a peaceful and prosperous region;

**RECOGNISING** the complexity of non-traditional security issues and the proactive roles that ASEAN defence establishments could play in addressing these issues as part of an integrated approach through collective efforts by strengthening regional and international cooperation to meet non-traditional security challenges;

**NOTING** that terrorism has multiple dimensions, manifestations and causes and respects no national boundaries;

**CONDEMNING** in the strongest terms the attacks carried out by violent extremists across the world, particularly in Southeast Asia including the attack by the Maute Group in Marawi City, Philippines, which led to casualties, destruction of properties, and displacement of people, among others;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE** to:

1. **Explore** and identify possible ways, mechanisms and creative approaches among ASEAN defence establishments to combat non-traditional security issues in order to contribute to the maintenance of regional and international peace, stability and prosperity;
2. **Encourage** stronger and cooperative intelligence sharing platform to facilitate the flow of information, in particular on terrorists and terrorist organisations, their movement and funding, and any other information needed to protect lives, property and the security of all modes of travel;
3. **Develop** and enhance collaboration with civil society, academic and other institutions to foster greater understanding and bridging the gap aimed at suppressing terrorism and violent extremism through continuous research, advocacy on peace and security and the promotion of moderation and tolerance to ensure a more comprehensive approach in combating terrorism and violent extremism; and
4. **Increase** cooperation and collective efforts in the spirit of ASEAN solidarity in countering terrorism and violent extremism which are common threats to ASEAN.



# **DOCUMENTS WITH EXTERNAL PARTIES**





## **AUSTRALIA**

### **Joint Statement of the 6<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation**

**Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
14 December 2010**

The 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation was held on 14 December 2010 in Nay Pyi Taw, Union of Myanmar.

The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E.U Maung Maung Than, Director-General of the Department of Immigration and National Registration of the Union of Myanmar and Mr. Peter Vardos, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship of Australia.

The Meeting noted the success of ongoing project activities undertaken in 2010 as agreed by the 5<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation.

The Meeting agreed to pursue a number of practical activities in 2011, demonstrating the shared interest that ASEAN and Australia have in continuing constructive partnership that benefits the project countries of ASEAN and Australia.

ASEAN and Australia agreed that they would continue to work together on cooperative arrangements in relation to immigration matters across the region. The meeting also agreed to further publicise, where appropriate, the agreements of the ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation through the ASEAN website.

It was agreed that the Seventh ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation would be held in conjunction with the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN DGICM in Singapore.

All participants expressed appreciation to the people and the Government of the Union of Myanmar for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.

## **Joint Statement of the 7<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation**

**Singapore  
5 October 2011**

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) + Australia Consultation was held on 5 October 2011 in Singapore.
2. Mr Clarence Yeo, Commissioner of the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), Singapore, and Mr. Peter Vardos, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship of Australia, co-chaired the Meeting in Singapore.
3. The Meeting commenced with updates on the progress of the Implementation of ASEAN-Australia Cooperative Activities. The Meeting noted the contribution of all ASEAN Member States to the success of the ongoing ASEAN-Australian workshops on Integrating Immigration Capabilities, Threat and Risk Analysis and Border Capabilities. The Meeting particularly commended Cambodia's role in the Threat and Risk Analysis Workshop which Cambodia co-hosted with Australia in August 2011.
4. The Meeting was updated on the existing training exchanges that involved facial image analysis and immigration investigations. These training exchanges created a platform for sharing of training expertise and developing best practices. In this connection, the Meeting acknowledged Australia's support in hosting the Facial Image Analysis Training Package Development Exchange Programme.
5. The Meeting was apprised of the objectives and range of capabilities that would be addressed during the Border Capabilities Workshop which will be held in Canberra, Australia in December 2011.
6. Finally, the Meeting endorsed the Immigration and Checkpoints Competencies Training Programme for participants from the ASEAN Member States and Australia.
7. ASEAN and Australia recognised the commitment and efforts put in by all ASEAN Member States and agreed to continue to work together on

cooperative arrangements in relation to immigration matters across the region. The Meeting also reached a consensus to further publicise, where appropriate, the agreements of the ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation through the ASEAN Secretariat's website.

8. The Meeting concurred that the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation would be held in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN DGICM in Thailand in 2012.
9. All delegates expressed their appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Singapore for their meticulous arrangements, warm hospitality and generosity during the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 8<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation**

**Phuket, Thailand  
6 September 2012**

The 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation was held on 6 September 2012 in Phuket, Thailand.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Police Maj Gen Nathathorn Prousoontorn, Commander of Immigration Division 2, Immigration Bureau, Royal Thai Police, and Mr Peter Vardos, Deputy Secretary, Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), Australia.

The Meeting noted the success of ongoing activities undertaken in 2012 as agreed by the 7<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation.

The Meeting agreed to pursue a number of practical activities in 2012 and 2013, demonstrating the shared interest that ASEAN and Australia have in continuing a constructive partnership that benefits the project countries of ASEAN and Australia.

ASEAN and Australia agreed that they would continue to work together on cooperative arrangements in relation to immigration matters across the region. The meeting also agreed to further publicise, where appropriate, the agreements of the ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation through the ASEAN website.

It was agreed that the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation would be held in conjunction with the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN DGICM in Viet Nam in 2013.

All participants expressed appreciation to the people and the Government of Thailand for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 9<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation**

**Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam  
30 August 2013**

The 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation was held on 30 August 2013 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Major General Le Thanh Dzung, Director-General of the Immigration Department, Ministry of Public Security of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and Mr Peter Vardos, Deputy Secretary, Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), Australia.

The Meeting noted the success of ongoing activities undertaken in 2012-13 as agreed by the 8<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation.

The Meeting agreed to pursue a number of practical activities in 2013-14, demonstrating the shared interest that ASEAN and Australia have in continuing a constructive partnership that benefits the project countries of ASEAN and Australia.

Recognizing the agility and flexibility of criminal networks, the Meeting called for a closer regional cooperation and vigilant approach in effectively responding to the irregular movement of people, trafficking in persons and people smuggling.

ASEAN and Australia agreed that they would continue to work together on cooperative arrangements in relation to immigration matters across the region. The meeting also agreed to further publicise, where appropriate, the agreements of the ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation through the ASEAN website.

It was agreed that the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation would be held in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN DGICM in Brunei Darussalam in 2014.

All participants expressed appreciation to the people and the Government of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 10<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation**

**Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam  
3 September 2014**

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr Azmi Haji Hafneh, Acting Director of Immigration and National Registration, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Mr Peter Vardos, Deputy Secretary, Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), Australia.
3. The Meeting noted the success of activities undertaken in 2013-14 as agreed by the 9<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation.
4. The Meeting agreed to pursue a number of practical activities in 2014-15, demonstrating the shared interest that ASEAN and Australia have in continuing a constructive partnership that benefits the member states of ASEAN and Australia.
5. ASEAN and Australia agreed that they would continue to work together on cooperative arrangements in relation to immigration matters across the region, including measures that complement the ASEAN Community goal. The meeting also agreed to further publicise, where appropriate, the agreements of the ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation through the ASEAN website.
6. It was agreed that the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN DGICM + Australia Consultation would be held in conjunction with the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN DGICM in Cambodia in 2015.
7. All participants expressed appreciation to the people and the Government of Brunei Darussalam for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 11<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation**

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
9 September 2015**

1. The 11<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation was held on 9 September 2015 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.
2. The Consultation was co-chaired by H.E. Pol. Gen. Sok Phal, Director-General of General Department of Immigration, Ministry of Interior, Kingdom of Cambodia, and Mr. Michael Manthorpe, Deputy Secretary, Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), Australia.
3. The Consultation noted the success of activities undertaken in 2014-2015 as agreed by the 10<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation.
4. The Consultation agreed to pursue a number of practical activities in 2015-2016, demonstrating the shared interest that ASEAN and Australia have in continuing a constructive partnership that benefits the ASEAN Member States and Australia.
5. ASEAN and Australia agreed that they would continue to work together on cooperative arrangements in relation to immigration matters across the region, including measures that complement the ASEAN Community goal.
6. It was agreed that the 12<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation would be held in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the DGICM in Indonesia in 2016.
7. All participants expressed appreciation to the people and the Royal Government of Kingdom of Cambodia for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.

## **ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism**

**Vientiane, Lao PDR**

**7 September 2016**

The Governments of 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, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Government of Australia (hereinafter referred to collectively as "the participants");

*Unequivocally condemning* in the strongest terms recent terrorist attacks around the world resulting in the unacceptable loss of innocent lives and countless injuries, and extending their condolences and sympathy to the victims, their families and the people of affected countries;

*Reaffirming* that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable;

*Recognising* that the growing threat from terrorism and violent extremism poses an unacceptable risk to their communities and to regional stability, security and prosperity, and contravenes the laws, religious beliefs and fundamental values of all countries concerned;

*Noting* that terrorism has multiple dimensions, manifestations and causes and respects no national boundaries, reinforcing the importance of strengthening bilateral, regional and international cooperation to combat this threat;

*Expressing grave concern* over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and the need to develop effective measures to counter that threat, including through more timely sharing of information and intelligence and stronger border controls;

*Recalling* the 2001 ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism, the 2004 ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International

Terrorism, the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, and the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership (2015-2019), which serve as valuable frameworks for regional efforts to combat terrorism and deepen counter-terrorism cooperation;

*Reaffirming* their determination to prevent, suppress and eliminate international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law and having regard to all relevant United Nations resolutions and declarations on international terrorism, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

*Recognising* the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States;

*Rejecting* any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, race or nationality;

*Reiterating* the need to combat terrorism in a comprehensive manner, including by identifying and addressing the underlying factors and conditions that contribute to the growth and spread of violent extremism and radicalisation;

*Noting* the 2015 East Asia Summit Statement on Countering Violent Extremism which recognised that responding to the threat of terrorist groups exploiting the internet and social media platforms to recruit and radicalise vulnerable individuals requires international cooperation as well as action by all tiers of government, civil society and the private sector;

*Reaffirming* their continuing commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and collaboration in the fight against terrorism through the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and various other regional fora;

*Encouraged* by the strong existing co-operation between ASEAN Member States and Australia on security, intelligence, law enforcement and other matters, and reaffirming their collective resolve to deepen and expand this cooperation to fight international terrorism to advance their shared interest in promoting stability and security in the region;

*Declare* as follows:

## **OBJECTIVE**

1. This Declaration provides a framework for regional cooperation to prevent, disrupt and suppress international terrorism and violent extremism and to strengthen cooperation between the participants and their agencies in support of this objective.

## **SCOPE AND AREAS OF COOPERATION**

2. The participants reaffirm their commitment to implementing the principles and objectives of this Declaration in conformity with their obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws and specific circumstances.
3. The participants undertake to strengthen cooperation to counter the threat from terrorism and violent extremism through the following actions, as appropriate:
  - i. Enhancing cooperation, liaison, dialogue and the exchange of information among their intelligence, law enforcement, security, border management, defence and other relevant agencies to strengthen counter-terrorism regimes and develop practical and effective responses to the terrorist threat.
  - ii. Encouraging stronger cooperative and consultative arrangements between national counter-terrorism agencies to engender a more coordinated approach to responding to the threat.
  - iii. Adopting measures such as the sharing of information and best practices and public outreach to counter violent extremist ideology and propaganda, including the use of the internet and social media platforms for terrorism-related purposes.
  - iv. Sharing views and best practices on rehabilitative programs including, where appropriate, social reintegration of foreign terrorist fighter returnees and people involved in the commission of terrorism-related offences.
  - v. Encouraging closer dialogue with civil society, academic and other institutions to foster greater understanding and support aimed at suppressing terrorism and violent extremism, including by continuing

- to promote tolerance, interfaith dialogue, gender equality and the empowerment of women and young people.
- vi. Improving intelligence and information-sharing on terrorist financing and crime related to money laundering, and strengthening regulatory and administrative counter-terrorism financing regimes, to detect and disrupt those seeking to use the global financial system to fund terrorism.
  - vii. Supporting capacity-building and broader efforts to strengthen national counterterrorism capabilities through technical cooperation, meetings of officials and experts, training and education, conferences, workshops and joint exercises, the development of capacity-building programs and sharing best practices.
  - viii. Enhancing cooperation to strengthen counter-terrorism laws and legal frameworks and capacity within the law enforcement, judicial and prisons sectors, including through entities such as the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation and the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism.
  - ix. Providing assistance and bolstering cross-border cooperation in the areas of transport security and border management, including document and identity fraud, to help identify terrorist suspects and their supporters and to disrupt and deter the flow of foreign terrorist fighters as well as terrorism-related funds and materials.
  - x. Strengthening capabilities and readiness to deal with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism, cyber terrorism and any new forms of terrorism that emerge.
  - xi. Enhancing collaboration in regional and international fora and implementing the measures contained in the ARF Cooperation Framework on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime and counter-terrorism related commitments agreed in other regional and multilateral fora, including the United Nations.
  - xii. Adhering to relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and declarations on international terrorism, particularly resolutions 1267, 1269, 1373, 1390, 1455, 1456, 1989, 2170, 2178, 2195, 2199, 2253, and other UN resolutions and declarations on international terrorism.
  - xiii. Exploring on a mutual basis additional areas of practical cooperation to further strengthen the region's response to emerging threats from terrorism and violent extremism.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

4. The participants are encouraged to become parties to all 19 of the United Nations conventions and protocols relating to terrorism.
5. The participants are each called upon to make full use of existing cooperation arrangements or, if necessary, establish new mechanisms, to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among agencies involved in tackling terrorism and violent extremism to give effect to the objectives of this Declaration.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 12<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation**

**Bali, Indonesia  
22 September 2016**

1. The 12<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation was held on 22 September 2016 in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia.
2. The Consultation was co-chaired by Dr. Ronny Sompie, Director General, Directorate-General of Immigration, Republic of Indonesia, and Mr. Michael Manthorpe, Deputy Secretary, Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), Australia.
3. The Consultation noted the success of activities undertaken in 2015-2016 as agreed by the 11<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation.
4. The Consultation agreed to pursue a number of practical activities in 2016-2017, demonstrating the shared interest that ASEAN and Australia have in continuing a constructive partnership that benefits the member states of ASEAN and Australia.
5. ASEAN and Australia agreed that they would continue to work together on cooperative arrangements in relation to immigration matters across the region, including measures to share best practice in strategies to combat people smuggling.
6. It was agreed that the 13<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation would be held in conjunction with the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the DGICM in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2017.
7. Some ASEAN Member States expressed appreciation to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection of Australia for their support on capacity building on immigration resources.
8. All participants expressed appreciation to the people and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.

