

2022 JOINT STATEMENT OF THE SIXTEENTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

ASEAN A.C.T.: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES TOGETHER

Adopted on 21 September 2022

1. The Sixteenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (16th AMMTC) was convened on 21 September 2022 via videoconference to discuss ways and measures to further strengthen regional cooperation in combating transnational crime, particularly in responding to challenges in the post-COVID-19 pandemic landscape. The Meeting was preceded by the Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for the 16th AMMTC, which was held on 20 September 2022 via videoconference. The 16th AMMTC was chaired by the Kingdom of Cambodia, under the theme “ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together”.
2. We acknowledged the outcomes and progress of meetings under the purview of the AMMTC, including the 22nd SOMTC and Its Related Meetings held on 19-21 July 2022 via videoconference and the 25th ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) and Its Related Meetings, held in Singapore on 23-25 August 2022 via videoconference (hybrid format).
3. We noted with appreciation the outcomes of the 40th ASEAN National Police (ASEANAPOL) Conference held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 1-5 March 2022.
4. We exchanged views and reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthening our efforts to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action (PoA) to Combat Transnational Crime 2016-2025. We were pleased to note the implementation of the SOMTC Work Programme 2019-2021 to implement this PoA and took note of the adoption of its Final Review. We welcomed the adoption of the SOMTC Work Programme 2022-2024 and looked forward to its effective implementation.
5. We underscored the significance of cross-sectoral collaboration in addressing challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and new threats emerging from the reopening of international borders in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era. We took note of the progress of implementation of the Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (Bali Work Plan) 2019-2025 by SOMTC and other relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Organs/Entities and the ad referendum adoption of the Final Review Report of the Bohol Trafficking in Person (TIP) Work Plan 2017-2020. We looked forward to the finalisation and adoption of the successor cross-sectoral work plan to comprehensively address trafficking in persons in the region.
6. We adopted the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the National ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) Representatives and commended the Philippines’ effort in developing the TOR and SOMTC for leading the cross-sectoral coordination. We looked forward to future achievement and progress in monitoring and reporting the implementation of ACTIP as guided by the TOR.
7. We welcomed the adoption of the TOR of SOMTC as well as the establishment of the SOMTC Working Group on General Transnational Crime Matters (WG on GTCM) with the adoption of its TOR, which were initiated by Malaysia.

8. We welcomed the ad referendum adoption of the TOR of Heads of Specialist Unit (HSU) on People Smuggling. We commended the effort by DGICM-Indonesia and other ASEAN Member States in manifesting the mandate by the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Concerning Irregular Movement of Persons in the Southeast Asia Region (EAMMTC) in 2015 to establish the HSU and looked forward to its deliberation.
9. We commended the smooth transition conducted by the outgoing and incoming country coordinators for the rotation of the ASEAN External Relations Coordinatorship to continue our joint efforts in combating transnational crime with the Dialogue Partners. We also commended SOMTC and the DGICM for their commitment in strengthening cooperation with our Dialogue Partners. We looked forward to continue working on the extension, revision and development of respective work plans with the Dialogue Partners to combat transnational crime and their implementation.
10. We encouraged greater efforts toward more practical and operational forms of cooperation and effective implementation of existing work plans under SOMTC and DGICM as well as the active role and contribution of SOMTC and DGICM in leading and advancing ASEAN cross-sectoral and cross-pillar cooperation.
11. We welcomed Indonesia as the incoming chair of the AMMTC and looked forward to the convening of the 23rd SOMTC and the 17th AMMTC along with all related meetings in 2023. We also welcomed Thailand as the incoming Chair of the DGICM and looked forward to the convening of the 26th DGICM and Its Related Meetings in 2023.
12. We expressed our sincere appreciation to the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, especially the Ministry of Interior, for the excellent arrangements of the 16th AMMTC and Its Related Meetings. The Meetings were held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of solidarity and cordiality