

2024 ASEAN LEADERS' DECLARATION ON ENHANCED COOPERATION AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND PRECURSOR CHEMICALS

Adopted in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 9 October 2024

WE, the Association of Southeast Asia, namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 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, gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR on the occasion of the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits on 9 October 2024;

RECOGNISING that the alarming scale of the illicit global trade, production and manufacture of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, including synthetic and designer drugs, as well as the associated diversion of and illicit demand for precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, continues to adversely affect the safety and welfare of nations and their peoples including those of the ASEAN;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to implementing the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and other relevant instruments;

REAFFIRMING our unwavering commitment to the fight against narcotic drugs, including New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and their precursor chemicals in order to achieve our vision of a Drug-Free ASEAN;

STRESSING WITH GRAVE CONCERN over the adverse impact of illicit drug production and trafficking, including synthetic drugs and precursors in the region;

EXPRESSING concern over the increased trafficking and diversion of precursors and non-scheduled chemicals to manufacture narcotic drugs and NPS;

EXPRESSING CONCERN that drug traffickers have been increasingly exploiting modern technology, digital connectivity and shipment services to trade and distribute narcotic drugs and precursors;

RECOGNISING the need to strengthen drug control strategies, which include preventive education, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, research, and sustainable alternative development in order to combat the regional drug problem;

RECOGNISING the need to take appropriate measures to counter the diversion and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in, as well as the misuse of precursors under international control and to tackle the misuse of pre-precursors and substitute or alternative precursors for illicit drug manufacturing;

RECOGNISING the necessity to strengthen institutional linkage and collaboration among existing ASEAN mechanisms involved in the fight against illicit drug trafficking and other related transnational crime, particularly the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD), ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), the ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM), and the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs, and the ASEAN Ministers/Attorney-General of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters;

RECALLING the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 adopted by the 20th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 4 April 2012, which aimed, among others, to intensify concerted efforts to realise the vision and goal of a drug-free ASEAN and further enhance cooperation and coordination in a comprehensive manner with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and external parties to eradicate illicit drug production, processing, trafficking and use in the ASEAN region;

RECALLING the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Transnational Crime, signed by ASEAN Ministers responsible for transnational crime matters on 30 September 2015, which aimed, among others, to expand the scope of Member States' responsibilities to address new methods and forms of transnational crime including illicit drug trafficking;

RECALLING FURTHER the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Combating Transnational Crime Post-COVID 19 Pandemic, adopted by the AMMTC on 29 September 2021, which aimed, among others, to intensify ASEAN's collective efforts against transnational crime, which included illicit drug trafficking, through promoting cross-pillar and cross-sectoral cooperation as well as through coordinating and cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and all relevant stakeholders;

ACKNOWLEDGING the work of the AMMD and its subsidiary mechanisms in the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025;

HEREBY AGREE TO:

1. **Strengthen** our shared commitment to effectively prevent and counter illicit drug production, processing, trafficking and abuse in ASEAN;
2. **Strengthen** cooperation in cross-cutting issues related to drug matters;
3. **Strengthen** our concerted efforts to interdict and disrupt illicit drug trafficking networks in the region through existing multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms in accordance with domestic laws of the respective ASEAN Member States;
4. **Enhance** capacity building, particularly in the areas of preventive education, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, research and alternative development;
5. **Enhance** the exchange of information related to trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including the identification of new trafficking routes and modalities as well as the diversion or smuggling of their precursor chemicals, to ensure the success of the drug-related operation and investigation;
6. **Enhance** the effectiveness of the national legislation of the ASEAN Member States related to the control of narcotic drugs, including NPS, precursor chemicals, used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in accordance with the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;
7. **Adopt**, as appropriate, legal and administrative measures, and institutional frameworks to address the diversion of precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture and proliferation of designer drugs;
8. **Intensify** public awareness raising campaigns against trafficking of illicit drugs, NPS and precursors as well as raising awareness among law enforcement and public authorities, private industry and other stakeholders of the risk of non-scheduled precursor chemicals being utilised for the illicit

manufacture of scheduled precursor chemicals and drugs in the region through various platforms and means, including online, audio and printed materials;

9. **Consider** establishing and strengthening public-private partnerships to secure cooperation from relevant sectors to facilitate the identification of suspicious transactions of precursor chemicals, including new and unusual trade patterns, and the diversion of precursor chemicals for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
10. **Enhance** the capacity and effectiveness of national laboratories to identify and detect emerging precursors and pre-precursor chemicals;
11. **Strengthen** regional border management cooperation to safeguard the region against the threats posed by illicit drug trafficking;
12. **Promote** comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes to reduce illicit drug cultivation;
13. **Consider** applying monitoring measures in accordance with the Respective ASEAN Member States' domestic laws and regulations to detect and prevent diversion and to use established mechanisms for the exchange of information, including through the Precursors Incident Communication System and the annual update and dispatch of information on substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances using Form D of the International Narcotics Control Board, on substances not included in Table I or Table II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 that have been used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
14. **Strengthen** measures to control import and export of precursor chemicals;
15. **Consider** establishing communication channels to report any suspicious orders and transactions, also consider the use of the Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry, issued by the International Narcotics Control Board, and the Board's model memorandum of understanding between Governments and private sector partners;
16. **Strengthen** information sharing to monitor illicit drug trends including precursor chemicals in ASEAN region and the ASEAN Member States through the annual publication of annual ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report
17. **Enhance** cooperation with external parties, including Dialogue Partners and international organizations, on combating drug trafficking and drug-related crimes;
18. **Task** the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to mobilise resources and modalities and develop strategies against illicit drug trafficking and drug-related crimes as well as the diversion of non-scheduled precursor chemicals for illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Adopted on this Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four in a single original copy in the English language.