## **Joint Press Statement of the 13<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation**

**Vientiane, Lao PDR  
23 November 2017**

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation was held on 23 November 2017 in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.
2. The Consultation was co-chaired by Pol. Lt. Col. Saysaming SIVILAY, Director-General of Immigration Department, General Department of Public Security, Ministry of Public Security of Lao PDR, and Ms. Malisa Golightly, Deputy Secretary, Visa and Citizenship Services, Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) of Australia.
3. The Consultation noted the success of activities undertaken in 2016-2017 as agreed by the 12<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation.
4. The Consultation agreed to pursue a number of practical activities in 2017-2018, which demonstrated the shared interest of ASEAN and Australia in continuing a constructive partnership that would benefit the Member States of ASEAN and Australia.
5. The Consultation adopted the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASEAN-Australia Immigration Training Committee to establish the ASEAN-Australia Immigration Training Committee.
6. ASEAN and Australia agreed that they would continue to work together on cooperative arrangements in relation to immigration matters across the region, including measures that complement the ASEAN community goals.
7. It was agreed that the 14<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation would be held in conjunction with the 22<sup>nd</sup> DGICM and Its Related Meetings in Malaysia in 2018.
8. ASEAN Member States expressed appreciation to the Australian Government for its support on immigration capacity building and resources.
9. All participants expressed appreciation to the people and the Government of Lao PDR for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all the delegates.

## **CHINA**

### **Joint Statement of the Second ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation**

**Bali, Indonesia  
12 October 2011**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China convened the Second Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (2<sup>nd</sup> AMMTC + China) Consultation on 12 October 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. The Secretary-General of ASEAN also attended the Meeting.
2. We were pleased to note that the ASEAN-China Dialogue has marked its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The Ministers hoped that the beneficial cooperation between ASEAN and China could be elevated to a higher level through concrete and substantive activities which benefit both the people of ASEAN Member States and China.
3. We were pleased to note the implementation status of the ASEAN-China Work Plan 2011. The Ministers also welcomed China's proposed activities for the ASEAN-China Work Plan 2012 which includes cooperation in the areas of drugs control, criminal investigation and policing management, and looked forward to the implementation of those activities.
4. We adopted the Plan of Action for the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues and expected that the Plan of Action would strengthen cooperation between ASEAN Member States and China in addressing non-traditional security issues.
5. We also noted with satisfaction the consultation between ASEAN and China on the achievements of cooperation on transnational crimes including trafficking in persons, cyber crimes, as well as illegal immigration and border crossing. It was the Ministers' fervent hope that substantial and sustainable cooperation on the above-mentioned issues will be continued. We also agreed to explore cooperation on combating telecommunication fraud as a new type of transnational crime in the region with joint plan and action.

6. We welcomed the kind offer of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMMTC + China Consultation in Vientiane in 2013.
  
7. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Indonesia for their warm and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

**Joint Statement of the Third ASEAN Plus  
People's Republic of China Ministerial Meeting on  
Transnational Crime Consultation to Commemorate  
the Tenth Anniversary of ASEAN-China Ministerial  
Law Enforcement Cooperation**

**Vientiane, Lao PDR  
18 September 2013**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China handling transnational crime matters, met on 18 September 2013 in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (3<sup>rd</sup> AMMTC + China) Consultation, to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of ASEAN-China Ministerial law enforcement cooperation.
2. We reached the common understanding on the ever strengthened ASEAN-China law enforcement relationship and significant progress and substantive achievements recorded in the cooperation in fields, such as fighting against terrorism, arms smuggling, sea piracy, money laundering, cybercrime international economic crime, trafficking in persons especially women and children, trafficking in illegal drugs; and law enforcement capacity building. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> AMMTC + China Consultation in 2009 and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China and on Cooperation in the Field of Non-traditional Security Issues (MoU) in 2004 and its renewal in 2009, developing law enforcement cooperation has been an important part of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership. In this regard, we note with satisfaction on the results yielded.
3. We note with appreciation China's dedication in developing law enforcement cooperation, establishing the AMMTC + China Consultation mechanism with ASEAN and contributing to regional peace, stability and prosperity.
4. We acknowledged the transnational character of illegal and criminal activities in this region, as interaction and connectivity increases between ASEAN and China. In this regard, we will view and approach our law enforcement cooperation strategically and constantly aim to move our cooperation forward.

5. We were determined to explore the potential and expand the areas of cooperation, maintain security and stability, and safeguard the economic development and people's well-being in the region by further improving our ability against transnational crimes.
6. We take note of the following law enforcement cooperation measures to further enhance ASEAN-China law enforcement and security cooperation:
  - i. Promote high-level exchange of visits and mutual trust and build ever closer law enforcement cooperation;
  - ii. Renew the MoU and reformulate its implementation document to ensure continued cooperation between ASEAN and China in addressing Non-Traditional Security issues, taking into consideration ASEAN's needs in addressing current transnational challenges;
  - iii. Strengthen cooperation in the nine fields listed in the MoU, namely terrorism, trafficking in illegal drugs, people smuggling, trafficking in persons especially women and children, arms smuggling, sea piracy, money laundering, international economic crime and particularly, in the area of cybercrime, to promote exchange and sharing of experiences on combating cybercrime incidents;
  - iv. Offer each other the fullest law enforcement cooperation possible on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit and where appropriate carry out coordinated law enforcement operations on a case by case basis on fighting against prominent criminal problems in the region subject to respective national laws and policies;
  - v. Establish the ASEAN Plus China Forum on Law Enforcement Cooperation, in order to provide focused analysis on the various areas of transnational crime in the region, and recommend countermeasures, so as to improve law enforcement capacity together and better build ASEAN Political-Security Community and Drug-Free ASEAN;
  - vi. China will invite 1500 law enforcement officials from ASEAN Member States to attend training courses and workshops in China and to provide 100 Chinese language learning scholarships over the next five years (2014-2018); and
  - vii. Establish the ASEAN-China Law Enforcement College and enhance exchanges and cooperation between law enforcement institutions of ASEAN and China, so as to better deliver cooperation in law enforcement training.

7. We tasked the Senior Officials on Transnational Crime from ASEAN and China to expeditiously work on and develop the plan of activities for implementing the MoU which would be conducive to both ASEAN and China. In this regard, we delegated the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime + China (SOMTC + China) to finalise and oversee the successful implementation of activities annually.
8. We welcomed the kind offer by Malaysia to host the 4<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + China Consultation in Kuala Lumpur in 2015.
9. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for their warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

## **Joint Statement of the Fourth ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
30 September 2015**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China responsible for handling transnational crime matters convened the Fourth ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (4<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + China) Consultation on 30 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, Singapore and H.E. Chen Zhi Min, Deputy Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the Thirteenth ASEAN Plus China Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (13<sup>th</sup> SOMTC + China) Consultation held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 10 June 2015.
3. We took note of the significant progress of ASEAN and China cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues such as combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, arms smuggling, sea piracy, money laundering, international economic crime and cybercrime; and law enforcement capacity building under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues signed in 2004 and renewed in 2009.
4. We welcomed the intention of ASEAN and China to develop a new MOU between ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues for the period of 2015-2021 to further strengthen the existing security cooperation between ASEAN and China.
5. We noted with appreciation China's dedication in developing law enforcement cooperation, including China's proposal to host the "Security for Prosperity" China-ASEAN Law Enforcement & Security Cooperation Ministerial Dialogue on 23 October 2015.

6. We tasked the Senior Officials responsible for handling transnational crime matters from ASEAN and China to expeditiously work on and develop the plan of activities to implement the MOU which would be beneficial to both ASEAN and China particularly for law enforcement personnel. In this regard, we mandated the SOMTC + China to finalise and oversee the successful implementation of activities annually.
7. We adopted the Joint Statement of the 4<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + China Consultation.
8. We welcomed the kind offer by Myanmar to host the 5<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + China Consultation in 2017.
9. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government and people of Malaysia for their warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

## **Joint Statement of the Fifth ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation**

**Manila, Philippines  
21 September 2017**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China responsible for handling transnational crime matters, convened the Fifth ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (5<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + China) Consultation on 21 September 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Josephine Teo, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Manpower and Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore and H.E. LIU Yuejin, Vice Minister of Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the Fifteenth ASEAN Plus China Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (15<sup>th</sup> SOMTC + China) Consultation held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 25 May 2017 and the Preparatory SOMTC + China for the 5<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + China Consultation in Manila, Philippines on 18 September 2017.
3. We took note of the significant progress of ASEAN and China cooperation in combating transnational crimes such as terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money laundering, sea piracy, arms smuggling, international economic crime, cybercrime; as well as in law enforcement capacity building, under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues signed in 2004 and renewed in 2009.
4. We welcomed the further renewal of the MOU between ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues for a period of six years, until 2023, further strengthening the existing security cooperation between ASEAN and China.
5. We are committed to implementing the MOU and tasked the Senior Officials responsible for handling transnational crime matters from ASEAN and China to expeditiously work on and develop a plan of activities to implement the MOU. The SOMTC + China Consultation would oversee the implementation of activities annually.

6. We took note of the following areas to further enhance security cooperation between ASEAN and China:
  - i. To strengthen security cooperation under the One Belt One Road initiative;
  - ii. To strengthen cooperation in combating transnational crime, including through conducting of capacity building and training workshops; sharing of experiences, best practices and information;
  - iii. To strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism and to combat violent extremism, through the exchange of information and intelligence, cooperation in investigative matters, and training; and
  - iv. To tap on resources provided by International Organisations located in the region, such as the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation, in areas such as counter-terrorism, cybercrime and capacity building and training for law enforcement officers.
7. We welcomed the kind offer by Myanmar to host the 6<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + China Consultation in 2018.
8. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines for their warm welcome and the generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations, as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

**Memorandum of Understanding between the  
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)  
and the Government of the People’s Republic of  
China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional  
Security Issues**

**Manila, Philippines  
21 September 2017**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of the People’s Republic of China, (hereinafter referred to as the “**Participants**”);

**DESIRING** to strengthen the friendly cooperation among the Participants;

**PURSUANT** to the Joint Declaration of China and ASEAN on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues adopted on 4 November 2002;

**CONSIDERING** the successful implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues signed on 18 November 2009;

**DETERMINED** to enhance cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues among the Participants including in support of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint as they relate to non-traditional security issues;

**PURSUANT** to the prevailing laws and regulations of the respective Participants;

Have reached the following understanding:

**Paragraph 1  
Objectives**

The Participants will develop practical strategies in accordance with their respective laws and regulations to enhance the capacity at both national and regional level in dealing with such non-traditional security issues under the purview of the ASEAN Senior Officials’ Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) as terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money laundering, sea piracy, arms smuggling, international economic crime, cybercrime and other non-traditional security issues as mutually agreed by the Participants.

**Paragraph 2**  
**Areas of Cooperation**

The Participants have identified the following fields of common interest for cooperation:

1. Information Exchange

- a. The Participants will establish a compilation of their respective laws and regulations pertaining to such fields as mentioned in Paragraph 1;
- b. The Participants will establish a collection of international conventions pertaining to such fields as mentioned in Paragraph 1, to which they are parties, and compile bilateral agreements signed between Member States of ASEAN and China where appropriate;
- c. The Participants will, subject to their respective laws and policies; and based on the principle of reciprocity, exchange intelligence information on the non-traditional security issues referred to in Paragraph 1; and
- d. The Participants will, subject to their respective laws and policies, exchange information on special equipment and techniques applied in dealing with the non-traditional security issues referred to in Paragraph 1.

2. Personnel Exchange and Training

- a. The Participants will promote personnel contact and exchange among their law enforcement and other relevant officers and experts;
- b. China will organise workshops to promote the exchange of law enforcement experiences and best practices in dealing with the non-traditional security issues referred to in Paragraph 1;
- c. China will hold training courses to upgrade the level of capacity of each Participant and the region as a whole in drug control, forensic sciences, cyber investigation and evidence-gathering techniques, immigration administration, anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism, the investigation of financial crime and international economic crime. To ensure the quality of the training courses, China will invite regional and international experts to give lectures; and
- d. The Participants will promote exchange and cooperation among relevant institutions.

3. Law Enforcement Cooperation
  - a. The Participants will encourage and offer each other the fullest law enforcement cooperation possible in accordance with their respective laws and policies, and on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit;
  - b. The Participants will promote cooperation in accordance with their respective laws in fields such as evidence gathering, tracing of crime proceeds, asset recovery, apprehension and investigation of criminal fugitives and encourage each other to enter into bilateral legal arrangements therein.
4. Other activities, such as research, as agreed upon by the Participants.

