



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement
by
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Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the
United Nations
on behalf of
the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
at
the Sixth Committee of the 70th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly on
"Measures to eliminate international terrorism"
(Agenda item: 108)**

New York, 12 October 2015

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that comprises of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

2. It gives me great pleasure to express my sincere congratulations on your well-deserved election as the chairman of the Sixth Committee of the 70th Session of the General Assembly. I am confident that under your able leadership, the work of the committee will be crowned with success. I assure you of our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duty in the months ahead.

Mr. Chairman,

3. ASEAN welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" as contained in document A/70/211, reflecting the commitment of Member States of the United Nations to combatting international terrorism.

4. international terrorism is a global concern as it does not only undermine international peace and security but also hinder the development of our countries. Terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, is unjustifiable. ASEAN, therefore, supports the efforts of the international community to fight terrorism.

5. As the nature of international terrorism is complex and evolving, a comprehensive approach and concerted efforts from the international community to address this threat is needed. Hence, ASEAN supports the United Nations' Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as it promotes comprehensive, coordinated, and consistent responses, at the national, regional, and international levels to counter terrorism. We recognize that positive steps have been undertaken to improve the integrated and balanced implementation of the strategy, yet there remains more to be done to ensure its effective implementation. In this regard, ASEAN looks forward to the next review of the Strategy in June 2016.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Under its regional framework of cooperation, ASEAN has undertaken collective efforts at regional and international levels to combat international terrorism, in line with the United Nations' Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant United Nations conventions and resolutions. The primary framework for

ASEAN cooperation in combating terrorism is the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT). The ACCT not only enhances the ASEAN's regional strategic role but also complements the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the international conventions on counter-terrorism and the relevant UN resolutions.

7. In addition, as an outward-looking regional organization, ASEAN has concluded joint declarations for cooperation to combat international terrorism which serve as the basis for dialogues and cooperation with its dialogue partners in the efforts to address the issue of international terrorism.

8. Efforts of ASEAN to combat terrorism have been discussed and implemented at various levels. The main body which also oversees the implementation of the ACCT is the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crimes (AMMTC). The ASEAN leaders have also encouraged relevant sectorial bodies to enhance their cooperation and coordination in addressing the root causes of terrorism; countering, preventing and suppressing terrorists' networks; protecting the people of ASEAN and; reducing the vulnerability of critical infrastructures against terrorist attacks.

9. Activities undertaken by ASEAN in the area of counter-terrorism in 2015, among others, are as follows:

- On 28 January 2015, ASEAN Foreign Ministers issued a statement condemning and deploring the violence and brutality committed by extremist organizations and radical groups in Iraq and Syria;
- The 9th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) on 16 March 2015 in Langkawi, Malaysia declared to cooperate in accordance with both domestic and international law, including the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, to counter the imminent threats of terrorist/extremist organisations and radical groups through information sharing, increasing surveillance and promoting awareness among the public about the threat of radicalism;
- At the 26th Summit in Malaysia in April 2015, ASEAN leaders reaffirmed their commitment to promote regional peace and security through moderation and to enhance ASEAN's role as a global player. ASEAN reiterates the need to further strengthen regional cooperation amongst its Member States in tackling terrorism and transnational crimes.

- Convened the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and Its Related Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 29 September to 1 October 2015 in addressing Transnational Crime issues Counter Terrorism. The meeting adopted and signed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime as a renewal to the ASEAN Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime 1997.
- ASEAN also convened the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism (SAMMRRVE) in Kuala Lumpur on 2 October as a contribution to addressing the growing threat of radicalisation and violent extremists, and the danger it poses to the ASEAN region; and
- ASEAN played an active role in the East Asia Summit Symposium on Religious Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration, which was convened in Singapore on 16-17 April 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

10. ASEAN reiterates that terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any religion, race, nationality or ethnicity. Whilst fighting against terrorism, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as stipulated in the UN Charter, the main principles of international law, especially the international humanitarian and human rights laws shall be respected.

11. ASEAN stresses the importance of further deliberations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism at the Sixth Committee and hopes to see the finalization of the convention, and, therefore, calls on UN Member States to work together to address the outstanding issues in a constructive manner.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.