

2023 LABUAN BAJO DECLARATION ON ADVANCING LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION IN COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Adopted in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia on 21 August 2023

The Seventeenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (“17th AMMTC”) was convened in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia on 21 August 2023;

EXPRESSING our concern over the growing trend of transnational crime cases including its modus operandi faced by the ASEAN Member States in the past years;

NOTING the challenges faced by our law enforcement in dealing with suspects and obtaining evidences related to transnational crime cases;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance to accelerate and enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement in handling transnational crime cases in ASEAN;

RECALLING the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, particularly on strengthening cooperation in addressing and combating transnational crime;

REAFFIRMING the ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT), ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT), ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), and other ASEAN declarations related to combat transnational crime;

LOOKING FORWARD to the finalisation of the ASEAN Extradition Treaty;

REAFFIRMING Article 27 of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) of 15 December 2000 and Article 48 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) of 9 December 2003 on law enforcement cooperation.

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. **ENHANCE** the competency of our authorities, agencies, and services in facilitating secure and rapid exchange of information through the established contact lists under the AMMTC mechanism and other existing platforms, such as ASEANAPOL, in efforts to combat transnational crime in the region;
2. **COOPERATE** among our law enforcement agencies in conducting inquiries with respect to combating transnational crime concerning:
 - (i) The identity, whereabouts and activities of suspects involved in such transnational crime and other persons concerned;
 - (ii) The movement of proceeds of crime or property derived from the commission of such transnational crime;
 - (iii) The movement of property, equipment or other instrumentalities used or intended for use in the commission of such transnational crime;

3. **PROVIDE** necessary items or quantities of substances, in accordance with their respective domestic laws, for analytical or investigative purposes;
4. **FACILITATE** effective coordination between our competent authorities, agencies and services and to promote the exchange of personnel and other experts, through regional, bilateral and other multilateral agreements or arrangements;
5. **EXCHANGE** information on specific means and methods used by organised criminal groups, including, routes, conveyances and the use of false identities, altered or false documents or other means of concealing their transnational crime activities;
6. **EXCHANGE** information and **COORDINATE** administrative and other measures taken for the purpose of early identification of transnational crime;
7. **UTILISE** this Declaration as means for direct cooperation between our law enforcement agencies and competent authorities.
8. **MONITOR AND REVIEW** the implementation of this Declaration under the oversight and coordination of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC).

ADOPTED in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, on the Twenty-First Day of August in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three, in a single original copy in the English language.