

2017 MANILA DECLARATION TO COUNTER THE RISE OF RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Adopted in Manila, the Philippines on 20 September 2017

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 in Manila, Philippines on 20 September 2017 for the Eleventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (herein after referred to as the AMMTC);

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the aims and purposes of ASEAN as stipulated in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967, the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, and the relevant provisions in the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025;

REAFFIRMING also our commitment to the aims and objectives of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of the Moderates adopted on 27 April 2015;

EMPHASIZING our commitment to the aims and objectives of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime on 30 September 2015;

NOTING the Chairman's Statement of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2 October 2015 and the Chairman's Statement of the 2nd Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism on 19 September 2017 held in Manila, Philippines; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the initiative of the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in convening these two important Ministerial Meetings;

RECALLING that the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2178 adopted on 24 September 2014;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the full implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT), the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT) adopted by the 11th AMMTC on 20 September 2017, and the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Work Programme to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime 2016-2025;

NOTING the East Asia Summit Statement on "The Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organizations in Iraq and Syria" 2014, and the East Asia Summit Statement on "Countering Violent Extremism" 2015; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the role of civil society organizations, private sector and non-government organizations in collaboration with ASEAN Member States, preventing the process of radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism and their transnational nature, methods and operations.

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. Counter radicalisation and violent extremism, in particular those which lead to terrorism in all forms and manifestations, through means such as the prevention of radicalisation, financing, recruitment, and mobilization of individuals into terrorist groups;
2. Place strong emphasis on the aspect of de-radicalisation in rehabilitation and reintegration programs as part of comprehensive measures in countering terrorism, besides applying force or punitive measures, so as to ensure that radicalised or extremist individuals are ready to reintegrate into society as well as to prevent 'relapse' or their return to militant/terrorist activities;
3. Adopt a sustained and proactive approach through capacity building programmes, including short and long-term initiatives focused on promoting education, in particular peace education and especially to the youth in the region emphasizing and inculcating the importance on moderation, and acquiring knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflict as well as social and ethical values as part of the awareness and prevention efforts against violent extremism and radicalisation, in line with the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movements of Moderates;
4. Continue information sharing and exchanges on best practices among ASEAN Member States on countering and preventing radicalisation and the tools of extremism;
5. Continue also to provide mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition related to the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism that leads to terrorism, in conformity with the respective domestic laws of the ASEAN Member States;
6. Develop an integrated, evidence-based approach to addressing the threats of the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism by:
 - a. Promoting dialogue and conflict prevention;
 - b. Strengthening good governance, human rights and the rule of law;
 - c. Engaging communities;
 - d. Empowering youth;
 - e. Empowering women and promoting gender equality;
 - f. Providing education, skills development, and employment facilitation; and
 - g. Strengthening strategic communications, the internet, and social media.
7. Develop programmes to counter violent extremism that build trust and strengthen cooperation between communities vulnerable to radicalisation and the Police that focuses on community-police relations such as through community policing and also develop more community-based approaches to countering radicalisation and violent extremism;
8. Develop and implement, together with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, a comprehensive regional communications campaign plan to counter radical narratives using all forms of information and communication technologies and to deny radicals and extremist proponents the means and opportunities to pursue extremist/violent activities and promote their extreme ideologies;

9. Strengthen the existing mechanism for addressing terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism including through the conduct of a regular regional dialogue such as through focal points of relevant law enforcement agencies to share analyses, factors, root causes, and risk assessment in order to strengthen national and regional counter terrorism efforts;
10. Pursue strong collaborations with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, related international organizations and other stakeholders through the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices in addressing radicalisation and violent extremism; and
11. Task an Ad-hoc Experts Working Group under the SOMTC to formulate and develop an ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, and welcomes Indonesia's proposal to host the Ad-hoc Experts Working Group meeting.

ADOPTED in Manila, Philippines on the Twentieth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen.