

2017 JOINT STATEMENT OF SPECIAL ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM, RADICALIZATION AND TERRORISM

Adopted in Manila, Philippines on 23 October 2017

WE, the Defence Ministers of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Defence Minister and Minister with Special Functions of 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, the Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, gathered here in Manila, Philippines on 23 October 2017;

RECALLING the ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime dated 20 December 1997;

MINDFUL of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and the 2001 ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism, which, inter alia, undertakes to strengthen cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels in combating terrorism;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of the Moderates adopted on 27 April 2015 which aims to promote moderation and tolerance as core values for the region and its peoples to ensure that it would continue to be a peaceful and prosperous region;

RECOGNISING the complexity of non-traditional security issues and the proactive roles that ASEAN defence establishments could play in addressing these issues as part of an integrated approach through collective efforts by strengthening regional and international cooperation to meet non-traditional security challenges;

NOTING that terrorism has multiple dimensions, manifestations and causes and respects no national boundaries;

CONDEMNING in the strongest terms the attacks carried out by violent extremists across the world, particularly in Southeast Asia including the attack by the Maute Group in Marawi City, Philippines, which led to casualties, destruction of properties, and displacement of people, among others;

DO HEREBY DECLARE to:

1. Explore and identify possible ways, mechanisms and creative approaches among ASEAN defence establishments to combat non-traditional security issues in order to contribute to the maintenance of regional and international peace, stability and prosperity;
2. Encourage stronger and cooperative intelligence sharing platform to facilitate the flow of information, in particular on terrorists and terrorist organisations, their movement and funding, and any other information needed to protect lives, property and the security of all modes of travel;
3. Develop and enhance collaboration with civil society, academic and other institutions to foster greater understanding and bridging the gap aimed at suppressing terrorism and violent extremism through continuous research, advocacy on peace and security and the promotion of moderation and tolerance to ensure a more comprehensive approach in combating terrorism and violent extremism; and

4. Increase cooperation and collective efforts in the spirit of ASEAN solidarity in countering terrorism and violent extremism which are common threats to ASEAN.