

# 2017 STATEMENT OF ASEAN AND RUSSIA MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON JOINT EFFORTS TO COUNTER INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

*Issued in Manila, the Philippines on 7 August 2017*

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of 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, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Russian Federation,

*Unequivocally* condemning in the strongest terms terrorist attacks around the world resulting in the unacceptable loss of innocent lives and countless injuries;

*Reiterating* that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any act of terror is criminal, regardless of the motivations of its perpetrators, whenever, wherever, and by whomsoever committed, and cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, ethnic group or civilization;

*Reaffirming* determination to prevent, suppress and eliminate international terrorism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and recognizing the need to fully implement the relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions, as well as the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

*Underscoring* the primary leading role of States and their competent agencies in preventing and countering terrorism, at the national, regional and international levels, and stressing the necessity to develop international cooperation in accordance with the principles of international law, including that of equality and sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs;

*Recalling* the 2001 ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism, the 2004 ASEAN – Russian Federation Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, The ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, the 2016 Sochi Declaration of the ASEAN – Russian Federation Commemorative Summit to Mark the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN – Russian Federation Dialogue Partnership “Moving Towards a Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit”, the Comprehensive Plan of Action to Promote Cooperation between the Association of the Southeast Asia Nations and the Russian Federation (2016-2020).

## **Declare as follows:**

We stress that the UN should continue to play a central role in coordinating multilateral cooperation against terrorism and call for broader international efforts against terrorism on the basis of the UN Charter and the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

We further stress the inadmissibility of the use of terrorist and extremist groups to achieve political goals.

We note with concern the elevated threat of terrorism, first of all from ISIL, which is a challenge to our civilization and humanity, to the international peace, security and the sovereignty of states. We stand ready to consolidate our efforts to prevent, combat and suppress this common threat.

We are committed to countering the growing spread of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, as well as terrorist propaganda, including the use of the Internet and social media for terrorism-related purposes, as well as acts of public justification of terrorism intended to incite terrorist acts.

We will contribute to the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to prevent and counter the spread of terrorism, as well as terrorist propaganda, tailored specifically to our respective national contexts and in accordance with the obligations under international law and the domestic laws of the respective States, while noting the importance of cooperation, where appropriate, with civil society and the private sector in this endeavor.

We will boost cooperation to counter travel of the Russians and ASEAN Member States' citizens to the conflict zones in the Middle East with a view to joining terrorist groups, as well as to deal with the return of foreign terrorist fighters, posing challenges to our security and stability.

We believe that effective measures on countering international terrorism require reliable blocking of its financing, in full compliance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations. We encourage the FATF to continue its efforts to identify sources and channels of terrorist financing and highlight the urgent task of identifying states, individuals and entities engaged in economic relations with terrorist groups.

In view of these, we acknowledge the need to explore establishing channels of communication between ASEAN and Russia's competent agencies to facilitate exchange of information and intelligence to counter the spread of ideologies which encourage terrorism and to prevent the commission of terrorist-related offences, as defined by existing international conventions and treaties.

We stand ready to strengthen and expand cooperation in the frameworks of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, as a leading ASEAN mechanism for cooperation in countering terrorism, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conferences with the Russian Federation, ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus, ASEAN Plus Russia Senior Officials' Meetings on Transnational Crime, ASEAN-Russia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime and other regional and dialogue mechanisms including relevant bodies that may be established in the future.

We are determined to consistently strengthen ASEAN-Russia cooperation in countering international terrorism. In this regard we fully support the capacity building training courses conducted by Russia on a regular basis for the law enforcement officers of the ASEAN Member States.

We will endeavor to promote the sharing of best practices on rehabilitative and social development programs with the objective of addressing the root causes of terrorism and preventing the perpetration of terrorist acts.

We will explore additional areas of practical cooperation to further strengthen our countries' resilience to threats emerging from terrorism.