

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE
8TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON CYBERSECURITY
18 OCTOBER 2023**

The 8th ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity (AMCC) was convened on 18 October 2023 in Singapore. The AMCC was chaired by Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information and Minister-in-charge of Smart Nation and Cybersecurity of the Republic of Singapore. The Main Session of the AMCC was attended by participants from all ASEAN Member States (AMS). The ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General for Economic Community was also in attendance.

2. The 8th AMCC built on past AMCC sessions and exchanged perspectives on the rapidly changing cyber landscape as well as discussed ways to strengthen and advance regional cybersecurity efforts against increasingly sophisticated and transboundary threats. AMCC participants affirmed the importance of cybersecurity as a key enabler for the region to reap the benefits of digitalisation and promote the safe interaction within the digital economy. The participants recognised the heightened level of cyber threats globally, including the emergence of new threats to Critical Information Infrastructure protection, ransomware, AI-enabled cyber threats as well as scams.

3. Participants underscored the importance of continuing the coordinated ASEAN approach to addressing these threats, including the strengthening of Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT)-to-CERT information sharing, exchange of best practices and targeted capacity building programmes. In this regard, they welcomed the progress made on the proposal to establish an ASEAN Regional CERT. Participants acknowledged the valuable contribution that the ASEAN CERT could bring in raising the regional cybersecurity posture to support the work of ASEAN National CERTs. They looked forward to a successful conclusion of the discussion of implementation details of this proposal at the 4th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting to be held in Singapore in February 2024, with the early establishment of the ASEAN CERT.

4. Participants also welcomed the continuing regional capacity building work being undertaken by the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC) and the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE). They proposed that both Centres also focus their efforts on developing capacity building programmes that would help ASEAN Member States to develop national capabilities to better address new and emerging threats. In this regard, participants are concerned regarding the threat posed by online scams with the growing

sophistication of cyber threats. They anticipate further discussion on concrete regional cooperation efforts to address the issue at the 4th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting in February 2024.

5. Turning to discussions at the ongoing United Nations Open-ended Working Group (UN OEWG) on the Security of and in the use of ICTs, participants welcomed the progress made and the adoption by consensus of the 2nd Annual Progress Report (2nd APR) in July 2023. They underscored the need for UN OEWG discussions to continue considering the development and implementation of concrete and practical initiatives on the implementation of voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour in cyberspace, confidence-building measures, and capacity building activities in support of building an open, safe, secure, stable, accessible, interoperable, peaceful, and resilient cyberspace.

6. In this regard, participants welcomed the establishment of a Global Points-of-Contact Directory for cybersecurity as contained in the 2nd APR. They proposed that further discussions could be undertaken on issues such as the application of international law to cyberspace, the implementation of voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour as contained in the 2015 United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (UNGGE)'s report, the development of a list of global confidence-building measures for cybersecurity and coordinated international capacity building. They also noted the progress made in the ASEAN Regional Action Plan matrix on norms implementation and proposed that the matrix should be utilised to identify specific capacity building activities that would help ASEAN Member States implement norms in line with national priorities and capability needs.

7. During the Special Session with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, participants expressed appreciation for the continued partnership with Dialogue Partners on cybersecurity matters, including through joint cooperation and capacity building initiatives. Both sides exchanged views on how governments and non-governmental stakeholders could strengthen cooperation for a collective safeguarding of the cyberspace, so that everyone can continue to reap the benefits of a digitalised world.

8. Participants asked the ASEAN Secretariat to submit the 8th AMCC Chairman's Statement and the outcomes of these discussions to the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summit for notation and to other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies for further consideration.