### **Paragraph 3 Implementation**

1. The Participants designate the Ministry of Public Security for the Peoples' Republic of China and SOMTC for ASEAN with support and coordination by the ASEAN Secretariat to implement the Memorandum of Understanding.
2. The Participants will, with the support and assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat, ensure that timely and effective communication is established, and determine through consultation the details, schedule and arrangements for cooperation activities pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding.
3. The Participants will hold meetings at working level once every year to exchange information on the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, to brief each other on the progress of cooperation under various mechanisms, and to discuss the plans for future cooperation.

### **Paragraph 4 Financial Arrangements**

1. Expenses of workshops, training courses and other activities organised by China in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding will be covered by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including meals, accommodation and local transportation for the participants sent by ASEAN Member States during their stay in China and fees for inviting experts, while the expenses of international travel will be covered by the sending Countries, unless agreed otherwise.

2. Expenses on other workshops and training courses and other activities organised by ASEAN in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding will be discussed and agreed upon by the Participants.
3. The activities mentioned in this Memorandum of Understanding will be conducted subject to the availability of funds and personnel of the Participants.

#### **Paragraph 5 Confidentiality**

1. Information, document, data, equipment and technology received in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding will not be disclosed or distributed to any third party except to the extent as authorised in written form to do so by the Participants providing it.
2. The Participants will take all necessary efforts to ensure the security of any information, data, equipment, and technology that is exchanged in order to achieve the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding.
3. In the event of termination of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Participants have agreed that the provisions of this Paragraph will continue to apply.

#### **Paragraph 6 Suspension**

Each Participant reserves the right for reasons of security, public order or public health to suspend temporarily, either in whole or in part the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding. Such suspension will take effect immediately after notification has been given to the other Participant through diplomatic channels.

#### **Paragraph 7 Revision and Amendment**

Either Participant may request in writing a revision, amendment or modification of all or any part of this Memorandum of Understanding. Any revision, amendment or modification will be subject to written mutual agreement between the Participants and will form an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding. Such revision, amendment or modification will come into effect on such date as may be determined by the Participants.

**Paragraph 8**  
**Settlement of Dispute**

Any dispute or differences arising out of the interpretation/implementation/application of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably through consultation/negotiation between the Participants without reference to any third party.

**Paragraph 9**  
**Depository**

The original copy of this Memorandum of Understanding will be deposited with the ASEAN Secretariat.

**Paragraph 10**  
**Duration and Termination**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect upon signature and will continue in effect for a period of six (6) years and will be automatically renewed for further periods of six (6) years, unless earlier terminated.
2. Each Participant may give written notice to the other of its intention to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding. Such termination will be effective thirty (30) days after written notification has been given to the other Participant. The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the implementation of ongoing activities/programs.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being duly authorised by the Participants have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done at Manila, Philippines, this Twenty-First Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen, in two original copies in the English language.

For ASEAN:

**LE LUONG MINH**

Secretary-General

For the Government of the People's Republic of China:

**LIU YUEJIN**

Vice Minister of Public Security

## **JAPAN**

### **Joint Statement of the First ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation**

**Vientiane, Lao PDR  
18 September 2013**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and Japan responsible for combating Transnational Crime, convened the 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (the 1<sup>st</sup> AMMTC + Japan) in Vientiane, Lao People Democratic Republic on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by ASEAN + Japan Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime for the 1<sup>st</sup> AMMTC + Japan on 16 September 2013.
2. The Ministers celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and confirmed their recognition that ASEAN and Japan have forged close cooperation towards peace, stability, development and prosperity in Asia throughout the years.
3. The Ministers welcomed the launched of the AMMTC + Japan and shared intention to enhance their cooperation to fight against terrorism and other forms of transnational crime, which threatens peace and stability of the region.
4. The Ministers exchanged views on issues of mutual interest relating to ASEAN-Japan cooperation in countering terrorism and combating transnational crime. The discussions focused on counter-terrorism, cybercrime and other matters of interest.
5. The Ministers underscored the need for enhanced dialogue among the counter-terrorism officials in the region through various forums including ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism Dialogue and expected further sharing of experience and knowledge in the field of counter-terrorism.
6. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the initiatives of Japan such as the launch of SDWAN (the Shared Database of Websites related to terrorism), Regional Counter-Terrorism Conference which focused on terrorism situation

and counter-terrorism measures in Southeast Asia, and Training and Dialogue Programs for Counter International Terrorism.

7. The Ministers stressed the importance of enhancing joint cooperation to address cybercrime as a new challenge in the whole region. The Ministers reached a common view that capacity building in the region is essential in combating cybercrime.
8. The Ministers emphasised the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community such as the abduction issue.
9. The Ministers decided to report the outcome of this meeting upcoming ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting and expressed their hope that the Summit will take further steps to address the challenge posed by terrorism and transnational crime in the region.
10. The Ministers welcomed the kind offer offer of Malaysia to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> AMMTC + Japan Consultation in 2015.
11. The Ministers expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the meeting. They also expressed appreciation to ASEAN Secretariat for its coordination and assistance.

## **ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime**

**Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
12 November 2014**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan;

**RECOGNIZING** that terrorism and transnational crime pose serious threats to peace, stability and economic prosperity of ASEAN, Japan and the Asia-Pacific region as a whole and that they are impediments which could affect ASEAN's efforts of community-building;

**RECOGNIZING ALSO** the evolving and spreading threats of terrorism and transnational crime and the growing nexus between them as recognized by the United Nations;

**STRESSING** that a large number of victims of terrorism and transnational crime are women and children, who are especially vulnerable to such threats and thereby need special protection;

**AFFIRMING** ASEAN's support for Japan's policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" and its effort in combating terrorism and transnational crime to ensure security during major events including the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo;

**DETERMINED** to reinforce the existing active channels of cooperation that have been established between ASEAN Member States and Japan in combating terrorism and transnational crime, including the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) plus Japan, the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) plus Japan, ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conference (ASEANAPOL) and the ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue as well as the ASEAN-Japan Counter Terrorism Dialogue;

**REAFFIRMING** the importance of promoting information sharing between ASEAN Member States and Japan with a view to effectively combating terrorism and transnational crime;

**DECIDING** to upgrade and transform the ASEAN-Japan Counter Terrorism Dialogues into the ASEAN-Japan Dialogues on Countering Terrorism and Transnational Crime to meet and address the evolving changes in the security landscape of the region and beyond;

**DESIRING** to enhance our cooperation in the fight against terrorism and transnational crime in the region, inter alia, in the following priority areas including by utilizing official development assistance (ODA), the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 2.0 as well as projects through international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);

**ENDEAVORING** to develop a Work Plan which sets out a detailed ASEAN-Japan's cooperation in the fight against terrorism and transnational crime to effectively implement this declaration;

**HAVE DECLARED** the following:

## **1. Terrorism**

- 1.1. Whilst welcoming and commending the advances made in the fight against terrorism by ASEAN Member States, we acknowledge the level of threat of terrorism remains high in the ASEAN region as the threat of international terrorism is spreading and diversifying.
- 1.2. We underline the importance of continuously addressing the root causes and conditions conducive to terrorism including poverty, socio-economic disparity, and conflicts. We reaffirm that these causes should not be acknowledged as justifications for violence.
- 1.3. Recalling *the 2004 ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation in the Fight against International Terrorism* and recognizing the need of a coordinated and coherent approach to tackle the spread of terrorism, we renew our commitment to enhance cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels in preventing, disrupting and combating terrorism especially through:
  - (i) Countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
  - (ii) Strengthening border control and immigration, transport security, law enforcement and capacity building in countering terrorism including countering terrorist financing;
  - (iii) Promoting capacity building for law enforcement agencies in the region through measures such as joint training, courses, equipping advanced instruments for countering terrorism as well as exchange of information;

- 
- (iv) Reducing vulnerability of the private sector including multinational companies and protecting all citizens in the region from terrorism;

## **2. Illicit Drug Trafficking**

- 2.1. We recognize that there are still many challenges facing ASEAN Member States as well as Japan, including the spread of heroin, methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances, despite long-standing efforts in the fight against illicit drug trafficking.
- 2.2. Recognizing that illicit drug trade is inextricably linked to other transnational crimes, we further enhance cooperation in the prevention of trafficking in, and reducing demand for, illicit drugs, and support ASEAN's initiatives through the existing mechanism of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and efforts in pursuit of a Drug Free ASEAN including through:
  - (i) Capacity building of law enforcement authorities in areas such as border control;
  - (ii) Raising awareness on drug abuse prevention, especially at home, schools and local communities;
  - (iii) Enhancing cooperation through joint training, information sharing, UNODC programs and relevant regional meetings;

## **3. Trafficking in Persons**

- 3.1. Many people have been identified as victims of trafficking in persons in ASEAN Member States and Japan. We reiterate that trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights and in particular, of women and children, and underscore the great urgency of enhancing cooperation to eliminate this scourge from our region.
- 3.2. We welcome the progress made in developing an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and a Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (RPA) which reflect the need to urgently combat trafficking in persons in the region.
- 3.3. Recognizing that trafficking in persons has wide harmful effects on economic, social and political aspects which impede development of the region and is considered to be a violation of human rights and an affront to human dignity, we intend to intensify cooperation to eradicate trafficking in persons in all aspects such as prevention, law enforcement, protection of victims and partnership through:

- (i) Raising public awareness to prevent trafficking in persons;
- (ii) Strengthening the law enforcement capabilities including through training, exchange of information and capacity building programs for police, immigration officers, coast guards as well as prosecutors in order to increase early identification of victims and prosecution of traffickers;
- (iii) Enhancing the protection and assistance of victims including through reinforcing sheltering function, psychological or medical care and repatriation of victims;
- (iv) Developing partnerships to address the underlying socio-economic factors in the region that help contribute to the problem of trafficking in persons;

#### **4. Money Laundering**

Realizing that organized crime generates huge profits which are used in illicit activities and terrorism and recognizing that those illicit profits are infiltrated into legitimate businesses and financial enterprises, we prevent and control money laundering including through:

- (i) Enhancing regional capabilities in investigation, intelligence gathering and detection of money laundering;
- (ii) Encouraging networking of the national agencies or organizations to further enhance information exchange and dissemination;

#### **5. Sea Piracy**

The number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea against ships is increasing in the ASEAN region in recent years, which poses a growing threat to regional and the international maritime security. Recognizing that the free and safe navigation of commercial vessels in the region is critical for the economic interests of the region, Japan and the rest of the world, we enhance further cooperation to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships including through:

- (i) Strengthening capacity building of relevant agencies, including coast guards;
- (ii) Promoting exchanges and communications to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships more effectively;
- (iii) Supporting each other in emergency circumstance on sea, where and to the extent possible, with a view to fighting pirate and rescuing victims from sea piracy;

- (iv) Enhancing regional cooperation including the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP);

## **6. Arms Smuggling**

- 6.1. Many ASEAN Member States are vulnerable to arms smuggling because of their geographical location in the midst of trade and transportation routes as well as their long borderlines and large coastal and island areas.
- 6.2. Recognizing that arms smuggling significantly exacerbates transnational crime which requires comprehensive action and underlining the connection between arms smuggling and terrorism, we enhance cooperation to counter arms smuggling including through:
  - (i) Strengthening border law enforcement capabilities through training and institutional capacity building;
  - (ii) Promoting universalization of relevant treaties on Arms Smuggling in the region;
  - (iii) Promoting implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons;
  - (iv) Enhancing information exchange concerning arms smuggling in the region;

## **7. International Economic Crime**

- 7.1. International economic crime such as credit card fraud, counterfeit currency and illicit trading of shares is more visible than ever before across the world, posing a serious threat to the economic and social stability of the ASEAN region and Japan.
- 7.2. Recognizing that the speed of technological advance and new ways of doing business, makes the task of fighting international economic crime ever more difficult, we tackle international economic crime including through:
  - (i) Exchanging best practices of relevant institutions in combatting international economic crime;
  - (ii) Promoting law enforcement cooperation;

## **8. Cybercrime**

8.1. Recognizing that information and communication technology (ICT) is a key driver for sustainable development in the region, we share the common interests in increasing confidence and security in the use of ICT in the region as a whole. With increased dependency on ICT, our vulnerability to ICT threats has also increased. A number of crimes are now committed online, taking advantage of the anonymity, instantaneity and cost-effectiveness of using cyberspace. Recognizing cybercrime as a fast-spreading threat, we are committed to tackling it jointly through:

- (i) Promoting information-sharing on cybercrime trends and lessons learned to combat cybercrime between ASEAN and Japan;
- (ii) Enhancing international cooperation on cybercrime investigation and prosecution involving ASEAN Member States and Japan, including through the use of the existing channels of international cooperation such as the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-INTERPOL, G8 24/7 Network, and the electronic ASEANAPOL Database System (e-ADS));
- (iii) Promoting capacity building in order to effectively prevent and combat cybercrime;

8.2. We welcome the first ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue which was held on May 28, 2014 and reaffirm the need of the framework for continued dialogue. In further pursuing joint cooperation against cybercrime, we also seek to extensively involve international organizations such as the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI), the Council of Europe and UNODC for implementing concrete capacity building projects in the region.

