

2025 JOINT STATEMENT OF THE NINETEENTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (19TH AMMTC)

Adopted in Melaka, Malaysia on 10 September 2025

1. The Nineteenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (19th AMMTC) was convened in Melaka, Malaysia, on 10 September 2025. The Meeting was chaired by Malaysia, under the theme of “Inclusivity and Sustainability”.
2. We exchanged views on the current situation of transnational crime in the region, which continues to evolve in scope and complexity. We noted with concern its far-reaching implications on regional peace, security, and stability, and took stock of the various measures undertaken at the national and regional levels to prevent and combat the scourge of transnational crime.
3. We concurred with the outcomes of the Review of the ASEAN Plan of Action (PoA) in Combating Transnational Crime (2016–2025) and adopted the ASEAN PoA in Combating Transnational Crime (2026–2035) that serves as a testament of our strong commitment to further strengthening regional cooperation in preventing and combatting transnational crime. We commended the endeavour by Malaysia in undertaking this review and leading the development of the PoA in Combating Transnational Crime (2026–2035).
4. We were pleased to note the commitment and steady progress made by ASEAN Member States over the past four years in implementing the SOMTC Work Programme (2022–2025) and further noted the discussions on the development of a new SOMTC Work Programme (2026–2028). We looked forward with anticipation to the timely finalisation and subsequent implementation of the new Work Programme and commended the endeavour by Malaysia in leading this undertaking.
5. We noted the outcomes and progress of meetings under the purview of the AMMTC, including the 25th SOMTC and Its Related Meetings, convened in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 24–26 June 2025; the 28th ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM) and Its Related Meetings, convened in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 12–14 August 2025; and the Preparatory SOMTC for the 19th AMMTC, convened in Melaka, Malaysia, on 9 September 2025.
6. We concurred with the outcomes of the Review of Priority Areas of the AMMTC undertaken by the SOMTC, in line with the development of the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2026–2035). We welcomed the removal of international economic crime and sea piracy priority areas, as well as the enhancement of the cybercrime priority area to include online scams. We recognised that the review was a necessary step to ensure that our focus and priorities for the next decade remain relevant and responsive in effectively preventing and combatting the ever-evolving nature of transnational crime. We commended the efforts of Lao PDR in leading this important review process.

7. We adopted the Concept Note on the Establishment of the SOMTC Working Group on Money Laundering and welcomed the establishment of this Working Group as a platform to strengthen regional efforts and capacity to effectively combat money laundering in the ASEAN region. We commended the efforts undertaken by Malaysia in leading the development of the Concept Note and looked forward to the inaugural Meeting of the Working Group in 2026.
8. We adopted the ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap, which serves as a regional framework in strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in addressing emerging cross-border challenges, in line with the provisions of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Cooperation on Immigration and Consular Assistance Matters (2022-2031). We commended the endeavour undertaken by Thailand under the DGICM framework in leading the development of the Roadmap and looked forward to its effective implementation.
9. We concurred with the extension of the implementation period of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018-2025) and its corresponding cross-sectoral Bali Work Plan (2019-2025) to 2026. We encouraged efforts in garnering the implementation of the Bali Work Plan across relevant sectors in its final year.
10. We adopted the Melaka Declaration on Combatting Transnational Crime, which serves as a solid framework in reaffirming and strengthening our collective commitment and concerted actions to counter and combat transnational crime in the region. We commended the endeavour undertaken by Malaysia in leading the development of the Declaration.
11. We adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Countering People Smuggling in Southeast Asia, which underscores our shared commitment to solidify regional efforts in countering the heinous crime of people smuggling in all its forms and manifestations. We commended the endeavour undertaken by Malaysia in leading the development of the Declaration.
12. We adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Combatting Cybercrime and Online Scams, which reaffirms our collective commitment and enhances our joint actions to combat the rapidly growing threats of cybercrime and online scams in our region. We commended the endeavour undertaken by Singapore in leading the development of the Declaration.
13. We endorsed the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Combatting Money Laundering, which strengthens our collective resolve and commitment to undertake more concerted and coordinated efforts to effectively combat the complex crime of money laundering in the region. We commended the endeavour undertaken by Malaysia in leading the development of the Declaration.
14. We endorsed the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Locating and Arresting Criminal Fugitives, which signals our unwavering commitment to cooperate in the pursuit of criminal fugitives and coordinate in locating and arresting fugitives who have committed crimes domestically and fled abroad. We commended the endeavour undertaken by Viet Nam in leading the development of the Declaration.
15. We endorsed the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Use of Sports for Preventing Violent Extremism, which highlights the important role of sports in building social cohesion, enhancing resilience, and providing positive alternatives to violent extremism. We commended the endeavour undertaken by Indonesia in leading the development of the Declaration.

16. We recognised the role of SOMTC and the DGICM in leading the implementation and monitoring of ASEAN cross-pillar and cross-sectoral cooperation on the issues of terrorism, trafficking in persons (TIP) and border management. We also commended the valuable contributions of SOMTC and the DGICM in various initiatives led by other sectors. We looked forward to the continued active roles of SOMTC and the DGICM in advancing ASEAN cross-sectoral and cross-pillar strategic measures, in support of ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future.
17. We lauded the active contributions of ASEAN Dialogue Partners in supporting and advancing our collaborative efforts to combat transnational crime. We further commended SOMTC and the DGICM for their steadfast commitment to exploring and implementing practical and operational cooperation, guided by the respective Work Plans with our Dialogue Partners.
18. We welcomed the Philippines as the incoming Chair of the AMMTC and looked forward to the convening of the 26th SOMTC and the 20th AMMTC, along with all related meetings in 2026. We also welcomed Brunei Darussalam as the Chair of the DGICM in 2025 and looked forward to the convening of the 29th DGICM and Its Related Meetings in 2026 under the chairmanship of Cambodia.
19. We looked forward with anticipation to Timor-Leste's admission as an ASEAN Member State at the 47th ASEAN Summit in October 2025.
20. We noted the steady progress made in advancing Timor-Leste accession to ASEAN legal instruments under the oversight of the AMMTC, namely the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) and the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP). We commended the efforts of Malaysia in leading this accession process, supported by Indonesia, the Philippines and the ASEAN Secretariat.
21. We take note that all ASEAN Member States have deposited their Instruments of Ratification for the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption to the ASEAN Secretariat and welcomed the entry into force of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption on 31 July 2025.
22. We expressed our sincere appreciation to the Government of Malaysia, especially the Ministry of Home Affairs, for the warm hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations, and the excellent arrangements of the 19th AMMTC and Its Related Meetings, which were convened in the traditional ASEAN spirit of solidarity and cordiality.