

2015 KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Signed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 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 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