# **Joint Statement of the Second ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
1 October 2015**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and Japan responsible for combating Transnational Crime, convened the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (the 2<sup>nd</sup> AMMTC + Japan), in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 1 October 2015. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the ASEAN + Japan Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime for the 2<sup>nd</sup> AMMTC + Japan on 28 September 2015.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the 12<sup>th</sup> SOMTC + Japan Consultation held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 10 June 2015.
3. We exchanged views on issues of mutual interest relating to ASEAN + Japan Cooperation in Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime including on the need to further strengthen the existing cooperation in order to continuously prevent ever-changing threats, and to take due countermeasures.
4. We stated our intentions to fight terrorism and reaffirmed the importance of strengthening counter-terrorism capacity and cooperation between related countries. We also emphasized the need to advance dialogue and enhance sharing of information, knowledge and experience through various forums and seminars on counter-terrorism including ASEAN-Japan Counter Terrorism Dialogue.
5. We noted that cybercrime, whose modus operandi are becoming increasingly sophisticated and complicated, poses a grave and imminent threat to the region. We stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation so that ASEAN and Japan can appropriately tackle this threat. We welcomed the ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue that was inaugurated in May 2014 and expressed our hopes that it would become the foundation for cooperation between ASEAN Member States and Japan in this field. We also agreed on expediting initiatives toward enhancing counter-cybercrime capacity.
6. We emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community, such as the abduction issue.

7. We took note of the SOMTC + Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2015-2017) that was adopted by the Preparatory SOMTC + Japan Consultation on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Based on this Work Plan, we stressed the importance of promoting effective initiatives that meet the situation and needs, in addition to continuing and strengthening initiatives to date including the implementation of projects facilitated by Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).
8. We adopted the Joint Statement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AMMTC + Japan Consultation.
9. We welcomed the kind offer of Myanmar to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMMTC + Japan Consultation in 2017 in Myanmar.
10. We expressed sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Malaysia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. We also expressed appreciation to ASEAN Secretariat for its coordination and assistance.

# **Joint Statement of the Third ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation**

**Manila, Philippines  
21 September 2017**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States and Japan responsible for handling transnational crime matters, convened the Third ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (3<sup>rd</sup> AMMTC + Japan) Consultation on 21 September 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dato Hamdan Abu Bakar, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam and H.E. Hachiro Okonogi, Minister of State, Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission of Japan.
2. We took note of the outcomes of the Fourteenth ASEAN Plus Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (14<sup>th</sup> SOMTC + Japan) Consultation held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 25 May 2017 and the Preparatory SOMTC + Japan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMMTC + Japan Consultation in Manila, Philippines, on 18 September 2017.
3. The Ministers of ASEAN Member States expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for their generous contribution in supporting ASEAN Member States' efforts in combating transnational crime through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 2.0, including by regularly convening the ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism (AJCT) Dialogue, ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime (AJCC) Dialogue and the cooperation initiatives implemented under these frameworks.
4. We exchanged views on issues of mutual interest relating to ASEAN-Japan cooperation in countering terrorism and transnational crime including on the need to further strengthen the existing cooperation.
5. We reaffirmed our commitment in fighting terrorism and further strengthen our efforts to prevent and combat transnational crime.
6. We emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concern of the international community, such as the abduction issue.

7. We took note of the progress made to implement the SOMTC + Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2015-2017) and looked forward to the development of the SOMTC-Japan Work Plan for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2018-2022) to renew our commitment and further strengthen our efforts to prevent and combat terrorism and transnational crime.
8. We welcomed the kind offer by Myanmar to host the 4<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + Japan Consultation in 2018.
9. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines for their warm welcome and the generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations, as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

## **RUSSIA**

### **Statement of ASEAN and Russia Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Joint Efforts to Counter International Terrorism**

**Manila, Philippines  
6 August 2017**

WE, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of 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, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Russian Federation;

*Unequivocally condemning* in the strongest terms terrorist attacks around the world resulting in the unacceptable loss of innocent lives and countless injuries;

*Reiterating* that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any act of terror is criminal, regardless of the motivations of its perpetrators, whenever, wherever, and by whomsoever committed, and cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, ethnic group or civilization;

*Reaffirming* determination to prevent, suppress and eliminate international terrorism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and *recognizing* the need to fully implement the relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions, as well as the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

*Underscoring* the primary leading role of States and their competent agencies in preventing and countering terrorism, at the national, regional and international levels, and stressing the necessity to develop international cooperation in accordance with the principles of international law, including that of equality and sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs;

*Recalling* the 2001 ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism, the 2004 ASEAN-Russian Federation Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, The ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, the 2016 Sochi

Declaration of the ASEAN-Russian Federation Commemorative Summit to Mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-Russian Federation Dialogue Partnership “Moving Towards a Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit”, the Comprehensive Plan of Action to Promote Cooperation between the Association of the Southeast Asia Nations and the Russian Federation (2016-2020).

Declare as follows:

We stress that the UN should continue to play a central role in coordinating multilateral cooperation against terrorism and call for broader international efforts against terrorism on the basis of the UN Charter and the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

We further stress the inadmissibility of the use of terrorist and extremist groups to achieve political goals.

We note with concern the elevated threat of terrorism, first of all from ISIL, which is a challenge to our civilization and humanity, to the international peace, security and the sovereignty of states. We stand ready to consolidate our efforts to prevent, combat and suppress this common threat.

We are committed to countering the growing spread of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, as well as terrorist propaganda, including the use of the Internet and social media for terrorism-related purposes, as well as acts of public justification of terrorism intended to incite terrorist acts.

We will contribute to the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to prevent and counter the spread of terrorism, as well as terrorist propaganda, tailored specifically to our respective national contexts and in accordance with the obligations under international law and the domestic laws of the respective States, while noting the importance of cooperation, where appropriate, with civil society and the private sector in this endeavor.

We will boost cooperation to counter travel of the Russians and ASEAN Member States’ citizens to the conflict zones in the Middle East with a view to joining terrorist groups, as well as to deal with the return of foreign terrorist fighters, posing challenges to our security and stability.

We believe that effective measures on countering international terrorism require reliable blocking of its financing, in full compliance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations. We encourage the FATF to continue its efforts to identify sources and channels of

terrorist financing and highlight the urgent task of identifying states, individuals and entities engaged in economic relations with terrorist groups.

In view of these, we acknowledge the need to explore establishing channels of communication between ASEAN and Russia's competent agencies to facilitate exchange of information and intelligence to counter the spread of ideologies which encourage terrorism and to prevent the commission of terrorist-related offences, as defined by existing international conventions and treaties.

We stand ready to strengthen and expand cooperation in the frameworks of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, as a leading ASEAN mechanism for cooperation in countering terrorism, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conferences with the Russian Federation, ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus, ASEAN Plus Russia Senior Officials' Meetings on Transnational Crime, ASEAN-Russia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime and other regional and dialogue mechanisms including relevant bodies that may be established in the future.

We are determined to consistently strengthen ASEAN-Russia cooperation in countering international terrorism. In this regard we fully support the capacity building training courses conducted by Russia on a regular basis for the law enforcement officers of the ASEAN Member States.

We will endeavor to promote the sharing of best practices on rehabilitative and social development programs with the objective of addressing the root causes of terrorism and preventing the perpetration of terrorist acts.

We will explore additional areas of practical cooperation to further strengthen our countries' resilience to threats emerging from terrorism.

## **ASEAN PLUS THREE**

### **Joint Statement of the Fifth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation**

**Bali, Indonesia  
12 October 2011**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea responsible for combating transnational crimes, convened the 5<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 in Bali, Indonesia, on 12 October 2011. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by ASEAN + 3 Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime for the 5<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 Consultation. His Excellency Police General Timur Pradopo, Chief of Indonesian National Police, chaired the meeting. The Secretary-General of ASEAN also attended the Meeting.
2. We are committed to consolidate and further strengthen the efforts in preventing and combating transnational crimes with the objectives to sustain peace, security and stability as well as prosperity in the region.
3. We praised the progress achieved in ASEAN's efforts in addressing the transnational crimes with the support of the Plus Three Dialogue Partners while maintaining the central role of ASEAN.
4. We tasked the SOMTC + 3 to move forward in implementing concrete projects within and beyond the ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan to combat transnational crime.
5. We agreed to task SOMTC + 3 to leverage the existing mechanisms with objective to measure, track and better position our efforts to combat transnational crime in order to ensure the implementation of workplan of ASEAN Plus Three a success reality.
6. We welcomed the enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and its Plus Three Dialogue Partners, particularly in the field of cyber crime investigation. This is a crucial step ahead as the current trends demonstrate the emerging challenges of cyber crime and its strong linkages to other transnational crimes, in particular terrorism and trafficking in persons.

7. We welcomed and appreciated all proposals and initiatives to organize constructive activities in dealing with transnational crime issues, such as the convening of the seminar on sustainable alternative development in moving towards an ASEAN Drug Free 2015 in Chiang Mai in November 2011, the seminar on ASEAN + 3 law enforcement cooperation against telecommunication fraud in China in November 2011 and the law enforcement executive meeting in Tokyo in December 2011.
8. We welcomed the kind offer of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to host the 6<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 Consultation in November 2013 in Vientiane.
9. We expressed our sincere gratitude and high appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective ASEAN + 3 delegations.

## **Joint Statement of the Sixth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation**

**Vientiane, Lao PDR  
18 September 2013**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea responsible for combating transnational crime, convened the 6<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 18 September 2013. The Ministerial Meeting was preceeded by Preparatory SOMTC + 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 on 16 September 2013. The 6<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 was chaired by H.E. Dr. Thongbanh Sengaphone, Minister of Public Security of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
2. We remain committed to further strengthen efforts to prevent and combat transnational crimes that continue to threaten our region in order to ensure peace and stability.
3. We acknowledged the progress in the efforts to fulfill the transnational crime component of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2007-2017.
4. We tasked the SOMTC + 3 to expedite efforts to enhance ASEAN + 3 law enforcement cooperation, in order to fulfill the transnational crime component of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan which is to be completed by 2017.
5. We welcomed the convening of the 7<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 in Malaysia in 2015.
6. We expressed our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements.

## **Joint Statement of the Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
30 September 2015**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea responsible for combating transnational crime, convened the Seventh ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (7<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3) Consultation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 30 September 2015. The 7<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 was chaired by Hon. Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Malaysia.
2. We remain committed to further strengthen efforts to prevent and combat transnational crimes that continue to threaten our region, in order to ensure peace and stability.
3. We took note of the outcomes of the Thirteenth ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (13<sup>th</sup> SOMTC + 3) Consultation held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 10 June 2015.
4. We exchanged views on the need to further strengthen the existing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation in combating transnational crimes, including addressing the emergence of new forms of transnational crimes.
5. We acknowledged the progress in the efforts to fulfill the transnational crime component of the Revised ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017.
6. We agreed that it is pertinent to utilise the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APTCF) for the implementation of the activities under the Revised ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013 - 2017.
7. We welcomed the convening of the 8<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 Consultation in Myanmar in 2017.
8. We expressed our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Malaysia for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

## **Joint Statement of the Eight ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation**

**Manila, Philippines  
21 September 2017**

1. We, the Ministers of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea responsible for handling transnational crime matters, convened the Eighth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (8<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3) Consultation in Manila, Philippines on 21 September 2017. The Meeting was chaired by AMMTC Leader Philippines Catalino S. Cuy, Officer-in-Charge of the Department of the Interior and Local Government of the Republic of the Philippines.
2. We reiterated our commitment to further strengthen cooperation to prevent and combat transnational crimes that continue to threaten our region, in order to ensure peace and stability.
3. We took note of the outcomes of the Fifteenth ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (15<sup>th</sup> SOMTC + 3) Consultation held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 24 May 2017. We also took note of the outcomes of the Preparatory SOMTC + 3 for the 8<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 Consultation in Manila, Philippines on 18 September 2017.
4. We commended the progress achieved in the implementation of transnational crime component of the Revised ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017. We also took note of the adoption of the successor ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022 and reaffirmed our commitment to effectively implement the transnational crime component of the new Work Plan.
5. We exchanged views on the need to further strengthen the existing ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in combating transnational crimes, including addressing the emergence of new forms of these crimes.
6. We welcomed the kind offer by Myanmar to host the 9<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + 3 Consultation in 2018.

7. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines for their warm welcome and the generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations, as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.





