

2025 ASEAN LEADERS' DECLARATION ON COMBATTING MONEY LAUNDERING

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26 October 2025

WE, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), 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 at the 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26 October 2025;

EMPHASISING the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, which reflect our common goals and collective commitments to maintain peace, security, and stability by promoting greater cooperation, the rule of law, and good governance among the ASEAN Member States;

ACKNOWLEDGING the concern that money laundering has implications for other transnational crimes and poses a great threat to the stability and security within the region, whereby criminal actors employ increasingly sophisticated techniques and technology, including digital platforms and virtual assets, to obscure their money laundering activities;

RECOGNISING the need for closer cooperation among the ASEAN Member States, given the complexities and challenges in combatting money laundering, strengthening asset recovery mechanisms, as well as accommodating the diverse legal systems across the region, to combat money laundering activities effectively, in accordance with relevant national laws, international instruments to which ASEAN Member States are parties, and consistent with the ASEAN principle of noninterference, while fostering effective regional cooperation;

ENSURING continuous efforts to address transnational crime, particularly through the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combatting Transnational Crime and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Work Programme.

COMMITTED to complying with international standards, such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations, as the internationally accepted anti-money laundering standard, of which we shall align with our AML/CFT frameworks, result in strengthened regional cooperation, enhanced integrity of the financial sectors and the designated non-financial businesses and professions sectors, and ultimately contribute to combatting money-laundering; and

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of existing regional practitioner networks, which enhance and strengthen cooperation in the region and encouraging the use of platforms for information sharing to aid investigators and prosecutors in identifying, tracing, freezing, and ultimately recovering illegal proceeds.

HAVE HEREBY RESOLVED, IN A SPIRIT OF AMITY AND COOPERATION, TO:

1. **CALL FOR** increased collaboration among ASEAN Member States to effectively prevent and combat money laundering, which includes facilitating the exchange of information and best practices, providing mutual legal assistance, and conducting relevant joint operations, in accordance with international laws and laws of the participating parties;

2. **ENHANCE** awareness of existing and emerging money laundering trends and schemes, including through partnerships between the public and private sectors to educate businesses and consumers on digital platform risks, to strengthen efforts in combatting money laundering;
3. **EMPHASISE** a risk-based approach to anti-money laundering financing measures, ensuring that resources are focused on areas of high risk;
4. **IMPROVE** existing policies, rules, and regulations within ASEAN to effectively respond to the current and evolving threats of money laundering in both financial and non-financial related sectors;
5. **STRENGTHENING** comprehensive national legal and regulatory frameworks to criminalise money laundering and associated predicate offenses, in line with international standards;
6. **LEVERAGE** available technologies to disrupt and prevent money laundering, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data analytics, to assist in combatting money laundering, while ensuring compliance with privacy and data protection laws of ASEAN Member States;
7. **ENCOURAGE** relevant institutions of the ASEAN Member States to promote the sharing of knowledge and cooperation between relevant authorities and private sectors, including Financial Institutions and Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) to effectively prevent and combat money laundering;
8. **ENHANCE** cooperation among law enforcement agencies in detecting, investigating, and dismantling money laundering networks through the establishment of direct communication channels, real-time exchanges of intelligence and facilitation of investigations in view of the cross-border nature of various forms of transnational crime;
9. **STRENGTHEN** efforts to effectively implement related legal instruments that tackle transnational crime, [and encourage commitments to finalize the ASEAN Extradition Treaty] that contribute to the efforts in combating money laundering;
10. **CONTINUE** to develop the capacity building of relevant authorities such as financial intelligence units, supervisory authorities, law enforcement agencies, and other agencies involved in combatting money laundering to enhance their ability to detect, investigate, and prosecute money laundering cases including emerging money laundering trends, such as involving virtual assets, cryptocurrencies, and cyber-enabled fraud;
11. **INTENSIFY** efforts to implement the FATF Standards and recommendations by ensuring that robust preventive measures are established, coupled with joint analysis, rigorous investigation and prosecution, and asset recovery mechanisms, against money laundering activities, in accordance with the respective domestic laws and regulations of the Members States of the ASEAN and the related international law;
12. **DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT** possible strategies consistent with the FATF standards, to strengthen domestic measures against money laundering, including cross-border activities; and intensify efforts to implement the FATF Standards and recommendation by ensuring that robust preventive measures are established, coupled with rigorous investigation and prosecution against money laundering activities; and

13. **SUPPORT** the engagement with international bodies such as the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering to identify collaborative opportunities and initiatives that leverage their expertise and knowledge.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the Twenty Sixth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, in a single original copy in the English language.