

# 2018 ASEAN PLAN OF ACTION TO PREVENT AND COUNTER THE RISE OF RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM (2018-2025)

*Adopted in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 31 October 2018*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018 – 2025) is established to follow up on the mandate given by the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2017) and contribute to the realisation of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.

The Plan of Action aims to further strengthen the close cooperation among ASEAN Member States in preventing and countering the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism.

## II. BACKGROUND

On 1 July 2016, the United Nations General Assembly, during its Fifth Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by consensus the resolution A/RES/70/291 that reinforced the concerted efforts in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Recognizing the importance of preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, the General Assembly recommended that Member States consider developing national and regional plans of action to implement the relevant recommendations of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as applicable to the local context.

In recent years, the issue of radicalisation and violent extremism has gained momentum in ASEAN. The ASEAN Political and Security Blueprint (2015 – 2025) agreed to realize “a community that embraces tolerance and moderation, fully respects the different religions, cultures, and languages of our peoples, upholds common values in the spirit of unity in diversity as well as addresses the threat of violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations”. The Blueprint also highlighted, that promoting tolerance and moderation to bridge differences including countering violent extremism would in effect strengthen democracy, good-governance, the rule of law, and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

After the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (“AMMTC”) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 29 September 2015, a Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (“SAMMRRVE”) was convened on 2 October 2015. The Chairman's Statement of the SAMMRRVE resolved to, among other things:

- a. Counter radicalisation and violent extremism in all forms and manifestations that lead to terrorism, including preventing radicalisation, financing, recruitment and mobilisation of individuals into terrorist groups;
- b. Place strong emphasis on the aspect of deradicalisation in rehabilitation and reintegration programmes 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;

- c. Conduct analyses and studies on the factors, including the root causes, that create a conducive environment for the spread of radicalisation and violent extremism in Southeast Asia with a view to assisting ASEAN Member States by providing them with a better understanding to effectively address both issues that could lead to terrorism;
- d. Develop programmes to counter violent extremism that build trust and strengthen cooperation between communities vulnerable to radicalisation and the Police. These initiatives might focus on community-police relations such as through community policing. Additionally, ASEAN Member States should also develop more community-based approaches to countering radicalisation and violent extremism; and
- e. Develop and implement, together with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, comprehensive regional communication campaigns to counter terrorist narratives through all information and communication technologies aimed at denying radicals and extremist proponents the means and opportunities to pursue extremist/terrorist activities and promote their misconstrued ideologies.

On 20 September 2017, the Eleventh AMMTC adopted the revised ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Countering Terrorism (“ACPoA on CT”) that incorporated the issues related to radicalisation and violent extremism. The ACPoA on CT reiterated the support to the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and the UN Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2016). The Eleventh AMMTC also adopted the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (“Manila Declaration”).

### **III. MANILA DECLARATION TO COUNTER THE RISE OF RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

The Manila Declaration declared, amongst others to:

- a. 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 of 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;
- b. Continue information sharing and exchanges on best practices among ASEAN Member States on countering and preventing radicalisation and the tools of extremism;
- c. 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;
- d. Developed an integrated, evidence-based approach to addressing the threats of the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism by:
  - (i) promoting dialogue and conflict prevention;
  - (ii) strengthening good governance, human rights and the rule of law;
  - (iii) engaging communities;
  - (iv) empowering youth;

- (v) empowering women and promoting gender equality;
  - (vi) providing education, skills development, and employment facilitation; and
  - (vii) strengthening strategic communications, such as through the internet and social media.
- e. Strengthen the existing mechanisms 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; and
- f. Pursue greater collaboration 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.

The Manila Declaration tasked an Ad-hoc Experts Working Group under the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (“SOMTC”) to formulate and develop this Plan of Action, to be hosted by Indonesia.

#### **IV. OBJECTIVES**

1. Strengthen close cooperation amongst ASEAN Member States to prevent and counter radicalisation and violent extremism leading to terrorism in an effective and efficient manner;
2. Enhance the efforts of ASEAN Member States to prevent and counter radicalisation and violent extremism leading to terrorism, including capacity building for law enforcement;
3. Enhance coordination and collaboration, including the sharing of information and intelligence amongst ASEAN Member States to effectively prevent and counter radicalisation and violent extremism leading to terrorism;
4. Enhance collaboration amongst ASEAN sectoral bodies and ASEAN Dialogue Partners, including international organizations and relevant sub-regional initiatives, to prevent and counter radicalisation and violent extremism leading to terrorism; and
5. Consider the present Plan of Action when ASEAN Member States are embarking to establish their national/domestic Plan of Action to prevent and counter radicalisation and violent extremism.