# **EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS)**





# East Asia Summit Declaration on Combating Wildlife Trafficking

**Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
13 November 2014**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, the People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to build an ASEAN Community by 2015, comprising three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community that are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing;

**REALIZING** that ASEAN integration and the emergence of an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 will increase peace, stability, and prosperity for ASEAN and its people;

**AWARE** that the EAS Member States are rich in biodiversity and home to many endangered species of wild fauna and flora;

**RECOGNIZING** that the illicit trafficking and illegal trade in specimens of species of wildlife are prejudicial to the planet's natural heritage and to the political, economic and social interests of the EAS;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the inadvertent or purposeful introduction of illicitly trafficked and illegally traded wildlife and wildlife products poses serious risks to the health and safety of human, plant, and animal populations due to the spread of pathogens and non-native invasive species, threatening economic development and prosperity;

**NOTING** that the increase in illicit trafficking and illegal trade of specimens of species wildlife and wildlife products including fauna and flora, and particularly of endangered species included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) necessitates increased cooperation and coordination, surveillance, investigative and enforcement

measures amongst relevant authorities, including Wildlife, Forestry, Customs, Police, Judicial and Prosecutorial authorities, as well as their increased surveillance, investigative and enforcement measures;

**RECOGNIZING** that international and regional cooperation are essential to protect natural resources, wildlife habitats, and particularly, endangered species of wild fauna and flora;

**RECOGNIZING** the conservation actions and commitments that have already been made with respect to the species regulated by CITES through its Decisions and Resolutions;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** our commitment to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the access to and the utilization of genetic resources;

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Statement on CITES on the Occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in October 2004 and the adoption of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on CITES Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (2011-2015), where ASEAN recognized the need to promote its objectives for CITES implementation through collaborative initiatives;

**FURTHER RECALLING** the ASEAN Statement on Launching of the ASEAN Wildlife Law Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) at the Special Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for the Implementation of CITES in December 2005;

**RECOGNIZING** the unprecedented success of ASEAN Member States in combating the illegal trade in CITES wildlife and wildlife products through support of the ASEAN WEN as well as stronger coordination and linkages between national and regional agencies, such as CITES Management Authorities, customs, police, and other relevant law enforcement agencies, resulting in an exponential increase in arrests, seizures, and prosecutions of cases of illicit wildlife trafficking and illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products;

**APPRECIATING** the enormous value accrued from ASEAN-WEN workshops and training sessions on wildlife trade regulation, species identification, detection and investigation, protected areas enforcement, and wildlife forensics at both regional and national levels, and public awareness campaigns and activities aimed not only for the public at ports of entry and key border checkpoints, but also for members of the judiciary and prosecutors;

**RECOGNISING** the progress the EAS participating countries have achieved in combating illicit wildlife trafficking in East Asia, including the achievement of the “Operation Cobra” organized by China, US, ASEAN-WEN, SA-WEN, UNODC and other countries and organizations;

**RECALLING** our commitments made in the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2007 which identified the need to strengthen efforts to implement the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, through mechanisms such as the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the commitments to further strengthen ASEAN regional cooperation on biodiversity, as embodied in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint of the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015);

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Statement on “ASEAN and International Year of Forests 2011” in October 2011 recognizing the achievements and continuing efforts in addressing threats and challenges faced by the forestry sector in the region, such as through enhancing efforts in addressing international trade of endangered species and wildlife enforcement;

**REFERENCING** the Joint Statement of the ASEAN Environment Ministers for the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in promoting the aim to ensure conservation and sustainable management of ASEAN biodiversity towards enhancing social, economic, and environmental well-being;

**NOTING** the September 2012 Resolution of the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) on Strengthening Law Enforcement and Regional Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime, and the 2012 Joint Statement of the APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Environment;

**FURTHER NOTING** the 2013 APEC Economic Leaders’ Declaration delivered in Bali, Indonesia on wildlife trafficking that recognizes the serious negative economic implications of environmental crime and acknowledges the important role that Wildlife Enforcement Networks play in effectively addressing this issue;

**FURTHER NOTING** the role of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in its function as an effective regional centre of excellence in promoting biodiversity conservation and management, and regional initiatives such as the Heart of Borneo, Coral

Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, ASEAN Heritage Parks, and Greater Mekong Sub-Region in protecting and enhancing conservation of the region's biodiversity;

**FURTHER NOTING** progress being made to include environmental crime, which includes wildlife trafficking and wildlife-related crimes, as an additional priority under the ASEAN Plan of Action on Transnational Crime;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the commitments of individual EAS countries to CITES and the CBD, and other relevant multi-lateral biodiversity-related environmental agreements;

**FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING** the progress made against wildlife trafficking in the region through the financial and technical support and assistance from the international community in helping countries in EAS Countries to build resources, expertise and capacity to address the illegal exploitation and trade in wild fauna and flora.

**DO HEREBY AGREE TO:**

1. **REAFFIRM** our conservation actions and commitments that have already been made with respect to CITES and CBD and to other relevant multilateral biodiversity-related environmental agreements;
2. **SUPPORT** the ASEAN Regional Action Plan in CITES Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora which aims at effective regional cooperation on improved implementation of CITES, including law enforcement collaboration through ASEAN-WEN;
3. **URGE** all Parties to fully implement their obligations under CITES and also to urge ASEAN Members States to implement the ASEAN Regional Actions Plan in CITES Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora;
4. **PROMOTE** action to further strengthen regional and international cooperation between source, transit and destination countries, including through additional support to wildlife law-enforcement networks;
5. **INSTITUTIONALIZE** the role of the ASEAN Secretariat as the coordinating and implementing body under which the ASEAN-WEN operates;
6. **SUPPORT** the financial sustainability and the strengthening of the ASEAN-WEN and its full integration within the ASEAN Secretariat in facilitating

---

the concerted and coordinated joint actions and enforcement efforts, and increased cooperation between ASEAN Member States, to address the illegal exploitation and trade in CITES wild flora and fauna within the ASEAN region;

7. **WELCOME** the establishment of a budget line item under the ASEAN Secretariat to support ASEAN-WEN and associated collaborative funding activities to enable it to receive contributions from interested parties, to include direct budget support from ASEAN Member States and international and regional institutions and partners;
8. **REQUEST** the ASEAN Ministers' Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) to consider recognizing environmental crime as a serious transnational crime and include it as an area of cooperation in the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime;
9. **FURTHER SPUR AND REINFORCE** ASEAN's commitment to operationalize and ensure the sustainability of ASEAN-WEN, and expand and nurture ASEAN Member States' cooperation and coordination in promoting regional wildlife law enforcement efforts;
10. **URGE** relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to carry out-steps to ensure effective networking and cooperation that strengthen efforts against illicit trafficking and illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products at the national level and in collaboration with other related regional bodies and initiatives;
11. **ENCOURAGE** ASEAN Dialogue Partners, development partners, and relevant regional and international organisations to help develop a supportive environment that optimizes cooperation on crime prevention and criminal justice response to combat illicit trafficking and illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products as well as implementation of CITES and biodiversity-related environment agreements such as through capacity building, information sharing and technical assistance;
12. **IDENTIFY** priority areas of engagement for collaboration with Dialogue Partners and development partners, such as capacity building, information sharing, technology transfer, technical assistance, and direct support for law enforcement operations;
13. **PROMOTE** regular dialogue among relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies to accelerate concerted efforts against CITES wildlife trafficking and related crimes and to realize the effective communication and development of ASEAN-WEN where appropriate;

14. **SUPPORT** ASEAN integration through the harmonization of environmental crime laws to combat transnational crime; including through the implementation of relevant international agreements to which ASEAN members are parties, such as the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention Against Corruption;
15. **ENCOURAGE** harmonization of legal and administrative regulations to support the exchange of evidence and criminal prosecution of wildlife crime;
16. **ENHANCE** capacity building among EAS participating countries in the area of combating illicit trafficking and illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products;
17. **URGE** donors and partners to continue to support capacity building through regional, sub-regional and national workshops, trainings and meetings, and to support our efforts in combating illegal wildlife trade;
18. **ENCOURGE** national-level wildlife crime task forces, consistent with national circumstances;
19. **ENCOURAGE** effective public relations and educational campaigns to raise awareness of the important environmental heritage of ASEAN's indigenous flora and fauna and the threat posed by illicit trafficking and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products;
20. **DEVELOP** measures to build upon public awareness and education initiatives to reduce the demand for and supply of illegal wildlife and wildlife products;
21. **ENHANCE** international cooperation by strengthening linkages between regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs), and supporting the development of other WENs around the world.

**ADOPTED** in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on the thirteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fourteen.

## **East Asia Summit Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria**

**Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
13 November 2014**

The Leaders of the participating countries of the East Asia Summit welcomed the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria on 26 September 2014.

The East Asia Summit expressed deep concern over the rise of violence and brutality committed by the self-declared ISIL and other terrorist/extremist organisations and radical groups in Iraq and Syria, noting that these individuals—who have gained skills and expertise and become part of terrorist networks—not only pose a threat to the people of Iraq and Syria, but to their home countries as well as third countries around the world.

The Leaders affirmed support for the new Iraqi government and encouraged it to develop and implement an inclusive policy which unifies the country by representing and defending the interests of all Iraqi people. The Leaders stressed the importance of providing assistance to the victims of ISIL terror and of continued humanitarian aid.

The Leaders strongly denounced all terrorist acts of destruction and violence, and denounced terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated their commitment to combating terrorism, in particular foreign terrorist fighters through global action, including, as appropriate, the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, both of which aim to prevent and suppress terrorism by addressing its root causes and disrupting terror networks and financing channels.

The Leaders reaffirmed support for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2170 (2014) which calls on the international community to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, and Resolution 2178 (2014) which decides to prevent and suppress the recruiting, organising, transporting or equipping of individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, and the financing of their travel and of their activities.

The Leaders also affirmed that terrorism must be addressed in a comprehensive manner requiring a multifaceted approach, including addressing underlying factors that support terrorism, preventing radicalisation to terrorism, disrupting support mechanisms such as financing and supply of weapons, taking all feasible precautions to avoid losses of civilian lives and damage to civilian objects and promoting political and religious tolerance, economic development, social cohesion and inclusiveness.

The Leaders recognized that moderation is a factor in the pursuit of long lasting peace and a tool to counter extremism and terrorism, diffuse tensions and negate radicalization, and reiterated their support for the provisions in the UN Security Council Resolution 2178 to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter violent extremism.

The Leaders affirmed their support for the Global Movement of Moderates in moving the moderation agenda forward to counter intolerant, violent and militant extremism; deliver economic, political and social justice; call for greater cooperation and understanding among cultures, religions and civilisations aiming to drown out the voices of extremism.

The East Asia Summit renewed its commitment to work with the international community to fight against extremism, radicalism and terrorism and to prevent further violence and brutality in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.

Adopted at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, this Thirteenth of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fourteen at the 9<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit.

# East Asia Summit Statement on Countering Violent Extremism

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
22 November 2015**

**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 10<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015;

**RECALLING** the 2014 East Asia Summit (EAS) Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria;

**WELCOMING** the EAS Symposium on Religious Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration hosted by Singapore and the EAS ad hoc informal meeting on ISIL and extremist organizations convened in Jakarta on 26 April 2015;

**TAKING NOTE** of the process launched by the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism in February 2015, and the outcomes of the Sydney Regional CVE Summit in June 2015 and the Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism held in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015;

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism;

**WELCOMING** initiatives by civil society including the Content Creators' Workshop on Countering the Narrative of Violent Extremism, organised by the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation and Google in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 19 May 2015;

**EXPRESSING** grave concern about the spread of violent extremism and terrorism that undermines local communities and threatens peace and security, including in the Asia-Pacific region;

**WELCOMING** efforts to establish a centre focusing on narratives to counter terrorism at the regional level in Malaysia;

**RECOGNISING** that responding to the threat of terrorist groups exploiting the internet and social media platforms to recruit and radicalise to violent extremism vulnerable individuals requires international cooperation as well as action by all tiers of government, together with civil society and the private sector;

**EMPHASISING** that terrorism and violent extremism should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization, and should be neither tolerated nor condoned;

**RECOGNISING** that moderation guides actions that emphasize tolerance, understanding, dialogue, mutual respect and inclusiveness, and is a core value in countering radicalism and extremism;

**REAFFIRMING** support for the effective implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2129 (2013), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), and relevant statements by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2014/23 and S/PRST/2015/11);

**RECOGNIZING** the role of governments and their competent bodies, international and regional institutions and civil society in countering violent extremism and terrorism, and in international cooperation in this field;

**DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:**

**DENOUNCE** terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including the spread of violent extremist ideologies and propaganda,

**CONDEMN** the heinous terrorist attacks in Bamako, Paris, Beirut, Ankara and against Russian aircraft over the Sinai, and elsewhere, which are an affront to all humanity, and emphasise our unshaken resolve to stand together in countering terrorism and violent extremism,

**WORK** to support each other's efforts to counter violent extremism, including through coordination of efforts, capacity building, and sharing of information, research, experience, best practice and lessons learned,

**SUPPORT** and share research and expertise drawn from both the public and private sectors that contribute to a thorough collective understanding of what drives individuals to violent extremism,

**COOPERATE** to counter terrorist and violent extremist ideology and propaganda, and promote positive messages of respect, inclusion and moderation, including

through developing a compendium of regional counter-narratives and a regional network for civil society organisations to amplify effective messages across the region and to foster peer-to-peer learning,

**INVEST** in enhancing the ability of communities and individuals to challenge terrorist propaganda, including building technical capacity and capability of grass roots organisations, community leaders and people with influence to promote non-extremist messages that resonate with vulnerable individuals,

**PROMOTE** the role of education in building resilience against violent extremism, through fostering respect for different cultures and beliefs and providing opportunities for social and economic inclusion, given that violent extremist propaganda often targets youth,

**EMPOWER** youth, women, families, religious, cultural and education leaders, and community groups to amplify alternative messages of respect, inclusiveness, social cohesion, diversity and moderation,

**WORK** closely with the private sector, particularly the media and technology sectors, to support and promote government and civil society efforts to build resilience in communities and prevent the process of radicalisation to violent extremism, particularly online,

**DEVELOP** and implement comprehensive strategies, to counter violent extremism that include non-legislative, legislative and law enforcement responses to the threat, including efforts to address the underlying conditions that are conducive to the spread of violent extremism,

**CALL** for the promotion of religious tolerance, mutual understanding and interfaith dialogue to build integrated and inclusive societies,

**CONTINUE** to work with the United Nations and other international and regional institutions, including the UN's Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism, Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation and the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Adopted at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty-Second Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen at the 10<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit.

