

**GUIDING CRITERIA AND MODALITIES IN ENGAGING EXTERNAL PARTIES
FOR THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME**

1. Taking into consideration the increasing interest and requests to meet and consult with the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), this set of Guiding Criteria on Engaging External Parties shall guide the AMMTC in assessing the requests for consultations and informal meetings by external parties and ensure coherence and consistency in the conduct of ASEAN's external relations.
2. The AMMTC's engagements with external parties shall be guided by the following criteria and modalities:
 - a. The external party must have been conferred the formal status of a Dialogue Partner, Sectoral Dialogue Partner or Development Partner of ASEAN by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, in accordance with Articles 41 and 44 of the ASEAN Charter;
 - b. The external party must have had significant interactions and relations with ASEAN and have held more than five consultations with the SOMTC on a regular basis. The assessment on the interactions and relations between ASEAN and the requesting external party will be submitted by the ASEAN Secretariat for the consideration of the SOMTC. The SOMTC shall then make its recommendation to the AMMTC;
 - c. The external party has the capacity and capability to work with the AMMTC in enhancing ASEAN's capacity to address transnational crime issues effectively and in a timely manner;
 - d. The external party should have already demonstrated support by providing expertise, perspectives and resources as well as its commitment in implementing joint instruments that have been signed/adopted/issued by the external party and the ASEAN Member States;
 - e. The AMMTC's decision to accept the requests for consultations shall be decided by consensus based on the recommendation from the SOMTC; and
 - f. The external party shall send the appropriate level of representation to the consultation with the AMMTC, i.e. a Minister in charge of transnational crime issues. The information on the level of representation shall be conveyed to the ASEAN Member States well in advance of the consultation.
3. The AMMTC's engagement with external parties shall also be in accordance with the Guidelines for ASEAN's External Relations which is appended as **ANNEX A**.
4. This Guiding Criteria and Modalities shall be reviewed and updated by the AMMTC as deemed necessary by consensus.