

2016 ASEAN DECLARATION ON ONE ASEAN, ONE RESPONSE: ASEAN RESPONDING TO DISASTERS AS ONE IN THE REGION AND OUTSIDE THE REGION

Signed in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 6 September 2016

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN"), namely 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, met at the 28th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 6 September 2016;

INSPIRED by and united under One Vision, One Identity and One Caring and Sharing Community, as enunciated in the ASEAN Charter;

UNITED by a common desire and collective will to jointly respond to disasters in the ASEAN region, as articulated in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER);

CONVINCED of the critical role fulfilled by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), which was launched on 17 November 2011, through the Agreement on the Establishment of AHA Centre, to realise the unity of effort with the spirit of One Vision, One Identity and One Community;

AFFIRMED that actions shall be in accordance with ASEAN's principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of ASEAN Member States, and that ASEAN Member States shall contribute assets and capacities on a flexible, voluntary and non-binding basis with contributions remaining under national command and control;

COMPELLED by the devastation and loss of lives brought about by large-scale disasters, such as 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2008 Cyclone Nargis and 2013 Typhoon Haiyan, and the increasing frequency and scale of disasters that continue to threaten the wellbeing of our peoples and communities;

DETERMINED to harness the lessons and experiences arising from responses to these disasters to further strengthen our capacity and solidarity;

UPHOLDING the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC), as entrusted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th ASEAN Summit in 2009 and in line with the Terms of Reference of SG-AHAC approved by the ASEAN Coordinating Council in May 2014;

HIGHLIGHTING the ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei Darussalam in October 2013, whereby we tasked the relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies to allocate an additional joint session in the respective ministerial meetings to promote dialogues among the relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies;

ENCOURAGED by the progress made by the ASEAN Joint Task Force on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to promote synergy and coordination among the relevant internal ASEAN mechanisms related to HADR, established through the 2013 ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management;

RECALLING the East Asia Summit (EAS) Statement on Rapid Disaster Response, adopted by the EAS Leaders in November 2014, highlighting the readiness of EAS participating countries to provide assistance rapidly, while affirming AADMER as the common platform and regional policy backbone for disaster management in ASEAN;

DO HEREBY:

1. **Agree** to materialise "One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region" to achieve faster response, mobilise greater resources and establish stronger coordination to ensure ASEAN's collective response to disasters;
2. **Confirm** that AADMER is the main regional policy backbone and common platform for the implementation of One ASEAN, One Response;
3. **Affirm** that the AHA Centre is the primary ASEAN regional coordinating agency on disaster management and emergency response and, where appropriate, will work in partnership with relevant regional and international agencies and centres to strengthen HADR efforts that include civilian and military coordination;
4. **Commit** to strengthen the capacity and enhance the sustainability of the AHA Centre to provide effective support in realising ASEAN's collective response to disasters;
5. **Confirm** that the ASEAN Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP) as a protocol under AADMER is the main standard operating procedure to be used for mobilisation of both civilian and military response in materialising One ASEAN, One Response;
6. **Endorse** the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) as the official resource of ASEAN under AADMER, managed and coordinated by the AHA Centre, and as such, endeavour to mobilise ERAT members and provide resources for their deployment upon request by the AHA Centre;
7. **Earmark** on a voluntary basis, both civilian and military assets, resources, capabilities and capacities, which may be available for the ASEAN Standby Arrangements that can be mobilised immediately to disaster-affected areas through the coordination of the AHA Centre;
8. **Support** the use of both national and ASEAN flag and emblem in responding to disasters as part of the efforts to underscore that ASEAN is responding together as one;
9. **Realise** the implementation of EAS Statement on Rapid Disaster Response, and, at the appropriate time, establish a coordination mechanism to respond to disasters in the ASEAN region, bilaterally between the EAS participating countries and through the AHA Centre, while maintaining ASEAN Centrality;

10. **Recognise** the role of AHA Centre, at a later stage, to enable ASEAN to respond to disasters outside the region, where appropriate, in partnership with regional and international agencies and centres;
11. **Agree** to explore ways to increase the contributions to the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (ADMER) Fund and AHA Centre Fund to provide resources for effective and sustainable implementation of One ASEAN, One Response;
12. **Adopt** the Terms of Reference of the Secretary- General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (AHAC), and underline the importance of his/her role in realising One ASEAN, One Response.

We hereby pledge to bring One ASEAN, One Response into reality by 2020. For the above purpose, we task:

- the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC), to ensure the successful implementation of One ASEAN, One Response, with the support of the Secretary-General of ASEAN, in view of his/her role as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator;
- the Secretary-General of ASEAN to regularly update on the progress on the implementation of One ASEAN, One Response at relevant ministerial meetings as well as ASEAN Summits;
- the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), AADMER Conference of the Parties (COP) and the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACOM) to provide strategic guidance to the AHA Centre on operationalising One ASEAN, One Response, including development of necessary protocols to prescribe measures, procedures and standards as well as engagements with relevant sectors and stakeholders in ASEAN; and
- the Joint Task Force on HADR to continue to promote and maintain synergy and coordination among the relevant ASEAN mechanisms related to HADR, including streamlining ASEAN-led HADR initiatives and exercises, to support the implementation of One ASEAN, One Response.

The AMMDM shall initiate a forum to promote dialogues among the relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies in realising this Declaration.

Done at Vientiane, Lao PDR, this Sixth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.

For the Brunei Darussalam: **HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH**, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia: **SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECO HUN SEN**, Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia: **JOKO WIDODO**, President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic: **THONGLOUN SISOULITH**, Prime Minister

For Malaysia: **DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK**, Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar: **AUNG SAN SUU KYI**, State Counsellor

For the Republic of the Philippines: **RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**, President

For the Republic of Singapore: **LEE HSIEN LOONG**, Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand: **GENERAL PRAYUT CHAN-O-CHA (RET.)**, Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: **NGUYEN XUAN PHUC**, Prime Minister