## East Asia Summit Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
22 November 2015

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, the People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

**UNDERLINING** our common vision of the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and prosperity;

**WELCOMING** the ASEAN Leaders' adoption of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates at the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in April 2015, further reinforcing moderation as an ASEAN value;

**RECALLING** the 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations which calls for the recognition and respect for the diversity of ethnic, religious, cultural traditions and values as well as diversity of views and positions, including by promoting the voices of moderation;

**RECALLING FURTHER** that during the 7<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2012, the Leaders welcomed the progress made in the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM);

**RECOGNISING** that ancient wisdom described *the middle way* and *the golden mean* as a path of moderation;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** that moderation guides action which emphasises tolerance, understanding, dialogue, mutual respect and inclusiveness is a tool to bridge differences and disputes;

**COGNISANT** that the EAS Member States are ethnically, culturally and religiously diverse and welcoming efforts at the community, national, regional and international levels in promoting cohesion of the multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural community, whose diversity is a source of strength in promoting moderation;

**EMPHASISING** the important role that the EAS can play in furthering the moderation agenda, which promotes a culture of peace and complements other initiatives, including the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that moderation, as a means to promote tolerance and mutual understanding, includes engaging in dialogues on political, economic and socio-cultural issues;

**RECOGNISING** that moderation is an all-encompassing approach not only in resolving differences and conflicts peacefully but also for ensuring sustainable and inclusive development and equitable growth as well as promoting social harmony and mutual understanding within the country and region;

**FURTHER RECOGNISING** that moderation is a core value in the pursuit of long-lasting peace and a tool to diffuse tensions and counter violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations;

**EMPHASISING** that violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, should not be associated with any culture, civilisation or religion and should be neither tolerated nor condoned;

**ENCOURAGED** that the Global Movement of Moderates has received widespread support from the international community, academic institutions and civil society organisations;

**DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:**

1. Promote moderation as a universal value that promotes peace, security, development and social justice;
2. Further promote the approach of moderation and uphold the rule of law in the conduct of relations among states, including in the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law;
3. Elaborate a common agenda for peace and prosperity, which promotes political and social stability and inclusive political processes; sustainable growth which provides opportunities for all and upholds dignity; and social justice with emphasis on mutual respect, balance and moderation;
4. Reaffirm our commitment to democratic values, good governance, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, equitable and inclusive economic

growth, tolerance and mutual respect as well as adherence to social justice, which are vital to countering terrorism and violent extremism and addressing their root causes;

5. Empower civil society, community and religious leaders as well as encourage the business sector and the media to promote and strengthen the voices of moderation through inclusive dialogue and awareness raising;
6. Work with regional and international institutions to counter the voices of extremism and encourage academic discourse and exchanges to amplify the voices of moderates;
7. Reaffirm our commitment to promote education as an effective means of instilling respect for life, for diversity and the values of moderation, tolerance, non-violence and mutual understanding towards preventing the spread of violent extremism and addressing its root causes;
8. Organise outreach programmes, inter-faith and cross-cultural dialogues as well as the sharing of best practices on moderation in various formats at the national, regional and international levels, including supporting the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and the ASEAN Foundation to conduct seminars, workshops and training programmes in promoting the voices of moderation; and
9. Endorse the observance of a Year of Moderation at the United Nations to underscore the importance of moderation.

**ADOPTED** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

---

# **East Asia Summit Statement on Issues Related to Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
22 November 2015**

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 10<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015;

Reaffirming UN Resolution A/RES/69/28 which noted that information and communication technologies (ICTs) bring immense economic and social benefits, but also can be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international peace and security;

Recalling the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) on the political-security cooperation to respond effectively, in accordance with the principles of comprehensive security, to all forms of threats, transnational crimes, and transboundary challenges, as well as Bali Concord III Plan of Action 2013-2017;

Welcoming the establishment of the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Working Group on Cybercrime as stated in the Joint Statement of the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime to further strengthen the regional cooperation on combating the criminal misuse of ICTs;

Expressing support for ongoing work by bilateral partners and within relevant regional organizations, including the ASEAN Regional Forum and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), to build regional stability of and in the use of ICTs and increased ICT capacity through practical cooperative and capacity building efforts;

Decided that EAS participating countries should endeavor to strengthen national and regional stability in this field by:

1. Intensifying efforts to build robust domestic security of and in the use of ICTs, consistent with their international obligations and domestic law, and to

cooperate on transnational issues of and in the use of ICTs, including capacity building and cooperation on combating the criminal misuse of ICTs; and preventing the use of technology, communications and resources for criminal or terrorist purposes;

2. Developing and strengthening practical cooperation on risk reduction confidence-building measures, in accordance with the ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan on Security of and in the use of Information and Communication Technologies; and
3. Strengthening international cooperation in confidence and capacity building, incident response, and information sharing to address the range of threats to and in the use of ICTs to individuals, businesses, national infrastructure and Governments, consistent with norms, rules and principles of responsible state behavior.

---

# East Asia Summit Declaration on Strengthening Responses to Migrants in Crisis and Trafficking in Persons

Vientiane, Lao PDR  
8 September 2016

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), together with Australia, the People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America on the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic;

**NOTING** with serious concern the large global displacements of people caused by conflict and crises, including the high numbers of displaced women and children, as well as the tragic loss of life at sea and the abuse and exploitation of people, especially those who are in vulnerable situations, at the hands of people smugglers and perpetrators and accomplices of trafficking in persons;

**BEARING IN MIND** the need to address the root causes of irregular movement of persons;

**RECOGNISING** the large number of people displaced by natural disasters whose vulnerability to trafficking in persons, abuse and other forms of exploitation increases, and taking note of recent efforts to integrate human mobility within disaster risk reduction and management strategies and other relevant development processes;

**RECOGNISING ALSO** the urgency of countering trafficking in persons in all its forms, including migrants who may be exploited during the migration process, and the need to support effective international action to address both the immediate and long-term aspects of trafficking in persons;

**BEARING IN MIND** our commitment to our respective international and national legal obligations to undertake efforts to prevent and combat people smuggling and trafficking in persons, and to investigate, prosecute, and punish perpetrators, recognizing that the safety and appropriate protection and treatment of victims of trafficking and migrants in crisis are paramount;

**MINDFUL OF** the increase in the irregular movement of persons, AND **UNDERLINING** our concern for the unique barriers they may face in accessing help during a crisis, such as language barriers, isolation from social support, restrictions on mobility as well as lack of access to documentation and consular services;

**TAKING NOTE** of the adoption of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) by the International Labour Conference, which recognizes that the context and forms of forced or compulsory labour have changed and trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour, which may involve sexual exploitation, is the subject of growing international concern and requires urgent action for its effective elimination;

**COMMENDING** regional efforts to date by affected countries to respond to the irregular movement of persons in the Indian Ocean, including the Ministerial Meeting on Irregular Movement of People in Southeast Asia hosted by Malaysia in Putrajaya and the Special Meetings and Special Retreat on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean hosted by Thailand since May 2015, and the Sixth Bali Process Ministerial Conference in March 2016;

**APPRECIATING** regional and sub-regional efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking in Persons (COMMIT) by the Governments of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region;

**APPLAUDING** the adoption of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the efforts of those ASEAN members who have already ratified the Convention;

**WELCOMING** the initiative of the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants and taking note of the Leaders' Summit on Refugees, to be held during the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly in September 2016;

**EMPHASISING** the important role that the EAS can play, alongside other international mechanisms, in furthering multidimensional region-specific long term approaches to addressing mixed migratory flows, which may include irregular migration, refugees, and victims of trafficking in persons, pursued in a spirit of cooperation and collective effort, in accordance with relevant international instruments and national law;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly

goals 5, 8, 10 and 16 that aim to reduce inequality within and among countries, address the issue of trafficking in persons and promote orderly, safe, responsible migration policies;

**WELCOMING** the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Concerning Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia Region in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2 July 2015; and

**NOTING** with appreciation the establishment of the ASEAN Trust Fund to Support Emergency Humanitarian and Relief Efforts in the Event of the Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia;

**DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:**

1. Promote and protect effectively human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, in order to advance peace, security, development, and social justice, in accordance with applicable international and national laws;
2. Reaffirm our commitment to democratic values, good governance, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, inclusive economic growth, decent work, access to basic services, tolerance and mutual respect, adherence to social justice, as well as safe and legal migration pathways, throughout the migration cycle from the country of origin to destination, which are vital to managing migration and optimizing its benefits;
3. Reaffirm our commitment to our respective international legal obligations and encourage the EAS participating countries to identify and provide appropriate safety and protection to migrants in crisis, people displaced by natural disasters, and victims of human trafficking, in accordance with international and national law;
4. Affirm the support of Non-ASEAN EAS participating countries to ASEAN for full implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in consultation with the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime and the ASEAN Secretariat;
5. Urge States parties to fully implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and call upon States that have not done so to ratify or accede to the UNTOC as well as its Protocol to Prevent,

Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air;

6. Encourage cooperation among EAS participating countries and international and regional organisations to strengthen effective multidimensional responses to these common challenges, in the spirit of international solidarity and collective effort, including by increasing efforts to combat trafficking in persons in supply chains of goods and services of governments and businesses, sharing information about acts of migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, enhancing regional law enforcement cooperation, protecting witnesses and victims in cases of trafficking in persons, and rendering assistance to migrants, caught up in natural disaster and conflict, in accordance with laws and regulations as well as international law;
7. Seek to enhance the ability of EAS participating countries and, where appropriate, the private sector, international organisations and other relevant stakeholders, guided by gender equality, as well as the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, to prepare for and respond to the needs of migrants caught in countries experiencing conflicts or natural disasters, where appropriate, including by providing necessary support and by respecting their rights and dignity;
8. Acknowledge continued regional and sub-regional efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking in Persons (COMMIT) by the Governments of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region and the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) which aim to address the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons, as well as take note of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative, co-chaired by the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America, and the development of its voluntary guidelines for relevant stakeholders, to improve coordination and response in their efforts to assist migrants caught in situations of natural disaster and conflict;
9. Reaffirm our determination to learn from past crises and strengthen the inclusion of migrants and pay attention to their particular needs in the diverse approaches to disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and management, regional response and recovery in EAS participating countries, whilst taking into account prevailing national laws and circumstances;

10. Consider further efforts by EAS participating countries to consult widely among states, civil society, the private sector and migrant organizations, through inclusive approaches to provide practical responses to irregular migration;
11. Reaffirm the value of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, as a voluntary, inclusive, non-binding forum for policy dialogue, information-sharing and capacity building, and as a mechanism to facilitate timely coordination of responses to emergency situations and recognize the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination among members, and with other ongoing regional and global initiatives and note the Bali Declaration on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, agreed at the Sixth Bali Process Ministerial Conference in March 2016;
12. Acknowledge the role that international organizations, the private sector and civil society play to help address the challenges posed by trafficking in persons, people smuggling and irregular migration;
13. Further reaffirm our commitment to take measures to identify victims of all forms of trafficking in persons, including among migrant flows and provide them with appropriate protection and assistance, in accordance with our respective international obligations and national law and policy.

## **East Asia Summit Leaders' Declaration on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism**

**Manila, Philippines  
14 November 2017**

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Countering Ideological Challenges of Terrorism and Terrorist Narratives and Propaganda**

**Manila, Philippines  
14 November 2017**

**WE**, the Heads of State/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 12<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Manila, Philippines on 14 November 2017;

**REAFFIRMING** that the East Asia Summit, 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;

**REITERATING** that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes a global threat to international peace and security and cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, ethnic group or civilisation and that any act of terror is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of the motivations of its perpetrators, whenever, wherever, and by whomsoever committed;

**NOTING** with concern that terrorists craft distorted narratives that are based on the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of religion to justify violence, which are utilized to recruit supporters and Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), mobilize resources, and garner support from sympathizers, in particular by exploiting information and communications technologies, including through the Internet and social media;

**REAFFIRMING** determination to prevent, suppress and eliminate international terrorism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and recognising the need to fully implement the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, as well as the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

**REAFFIRMING** our strong condemnation of terrorist attacks and recalling our strong determination and commitment to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism as a part of these broader counterterrorism efforts, through increased solidarity and global action including, as appropriate, the implementation

of the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and the 2017 ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, the principles reflected in the 2015 East Asia Summit Statement on Countering Violent Extremism and the 2014 East Asia Summit Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** commitments to strengthen cooperation in line with the EAS Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates;

**UNDERSCORING** the leading role of States and their competent agencies in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism at the national, regional and international levels, and stressing the necessity to develop international cooperation in accordance with international law and the principles of the UN Charter, including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of all States, as well as taking into account the Declaration of the EAS on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations;

**STRESSING** the urgent need to develop the most effective means to counter terrorist activities globally, including countering the spread of terrorist and violent extremist ideology and propaganda, and incitement of and recruitment to commit terrorist acts and in this regard recalling the UN Security Council Resolution 1624 (2005) which calls on States to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law to prohibit by law incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as welcoming the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2354 (2017) in support of a comprehensive international framework on countering terrorist narratives;

**RECOGNISING** the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and the drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, both internal and external, pursuant to international law and while ensuring national ownership and recognizing that none of these can excuse or justify terrorist acts;

**DESIRING** to further strengthen our cooperation to counter the ideological challenges of terrorism and terrorist narratives and propaganda.

**DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:**

1. Encourage all States to accede to and/or ratify and implement relevant international instruments on counter-terrorism;
2. Implement relevant UN Security Council Resolutions on counter-terrorism and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, support the United Nations

Office of Counter-Terrorism, and take note of the UN Secretary General Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism;

3. Join efforts to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism in the region in accordance with international law and principles of the UN Charter, including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States, as well as taking into account the Declaration of the EAS on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations, including the principle of non-interference, and enhance cooperation to support initiatives and measures aimed at combating those conditions;
4. Support ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism, and the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime, where appropriate and in accordance with national priorities;
5. Strengthen cooperation to promote the values of moderation and terrorist deradicalisation initiatives, including through exchange of experiences and best practices;
6. Commit to enhance cooperation through the exchange of experiences and best practices on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration in order to counter the ideological challenges of terrorism and terrorist narratives and propaganda, and to take necessary and appropriate measures in this regard in accordance with international obligations and domestic laws;
7. Strengthen cooperation to stop terrorism financing efforts, suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and prevent recruitment of members of terrorist groups;
8. Counter the use of ICTs, in particular the Internet and social media platforms, for terrorist purposes, *inter alia*, for spreading terrorist and violent extremist ideology and propaganda, radicalizing to violence, recruiting to join terrorist organisations and inciting individuals to commit terrorist acts, in line with international law and national legislation;
9. Cooperate to counter terrorist and violent extremist ideology and propaganda, and promote positive messages of respect, inclusion and moderation, including through developing a compendium of regional counter-narratives and a regional network for civil society organisations to amplify effective messages across the region;

10. Encourage public-private partnerships and cooperation with civil and religious society, the business community, technology sectors, the media, and educational institutions to support and contribute to national, regional and global campaigns against terrorism as well as to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding, promote moderation, respect and coexistence, disseminate positive alternative narratives, and foster an environment that is not conducive to terrorism while respecting international obligations, including human rights and fundamental freedoms;
11. Continue to work with the United Nations and other international and regional institutions and, where appropriate, other relevant centres in ASEAN and other regions to continuously develop strategies, techniques and tactics to counter terrorism and related threats.





