

2018 EAST ASIA SUMMIT LEADERS' STATEMENT ON DEEPENING COOPERATION IN THE SECURITY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES AND OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Issued in Singapore on 15 November 2018

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, the People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) on 15 November 2018 in Singapore;

RECOGNISING the importance of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan (AIM) 2020 as part of the effort to propel ASEAN toward a digitally-enabled economy that is secure, sustainable, open and transformative, which enables an innovative inclusive and integrated ASEAN Community;

RECOGNISING the vital importance of ICT security for the digital economy, given that an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful ICT environment is critical to connectivity and the economic development of the EAS participating countries, as well as the digital economy's increasingly important role as a driver of global economic growth, and further emphasising EAS participating countries' resolve to promote secure and resilient ICT and critical infrastructure, which can contribute to regional security and stability;

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts in this area in the ASEAN framework and ASEAN-led mechanism such as the ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity and ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of ICT, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus Experts' Working Group Meeting on Cyber Security, the ASEAN Cyber Capacity Programme;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the work of the United Nations, including the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (UNGGE), and its 2010, 2013 and 2015 UNGGE Reports;

WELCOMING the conclusions of the Group of Governmental Experts, in its 2013 and 2015 reports, that international law, and in particular the Charter of the United Nations, is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability and promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment, that voluntary and non-binding norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour of States in the use of information and communications technologies can reduce risks to international peace, security and stability, and that, given the unique attributes of such technologies, additional norms can be developed over time;

REAFFIRMING the EAS Statement on Issues Related to Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies of November 2015, which called for stronger international cooperation on confidence building measures, capacity building, incident response and information sharing in the security of and in the use of ICT, consistent with norms, rules and principles of responsible State behaviour;

TAKING NOTE OF the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation of April 2018, which tasked relevant Ministers from all ASEAN Member States to recommend feasible options to better coordinate ASEAN's cybersecurity efforts and to make progress on discussions relating to the adoption of practical, voluntary norms of responsible State behaviour in cyberspace, taking reference from recommendations set out in the UNGGE 2015 Report;

NOTING the Chairman's Statement of the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity of September 2018, in which ASEAN Member States reaffirmed the importance of a rules-based cyberspace as an enabler of economic progress and betterment of living standards, and agreed in-principle that international law, voluntary and non-binding norms of State behaviour, and practical confidence building measures are essential for stability and predictability in cyberspace and in which ASEAN Member States agreed to subscribe in-principle to the 11 voluntary, non-binding norms recommended in the UNGGE 2015 Report, as well as to focus on regional capacity-building in implementing these norms;

IN ORDER TO DEEPEN existing cooperation in the security of ICT and of the digital economy;

DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:

1. **PROMOTE** an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful ICT environment through effective cooperation among States, based on international law and guided by voluntary non-binding norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States in the ICT environment, including as recommended in the UNGGE Reports, while upholding States' sovereignty and protecting human rights, given that the ICT environment offers both opportunities and challenges to the international community;

2. **RECOGNISE** the importance of strengthening cooperation on personal data protection in order to engender trust in data management practices, including business' practices, and foster an environment that encourages data innovation;

3. **SUPPORT** dialogue on how international law applies to the use of ICTs by States, as well as on norms, rules, and principles of responsible behaviour of States, confidence-building measures and capacity building as noted in UNGA Resolution A/71/28;

4. **WORK** together, recognising that some States may lack sufficient capacity to protect their ICT networks, to provide assistance on: improving security and resilience of critical ICT infrastructure to support the demands of a robust digital economy; developing technical skills and appropriate strategies or regulatory frameworks; and bridging the divide in the security of ICTs and their use;

5. **SUPPORT** capacity-building including the development of regional approaches to capacity-building, which would be beneficial, as they could take into account specific cultural, geographic, political, economic or social aspects and allow a tailored approach, and the development and use of e-learning, training and awareness-raising with respect to ICT security;

6. **PROMOTE** sustainable economic growth and prosperity and address the digital divide and development gap, by supporting digital economy initiatives including in: investment and innovation, entrepreneurship, assisting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to utilise ICTs and participate in the digital economy, developing a digital-ready workforce, raising awareness of security in the use of ICTs, promoting regional integration into the global marketplace, and building synergies to complement the ASEAN Smart Cities Network Initiative;

7. **FOSTER** cooperation to support a secure and resilient digital infrastructure, and effective information exchange within the region;

8. **NOTE** that while States have a primary responsibility for maintaining a secure and peaceful ICT environment, effective international cooperation would benefit from identifying mechanisms for the participation, as appropriate, of the private sector, academia and civil society organisations.