



## **ASEAN DECLARATION ON COMBATTING CYBERCRIME AND ONLINE SCAMS**

The Nineteenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (19<sup>th</sup> AMMTC) was convened in Melaka, Malaysia, on 10 September 2025;

**JOINTLY ACKNOWLEDGE** that cybercrime and online scams have grown rapidly to become a highly pervasive and complex transnational organised threat that has generated a multitude of upstream and downstream crimes, including, but not limited to, identity theft, phishing attacks, financial fraud, money laundering, illicit drug trafficking, online gambling, people smuggling, and trafficking in persons (TIP), which have seriously endangered the lives and properties of our people, and adversely impacted social stability in the region;

**EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERN** over the devastating social and financial losses to individuals and the undermining of public trust in law enforcement and government institutions;

**NOTING WITH DEEP CONCERN** the proliferation of online scam syndicates in the region, which has significantly tarnished the reputation of the region, and has attracted extensive attention from the international community;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the complexities and challenges in addressing cybercrime and online scams derived from the different legal systems of each jurisdiction;

**STRESSING** the need for a swift and effective response to cybercrime and online scams and their associated crimes, which warrants a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder approach at the national, subregional, regional and international levels;

**CONVINCED OF** the need for a timely response by law enforcement agencies for the effective recovery of assets and the prevention of the dissipation of illicit funds by scam syndicates that commit crimes beyond jurisdictional borders;

**WORKING** closely and collectively with the private sector to establish international norms and best practices for public-private partnerships to combat cybercrime and online scams, including key stakeholders, such as digital or online service providers, financial institutions, internet service providers, telecommunication operators, cybersecurity firms and cryptocurrency businesses;

**REAFFIRMING** our shared commitment to combat cybercrime, online scams and other related crimes, including the laundering of associated proceeds of crime in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and the ASEAN Declaration to Prevent and Combat Cybercrime (2017), the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Combating Trafficking in Persons Caused by the Abuse of Technology (2023), Bangkok Digital Declaration (2025), the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime (2015), the Labuan Bajo Declaration on Advancing Law Enforcement Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime (2023), the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Law Enforcement Cooperation Against Online Job Scams (2024), and other relevant instruments;

**RECOGNISING** the role of the AMMTC as a mechanism responsible for cross-sectoral and cross-pillar coordination of ASEAN cooperation against transnational crime;

**HEREBY DECLARE TO:**

1. **DEEPEN** ASEAN law enforcement coordination to ensure a timely and effective response to cybercrime and online scams by implementing targeted campaigns focused on "hot spots" and high-risk areas linked to cybercrime and transnational online scams in accordance with related domestic laws of the respective ASEAN Member States, and international laws;
2. **PROMOTE** research, public awareness and dissemination of preventive measures against the current and evolving tactics and methods used by cybercriminals and online scammers in luring new victims through various online platforms;
3. **IMPROVE** policies, legislation and regulations in the national and regional levels to effectively respond to the current and evolving threats of cybercrime and online scams;

4. **STRENGTHEN** cooperation in combatting cybercrime and online scams through information sharing, capacity building, mutual legal assistance, extradition, joint/coordinated operations, joint investigation and the development of data infrastructure, as appropriate in accordance with international law and the laws of the participating parties;
5. **ENHANCE** the capacity and capability of front-line officers to collect and share information, locate, disrupt, investigate, arrest and prosecute perpetrators of cybercrime and online scams, in particular, online scam syndicates in line with the domestic laws of the respective ASEAN Member States, and international legal instruments;
6. **INCREASE** the understanding of illicit financial flows associated with cybercrime and online scams to better detect and combat the laundering of illegal proceeds linked to such crimes;
7. **ESTABLISH** dedicated points-of-contact, such as anti-scam centres, and/or other exchange mechanisms to cooperate in information exchange and expeditious tracing, seizing and freezing of illicit funds to prevent and fight against cybercrime and online scams, in accordance with related domestic laws of the respective ASEAN Member States, and relevant international laws;
8. **ENCOURAGE** close cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders at national, subregional, regional, and international levels, including, but not limited to, law enforcement, financial institutions, private sector, non-governmental organisations and ASEAN's dialogue partners as well as other external parties to prevent and combat, detect, disrupt, investigate and prosecute cybercrime and online scams and the laundering of the illegal proceeds linked to such crimes, as well as assist, rescue and support victims of forced fraud and property appropriation; in accordance with the domestic laws of the respective ASEAN Member States and international legal instruments. This includes enhancing cross-pillar collaboration within ASEAN and strengthening coordination among sectoral bodies, such as the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI), to develop a more comprehensive and harmonized regional response to cybercrimes and online scams;

9. **TASK** the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) to monitor and review the implementation of this Declaration.

**ADOPTED** at Melaka, Malaysia, on the Tenth of September in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, in a single original copy in the English language.