# **ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF)**





# **Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement**

**Ha Noi, Viet Nam  
23 July 2010**

The Plan of Action (PoA) implements the ARF Vision Statement adopted by ARF Foreign Ministers who at their 16<sup>th</sup> ARF Meeting in July 2009 charted out a vision for the ARF by 2020. It is a step to strengthen the ARF process, with ASEAN as the primary driving force, as a central pillar in the evolving regional security architecture.

The Plan of Action will help to move the ARF process forward at a pace comfortable to all Participants, in its evolution from the stage of confidence-building measures, which have been the main focus of the ARF's activities, to the development of preventive diplomacy, while the ultimate stage is elaboration on approaches to conflict resolution.

The Plan of Action will also help the ARF cooperation process become more action-oriented, so that it can effectively contribute to enduring peace and stability in the region.

The Plan of Action, therefore, contains policy guidance for the Forum to develop and implement concrete and practical actions, including those agreed under ARF's work plans in its areas of cooperation.

The Plan of Action should be implemented in accordance with the principle of consensus, on a voluntary basis, and in conformity with relevant international and national laws and regulations.

## **I. Areas of Cooperation**

### **1. Disaster Relief**

By 2020, ARF aims to harmonize regional cooperation in Disaster Relief/Management and strengthen the interoperability of civilian and military relief operations.

- 1.1. Support the work of the ARF ISM on DR as an established ARF framework to deal with regional disaster relief issues.
- 1.2. Support and contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) through concrete and practical activities.
- 1.3. Support civil-military coordination that enhances regional capacity to provide effective and timely responses to major natural disasters, including through the holding of exercises on a regular basis commensurate with the capacity of ARF Participants.
- 1.4. Develop and refine tools such as regional protocols, a standby arrangement system, a model legal arrangement for foreign military assistance, common standard operating procedures, best practices, a voluntary registration scheme of civilian and military capabilities, and innovative initiatives that ultimately create effective regional disaster response framework complementary to internationally established guidelines.
- 1.5. Establish a clear working relationship and ensure complementarity with other international and regional bodies dealing with disaster relief such as the UN system, EAS, APEC, ASEM and Asia Pacific Conference on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations (APC-MADRO), including through such means as collaboration with these fora's activities.

## **2. Counter Terrorism - Transnational Crime**

By 2020, ARF will develop an effective network for regional law enforcement and military agencies to build regional capacity, share information, and individually and collectively respond in a timely and effective manner to the threats posed by terrorism and transnational crime in the region.

- 2.1. Support the work of the ARF ISM on CTTC as a framework to address regional terrorism and transnational crime.
- 2.2. Support the early ratification and implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters among ASEAN Member States.
- 2.3. Encourage ARF Participants to accede, ratify, and implement relevant UN international instruments and conventions and participate actively in international counter terrorism and transnational crime fora.
- 2.4. Support the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.

- 2.5. Support the development of national strategies and legal frameworks in the field of counter terrorism and transnational crimes through such means as information exchange and capacity building.
- 2.6. Explore the possibility of establishing an ARF tool, as appropriate, to provide legal assistance upon requests in combating transnational security threats.
- 2.7. Encourage ICT (Information and Communication Technology) security and build on and further develop the 2006 ARF Statement on Fighting Cyber Attack.
- 2.8. Work towards the establishment of an ARF transnational threat information-sharing center that utilizes and deepens existing regional mechanisms and centers specializing in information-sharing and capacity-building and develops new information-sharing, subject to proper data protection, and capacity-building arrangements when appropriate and in partnership with existing mechanisms.
- 2.9. Encourage technical cooperation among ARF Participants through transfer of skills, knowledge and technology including possible mutual assistance to enhance the technological capabilities of developing countries and in conformity with international commitments and national law.
- 2.10. Support the development of initiatives aimed at addressing conditions conducive to terrorism and transnational crimes that terrorists and perpetrators of transnational crimes can exploit.
- 2.11. Develop programs and activities aimed at the promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance, respect for diversity and inter-faith, intra-faith and intercultural dialogue in the region.
- 2.12. Exchange best practices in the field of law enforcement.
- 2.13. Hold concrete activities such as seminars, workshops, and exercises, as and when appropriate, in order to contribute to ARF's CTTC goals.

### **3. Maritime Security**

By 2020, ARF should serve as a regional forum for maritime security issues that promotes and enhances maritime domain awareness, and develop concrete and effective regional responses to maritime security challenges.

- 3.1. Support the work of the ARF ISM on MS as an established regional framework that addresses maritime security issues.

- 3.2. Promote compliance and adherence to relevant international legal instruments and regional arrangements.
- 3.3. Forge close cooperation toward enhancing the safety and security of navigation, including the implementation of standards, best practices, and data-sharing for small vessel registration on a national and, as appropriate, regional basis, taking into account existing regional mechanisms and frameworks.
- 3.4. Utilize the work of national and regional think tanks to assist the work of the ISM on Maritime Security to enhance transparency in regional maritime security.
- 3.5. Promote regional maritime security capacity-building through concrete activities such as information-sharing, exchanges of officials, and holding maritime security-related tabletop and joint training exercises as and when appropriate.
- 3.6. Promote networking among ARF, ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF), IMO, IOR-ARC, ReCAAP, as well as other maritime-related fora, as part of a comprehensive and mutually beneficial approach to maritime cooperation.
- 3.7. Promote cooperation in maritime issues, including maritime security and safety and search and rescue, through activities such as information sharing and technological cooperation in line with national and international laws.
- 3.8. Forge closer cooperation in combating maritime terrorism and transnational maritime crimes such as piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking, smuggling, and trafficking in person, in accordance with national and international laws through concrete and practical activities.

#### **4. Non-proliferation and disarmament**

By 2020, ARF should develop national and regional capacity and promote common efforts in non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear, chemical and biological technology.

- 4.1. Support the work of the ISM on Non-proliferation and Disarmament (NPD) as a framework to address non-proliferation, peaceful use and disarmament issues.
- 4.2. With a view to contributing to the process of global nuclear disarmament, ARF participants might consider the merit of the CTBT.

- 4.3. Support the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and identify how ARF could contribute to its achievement.
- 4.4. Promote ARF contributions to the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy through sharing national experiences and assisting in capacity building in cooperation with the IAEA, including on the relevant nationally applicable IAEA standards on nuclear non proliferation, safeguards, safety and security in accordance with their respective international legal commitments.
- 4.5. Support the implementation by ARF participants of international treaties to which they are parties.
- 4.6. Encourage nuclear weapon States and States parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty to work constructively with a view to ensuring early accession of the nuclear weapon States to the Protocol to the Treaty.
- 4.7. Encourage ARF participants which have not yet done so to accede to or ratify Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their destruction.
- 4.8. Encourage the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and the relevant recommendations of the UNSCR 1540 Committee in the work of ISM on NPD.
- 4.9. Support regional and national efforts toward the effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects.
- 4.10. Exchange experience and promote the development of relevant best practices and with a view to building common approaches in strategic export controls where appropriate.

## **5. Peacekeeping Operations**

By 2020, ARF will further enhance the regional capacity and readiness for peacekeeping activities, including through necessary training measures.

- 5.1. Compile a list of peacekeeping best practices and lessons learned including inputs from UN and other regional organisations.
- 5.2. Update on a regular basis the list of ARF peacekeeping contact points to facilitate information sharing.
- 5.3. Support the convening of ARF Meetings of Peacekeeping Experts or some other mutually agreed modalities on a regular basis.

- 5.4. Promote networking among ARF Participants' peacekeeping centers to encourage cooperation among them in such areas as training and seminars.
- 5.5. Hold ARF joint training and planning activities, including to conduct desk-top and scenario-based planning exercises for the ARF on peacekeeping operation exercises as and when appropriate with the consent of ARF Participants.

## **6. Defense Dialogues**

By 2020, ARF should further integrate defense track and personnel into the ARF process.

- 6.1. Strengthen the effectiveness of the Defense Officials Dialogue (DOD) by making it more aligned with and supportive of the broader ARF process.
- 6.2. Extend the DOD to one full day and conduct working groups, if necessary, to allow it to discuss defense and military issues in the ISG and SOM's agenda and recommend ARF actions to the ISG.
- 6.3. Promote proper alignment of the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) with ARF's activities to ensure practical and effective defense participation in the ARF process.
- 6.4. Expand the capacity of the ARF Heads of Defense Universities, Colleges, and Institutions Meeting (ARF HDUCIM) to exchange best practices in defense policies and academic development.
- 6.5. Encourage the DOD and ASPC contributions to and implementation of the relevant activities under the Plan of Action.
- 6.6. Ensure complementarity between ARF and the proposed ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) to avoid duplication of efforts.

## **II. CBMs and PD**

By 2020, ARF should continue its efforts on consolidating CBMs while implementing PD activities/measures.

**1. Consolidation of CBMs:**

- 1.1. Encourage non ASEAN ARF countries to appoint and accredit Ambassadors to ASEAN and to consider appointing a mission and/or dedicated official to also work on ARF matters in Jakarta.
- 1.2. Continue the current practice of initiating and implementing CBMs by at least one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN ARF Participant.
- 1.3. Compile best practices on confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution for further development by ARF.
- 1.4. Improve the collection, dissemination, and exchange of information and analyses of regional security concerns.
- 1.5. Encourage ARF Participants to arrive at mutually agreed CBMs and support the promotion of their implementation to enhance peace, stability, economic growth and prosperity in the region.
- 1.6. Encourage greater participation of ARF defense officials in ARF activities in order to promote greater transparency and understanding of defense policies and security perceptions.
- 1.7. Increase bilateral exchanges and cooperation among defense officials and military training institutions in order to promote trust and mutual understanding.
- 1.8. Hold ARF exercises upon the consent of the interested states in areas to include disaster relief and other areas of cooperation and develop an early and realistic time table for their regular execution.

**2. Implementation of PD Activities/Measures:**

- 2.1. Develop and implement an ARF Preventive Diplomacy (PD) Work Plan as mandated by the 16<sup>th</sup> ARF.

**III. Institutional Enhancement**

By 2020, ARF will expand and enhance the effectiveness of its institutional features to ensure the successful implementation of the PoA.

- 1. Promote the role of the ARF Chair with the possibility of assistance from the Secretary General of ASEAN as a point of first contact in cases of emergency or crisis**

**2. Activate and exercise the Friends of the ARF Chair mechanism as and when needed**

**3. Strengthen the ARF Unit**

- 3.1. Expand the expertise and personnel capacity of the ARF Unit in a manner that assists the ARF Chair in efficiently facilitating the work of the ARF.
- 3.2. Elevate the ARF Unit into a division of the ASEAN Secretariat through the increase of the number of officials working in the ARF Unit.
- 3.3. Encourage all ARF Participants to contribute funding, personnel, and expertise assistance to the ARF Unit on a project-by-project basis or through more comprehensive means.
- 3.4. Hold regular discussions to review the capacity of the ARF Unit and as appropriate seek out additional resources from ARF Participants, and plan appropriate resource assistance to the ARF Unit.

**4. Enhance the role of ARF EEPs**

- 4.1. Consider utilization of ARF EEPs as expert consultative resources.
- 4.2. Consider expanding the functions of EEPs.

**5. Expand the ARF Fund**

- 5.1. Encourage the development of an appropriate procedure to secure commitments by ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners to fund ARF activities through their existing ASEAN assistance programs.
- 5.2. Support the development of innovative funding modalities for ARF activities with the consent of ARF Participants.

**6. Develop fruitful ARF partnerships and networks**

- 6.1. Improve the networking of established regional security centers, think-tanks, and the ARF Unit.
- 6.2. Encourage the development of an ARF consultation process with accredited and mutually acceptable Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on regional security matters.
- 6.3. Consider the establishment of an ARF academic institute of regional security studies, under rules and mandate to be prescribed by the ARF, and to be situated within ASEAN.

**7. Work with regional and international security bodies**

- 7.1. Develop concrete and mutually beneficial cooperation programmes, as appropriate, with relevant regional and international security bodies, including those of the UN system.

**8. Work with Track II organizations**

- 8.1. Encourage joint research projects on defense issues by regional government-affiliated policy and strategic research institutes.
- 8.2. Encourage the development of modality/guidelines for regular consultation with Track II organizations.
- 8.3. Encourage the development of an appropriate procedure that allows Track II participants to meaningfully contribute to ARF, through the implementation of the existing procedure to consider recommendations from ASEAN-ISIS, and CSCAP.
- 8.4. Encourage Track II organizations to enhance ARF's public profile and visibility.

**IV. Review and Implementation**

1. The implementation of the PoA should be reviewed and evaluated annually by the ISG and SOM to ensure that all its activities are responsive to the needs and priorities of the ARF.
2. ISM co-chairs are responsible to review and brief the ISG and SOM on the progress of the implementation of their respective Areas of Cooperation. ISM co-chairs should facilitate the development of the appropriate modalities to implement the items under their Area of Cooperation.
3. The ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat is responsible for preparing a progress report of this PoA and submit to the Ministers for consideration.
4. Measures adopted by ARF Ministers on improving ARF's working methods should be strictly implemented by the PoA.
5. The PoA's implementation should be maintained as one agenda item of ISG and SOM meetings.
6. Any amendment to the PoA should be made with the consent of all ARF Participants and adopted by Ministers.