#### **V. ACTIONS/PRIORITY AREAS**

##### **1. Prevention of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism**

- 1.1. Promote an approach of moderation and tolerance in the maintenance of peace and security through, amongst others, encouragement of dialogue and conflict prevention;
- 1.2. Strengthen good governance, human rights and the rule of law to prevent the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism;
- 1.3. Engage communities, particularly those communities vulnerable to prevent the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism;

- 1.4. Empower youth and enhance their capacity to prevent the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism;
- 1.5. Empower women and promote gender equality to enhance the capacity, participation and leadership of women in the promotion of moderation and tolerance to prevent the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism;
- 1.6. Work with religious leaders and religious organisations to promote moderation and tolerance;
- 1.7. Promote inclusive and equitable quality education that promotes a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural and religious diversity;
- 1.8. Strengthen strategic communications, including through the internet and social media to prevent their misuse by radicals and extremist proponents to pursue violent/extremist activities and promote extreme ideologies;
- 1.9. Conduct research on the misuse of the internet and social media by violent extremists to encourage public private partnership with the business community and technology sector in promoting moderation and enhancing dialogue to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism;
- 1.10. Conduct analyses, studies, and research on the factors, including the root causes conducive to the spread of radicalisation and violent extremism, and on measures to counter the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism in Southeast Asia;
- 1.11. Develop early warning systems to prevent the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism.

## 2. Counter Radicalisation and Promote Deradicalisation

- 2.1. Develop counter radicalisation programmes focusing on the community at large, as well as communities vulnerable to radicalisation and violent extremism by addressing the process of radicalisation, e.g. narratives, propaganda, and ideologies; grievances; and mobilization of radicals/extremists;
- 2.2. Develop aspects of deradicalisation in rehabilitation and reintegration programmes as part of comprehensive measures to counter radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism to ensure that extremist individuals are ready to reintegrate into society as well as to prevent relapse and recidivism;
- 2.3. Promote the process of reconciliation among violent extremists and victims through restorative justice and other initiatives, as appropriate;
- 2.4. Develop a broad information campaign regarding the consequential effects of violent extremism leading to terrorism, addressed through social media tools and other platforms; and
- 2.5. Develop community policing strategies to counter radicalisation and violent extremism.

### 3. Law Enforcement and Strengthening National Legislation Related to Countering Radicalisation and Violent Extremism

- 3.1. Ratify or, where relevant, introduce appropriate domestic legislation to enable ratification of international instruments pertaining to terrorism to which ASEAN Member States are parties;
- 3.2. Introduce appropriate domestic legislation, in line, with the requirements of relevant UN Security Council's resolutions pertaining to radicalisation and violent extremism by criminalizing activities such as inciting to terrorism, providing support to terrorist/terrorist organizations, foreign terrorist fighters related activities and terrorist financing;
- 3.3. Support the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT) and the ACPoA on CT to complement and reinforce global and national efforts to counter radicalisation and violent extremism;
- 3.4. Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement as well as of the police, prosecutors and judges to detect, deter, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate cases related to radicalisation and violent extremism;
- 3.5. Strengthen the capacity of correctional service officers to provide services, counseling and mentoring as part of deradicalisation, rehabilitation, and reintegration programmes for terrorist prisoners and detainees;
- 3.6. Establish, where possible, a national coordinating mechanism within the criminal justice system as well as relevant security apparatus to counter radicalisation and violent extremism;
- 3.7. Strengthen sharing of information and intelligence among security agencies regionally to prevent and counter radicalisation and violent extremism;
- 3.8. Strengthen cooperation amongst border control agencies, to include identifying fraudulent travel documents;
- 3.9. Strengthen cooperation amongst ASEAN Members States in conformity with their respective domestic laws, for the purpose of rendering extradition and mutual legal assistance related to cases of radicalisation and violent extremism leading to terrorism, including, through other forms of international legal cooperation;
- 3.10. Strengthen protection to law enforcement officers, including correctional services officers, in the course of the performance of their duties, guaranteeing the safety of their lives and families.

### 4. Partnership and Regional Cooperation

- 4.1. Strengthen engagement and partnership with civil society, non-governmental organizations, academics, think-tanks, religious leaders, and the media in preventing and countering radicalisation and violent extremism;

- 4.2. Strengthen collaboration with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and, across ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting - Plus and sub-regional initiatives in a comprehensive manner to prevent and counter radicalisation and violent extremism;
- 4.3. Strengthen collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, including relevant international organizations in preventing and countering radicalisation; and violent extremism, based on shared responsibility;
- 4.4. Strengthen collaboration with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) as the ASEAN institution for research activities on peace, conflict management, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace building where all relevant stakeholders can build networks and promote concrete activities to contribute towards regional efforts in preventing radicalisation and violent extremism.

## **VI. IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW AND MONITORING**

1. The implementation of the Plan of Action shall be done through the SOMTC Working Group on Counter Terrorism;
2. The SOMTC Working Group on Counter Terrorism shall submit a Work Plan to implement the Plan of Action;
3. ASEAN Member States shall report annually on the implementation of this Plan of Action through the SOMTC Working Group on Counter Terrorism;
4. The Chair of the SOMTC Working Group on Counter Terrorism shall provide a summary report of the implementation of this Plan of Action to the SOMTC annually;
5. The Plan of Action of will be reviewed by SOMTC every three years and, where appropriate, updated;
6. The result of the review will be compiled by the ASEAN Secretariat, and submitted to the AMMTC for its consideration.