

*Adopted*

## **ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER TERRORISM (WG on CT)**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### Background

1. The ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) was signed by ASEAN Leaders at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 January 2007 in Cebu. The ACCT is a legally-binding document which provides a regional cooperation framework to counter, prevent and suppress terrorism. Following the signing of the ACCT, ASEAN Member States are currently in the process of ratifying it.
2. Article XVI of the ACCT stipulates that the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies involved in ASEAN cooperation on counter terrorism shall be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the ACCT. As there has yet to be a mechanism within the ASEAN framework to carry out such responsibilities, ASEAN Member States viewed that it is timely to institutionalize the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Counter Terrorism (WG on CT) for the above purpose.
3. In line with this view, the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Counter Terrorism, held on 25 June 2007 in Vientiane, endorsed the ASEAN Secretariat's recommendations that the SOMTC Ad-Hoc Working Group on Counter Terrorism be institutionalized to deal with counter terrorism issues, in particular to monitor and review the implementation of the ACCT.
4. In accordance with the decision of the 4<sup>th</sup> SOMTC, the ASEAN Lead Shepherd for ASEAN Cooperation in Counter Terrorism would be assumed by a Member State on voluntary basis.

#### Scope of Work of the WG on CT

5. The main objective of the WG on CT is to deal with issues of counter terrorism in ASEAN, particularly to implement, monitor and review the ACCT. To achieve this objective, the WG on CT will be tasked to carry out the following activities, among others
  - a) Facilitate discussion on actions to be taken by Member States on matters pertaining to counter terrorism;
  - b) Promote cooperation to facilitate the early entry into force of the ACCT, including the ratification by all Member States;
  - c) Promote cooperation to implement the ACCT;

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- d) Monitor and review the implementation of the ACCT and produce reports and recommendations on the implementation of the ACCT.
- e) Carry out operational task of the recommendations as mandated by SOMTC and AMMTC.

#### Structure of the WG on CT

6. The WG on CT comprises of Senior Officials of ASEAN Member States involved in counter terrorism. Progress and outcomes of the WG on CT will be reported by the Chair of the WG on CT to SOMTC.

7. Unless otherwise decided by the SOMTC, the ASEAN Lead Shepherd for Counter Terrorism becomes the Chair of the WG on CT.

#### Timeframe and Work Schedule

8. The WG on CT shall meet at least once a year on a regular basis prior to and back-to-back with the SOMTC.

#### Budget and Management

9. The convening of WG on CT will be supported by the Host/Chair. Each delegation shall cover their own travel and accommodation costs while the host will cover expenses for the venue and meeting arrangements.

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