## **ASEAN Regional Forum Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security**

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
12 July 2012**

*Noting* the considerable progress in developing and applying advanced information and communication technologies (ICTs);

*Expressing concern* regarding the vulnerability of ICTs to threats to their availability, reliability and integrity from a variety of malicious sources;

*Recognizing* the need for all ARF participants to take systematic steps to protect their national information infrastructures;

*Taking into account* the UN General Assembly resolutions on the developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, aimed at combating the use of ICTs for criminal or terrorist purposes and purposes inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security;

*Recognizing* that confidence and security in the use of ICTs are among the main pillars of the information society, and that a robust global culture of cyber security needs to be encouraged, promoted, developed and vigorously implemented;

*Bearing in mind* that ensuring security in the use of ICTs should be consistent with international law and its basic principles;

*Acknowledging* the increasing interconnectivity in the use of ICTs by countries in the region;

*Underlining* the need to bolster coordination and cooperation among ARF participants in strengthening security in the use of ICTs;

*Highlighting* the need for further dialogue on the development of confidence-building and other transparency measures to reduce the risk of misperception, escalation and conflict;

*Stressing* the need for enhanced efforts to close the digital divide by capacity building for developing countries and exchanging best practices and training in the sphere of security in the use of ICTs;

*Consistent with* the ARF Statement on Cooperation in Fighting Cyber Attacks and Terrorist Misuse of Cyberspace of July 28, 2006;

*Noting* the United Nations Consensus Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (A/65/201);

ARF participants reiterate the need to further intensify regional cooperation on security in the use of ICTs, including through the following measures:

- promote further consideration of strategies to address threats emerging in this field consistent with international law and its basic principles;
- promote dialogue on confidence-building, stability, and risk reduction measures to address the implications of ARF participants' use of ICTs, including exchange of views on the potential use of ICTs in conflict;
- encourage and enhance cooperation in bringing about culture of cyber security;
- develop an ARF work plan on security in the use of ICTs, focused on practical cooperation on confidence building measures, which could set out corresponding goals and a timeframe for their implementation; and
- review a possibility to elaborate common terms and definitions relevant to the sphere of the use of ICTs.

## **ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Strengthening Cooperation in the Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals**

**Vientiane, Lao PDR  
26 July 2016**

In recent years, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and terrorism have become increasingly serious and have severely harmed Asia-Pacific countries. Many of these crimes are closely linked to the cross-border movement of criminals. Given this, ARF Participants seek to strengthen cooperation in the management of cross-border movement of criminals.

*Recalling* the ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Cooperative Counter-Terrorist Action on Border Security issued at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum in 2003.

*Condemning* all forms and manifestations of violence and transnational organized crime, no matter where, when, who, and which organizations carry out such activities that have impaired peace, order, security and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large;

*Noting with* concern the serious threats posed by the cross-border movement of criminals and of the negative economic and social implications related to organized criminal activities;

*Desiring* to improve law enforcement cooperation and cooperation on border management in combating illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and terrorism in accordance with the respective ARF countries' domestic laws and regulations and bringing criminal offenders to justice;

*Further desiring* to make full use of existing frameworks for law enforcement cooperation including information sharing on the management of cross-border movement of criminals;

*Recognizing* that terrorist activity has undergone complex and profound changes in recent years, where the patterns of terrorist attacks have become internationalized, and cross-border movement of terrorists has become increasingly frequent, posing serious challenges to the respective domestic security of countries in the Asia-Pacific and to regional and international peace and stability, creating a greater need for all Participants to cooperate more closely in light of their common

interests. In this context, the common interests and space for cooperation in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism which can be conducive to terrorism, among all parties have expanded greatly;

*Noting* that regional cooperation is necessary to strengthen border management and the prevention, detection and prosecution of cross-border crime to benefit all ARF Participants and other countries in the region, while recognizing that its effectiveness needs to be improved;

*Recalling* the relevant principles of international laws including the United Nations Charter, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, and the three UN Conventions, where applicable, related to drugs as well as relevant binding UN Security Council resolutions;

*Committing* ourselves to holistic and comprehensive approaches to countering violent crimes, corruption, and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, and to ensuring that those responses are implemented in a coordinated and coherent manner, along with broader programs or measures for social and economic development, poverty eradication, respect for cultural diversity, social peace and social inclusion;

*Reaffirming* our commitment and strong political will in support for effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems and the institutions comprising them, and encouraging the effective participation and inclusion of all sectors of society, while respecting fully the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and recognizing the responsibility of Participants to uphold human dignity, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in particular for those affected by crime and those who may be in contact with the criminal justice system, including vulnerable members of society, regardless of their status, who may be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination, and to prevent and counter crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind.

*Calling* on all ARF Participants to endeavor to strengthen regional cooperation in accordance with their respective domestic laws and regulations in the following areas:

1. Preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and terrorism in all its forms and manifestation, in an effective and efficient manner to alleviate pressure on and promote effective border management of countries throughout the region, including through enhanced cooperation.

2. Enhancing, with the aim to promote, greater operational cooperation in border interdiction, border management, and information exchange to prevent illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and terrorism, including the suppressing of terrorist financing.
3. Making full use of the existing mechanisms to facilitate information sharing and operational cooperation on preventing and combating transnational crime and terrorism among law-enforcement and relevant border control agencies, where relevant, and explore the possibility of establishing more platforms to enlarge such cooperation as appropriate.
4. Encouraging all ARF Participants to explore ways to strengthen information sharing, including information on terrorist organizations, and cooperation and technical exchanges on countering terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and on effective border management at national and regional levels, among immigration and border control agencies.
5. Continuing to enhance international cooperation on extradition and mutual legal assistance (MLA), including confiscation of proceeds of crime and the transfer of sentenced persons among other areas in accordance with domestic laws and regulations.
6. Enhancing cooperation and exchange information on trends and techniques used in the illicit trafficking of drugs at border areas through land, sea or air, as well as on the identity and movements of suspected persons, and the movement of properties, equipment and other instrumentalities involved in the commission of illicit drug trafficking, as well as best practices on border management among law enforcement and relevant border control agencies in the region.
7. Strengthening the study of, communication on, and exchange and sharing of best practices on countering terrorism, and combating transnational organized crime, and where appropriate, explore the possibility of conducting joint research in these areas of study and enhance cooperation in personnel training and organizing mutual visits to improve capacity building and capabilities of ARF Participants.
8. Undertaking efforts to strengthen coordination and information sharing between ARF ISM on CTTC with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN-led mechanisms related to strengthening management of cross-border movements of criminals involved in transnational organized crime and terrorism, such as the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational

Crime (SOMTC) and ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM).

9. Developing strategies, at national and regional levels as appropriate, to disrupt the movement of criminals and enhance border management capabilities.

# ARF Statement on Enhancing Cooperation in Addressing and Countering the Drug Problem

Manila, Philippines  
7 August 2017

**Promoting** a balanced, comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based approach to address the World Drug Problem;

**Realizing** that illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking and the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances have been undermining the political stability, economic and social development of the region and posing a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all people in the region;

**Recognizing** drug dependence as a complex, multifactorial health disorder characterized by a chronic and relapsing nature with social causes and consequences that can be prevented and treated through, *inter alia*, effective scientific evidence-based drug treatment, care and rehabilitation programmes;

**Reaffirming** the commitment to promoting comprehensive demand and supply reduction efforts that include preventive measures addressing, *inter alia*, the relevant factors that may facilitate, drive, enable and perpetuate organized crime and drug-related crime;

**Noting with grave concern** the rebound of opium poppy cultivation in many parts of the world, including in the Golden Triangle and the growing production, trafficking and use of synthetic drugs, especially methamphetamine in the Asia Pacific;

**Recognizing** that the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially developing countries among them, continue to face multifaceted challenges resulting from illicit drug trafficking, and emphasizing the continuing need to provide concrete, sufficient and sustainable support to such States in their efforts to curb illicit drug trafficking and deal with associated challenges;

**Reiterating** that the three international drug control conventions constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system;

**Reaffirming** the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations Systems for addressing and countering the world drug problem, and reaffirming also the drug treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization;

**Emphasizing** that the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the World drug problem, which represents the most recent consensus, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing countering the world drug problem”, as the basis to build on our work towards the 2019 UN-CND Ministerial Segment. These documents represent the commitment made by the international community over the preceding decade to addressing and countering, in a balanced manner, the world drug problem, and recognizes that those documents are complementary and mutually reinforcing;

**Acknowledging** the contribution made by ASEAN and relevant ASEAN drug control mechanisms such as ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters and Safe Mekong Operation Project in combating the drug problem and promoting regional cooperation, and supporting the efforts made by countries and organizations in the Asia-Pacific and Europe to counter the drug problem;

**Taking note** of ASEAN’s Drug Free Vision and supporting the efforts of ASEAN to contribute to promoting a society free of drug abuse and ensure, that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity;

**Fully aware** of the fact that addressing the drug problem is a common and shared responsibility of the international community and the need to accelerate collective efforts, including through enhanced international and regional cooperation, and demands integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approaches based on scientific evidence and experience, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

To this end, ARF participating countries commit to, in the spirit of solidarity, enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation to effectively address and counter the drug problem in the following ways:

1. Fully respecting purposes and principles of Charter of the United Nations, international law, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the sovereignty of States in choosing their approaches for countering the drug problem, in line with the international drug control conventions, and also taking into account relevant regional documents and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.
2. Fully respect and fulfill all human rights and fundamental freedoms while addressing the drug problem, paying special attention to protecting the safety, interests and rights of vulnerable groups including women, children and youth.
3. Promote the policies and the principle of the rule of law of states in addressing the drug problem, adopt an integrated, comprehensive and balanced strategy, in order to reduce the supply and demand of the illicit drugs, while ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, while effectively preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking according to the three UN conventions and national legislation.
4. Address the drug problem using evidence-based practices in a transparent and effective way, especially focused on poverty reduction, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures, education and information dissemination among the youth, adapting policies and measures to the specific needs of drug-affected or at-risk populations, raising public awareness of the dangers and risks associated with drug abuse as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse.
5. Continue efforts to mobilize relevant social sectors, if possible, and invite relevant national authorities to consider, in accordance with their national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, including in national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures and programmes, in the context of comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction efforts, effective measure aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including, appropriate medication-assisted therapy programmes, injecting equipment programmes, as well as antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, as well as consider ensuring access to such interventions, including in treatment and outreach services, prisons and other custodial settings, and promoting in that regard the use,

---

as appropriate, of the technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care for injecting drug users, issued by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

6. Encourage the voluntary participation of individuals with drug use disorders in treatment programmes, with informed consent, where consistent with national legislation, and develop and implement outreach programmes and campaigns, involving drug users in long-term recovery, where appropriate, to prevent social marginalization and promote non-stigmatizing attitudes, as well as to encourage drug users to seek treatment and care, and take measures to facilitate access to treatment and expand capacity.
7. Significantly strengthen the cooperation between competent authorities, including judicial and law enforcement authorities, as relevant, in countering drug-related criminal activities, especially in combating transnational organized drug trafficking including suppressing illicit traffic by sea, diversion of precursor chemicals and money laundering, improve information exchanges. Commit to address the drug problem from its root.
8. Promote effective measures capable of addressing the links between drug-related crimes and corruption, as well as obstruction of justice, including through the intimidation of justice officials, as a part of national anti-corruption and drugs control strategies.
9. Strengthen actions to address the new trends in drug trafficking and new challenges such as illicit trade of international or state controlled substances and new psychoactive substances through the Internet, as well as the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine in the region and the financing of terrorism through drug trafficking.
10. Support research, data collection, analysis of evidence and sharing of information and strengthen law enforcement, criminal justice and legal responses, as well as international cooperation, to prevent and counter drug-related criminal activities using the Internet, consistent with relevant and applicable law.
11. Call on all members to continue to identify and monitor trends in the composition, production, prevalence and distribution of new psychoactive substances, including through use of early warning networks, developing appropriate national legislative, prevention and treatment and rehabilitation models and supporting scientific evidence-based review, and scheduling of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful substances.

12. Call on all members to share experiences in the legislation on countering the abuse and trafficking of new psychoactive substances, promote its incorporation into the regulatory of international conventions of the substances which are socially harmful, of high abuse risk, and endangering public security.
13. In line with national legislations, consider the development, adoption and implementation of alternative measures to conviction and punishment and promotion of proportionate national sentencing policies, practices and guidelines for drug-related offences, consistent with the three UN drug control conventions, international law and taking into account relevant UN standards, and regional documents.
14. Support development efforts, including to work to help resolve the social and economic problems related to illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production, manufacturing and trafficking, and promote sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development, as an essential part of successful prevention and crop control strategies.
15. Enhance the role and function of regional drug control and prevention systems, and under the international drug control system based on the three international drug control conventions, improve the coordination and synergy among regional and international mechanisms.
16. Promote exchanges and sharing of experience, intelligence and technology, as well as capacity building in countering the drug problem among ARF participating countries and consider providing appropriate assistance to less developed members in terms of funds, technology and capacity building.
17. Encourage the international community to pay more attention to and consider putting resources into addressing the worsening drug problem in the region.
18. Recognize that the supply and demand of drugs reinforce each other and drug trafficking has multiple and severe negative impacts on the development of all countries and call to continue to develop and implement effective prevention strategies, in accordance with national legislation and national requirements, and while simultaneously developing and implementing supply reduction strategies, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.

\*\*\*



ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities

 ASEAN

 @ASEAN

 @asean

 [www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org)