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STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SOVANN KE
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OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

SIXTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 109
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

74TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 7 OCTOBER 2019

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to address the Sixth Committee today on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

At the outset, ASEAN would like to warmly congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee. We assure you of our full cooperation, and are confident that under your able guidance the work of the Sixth Committee will advance to successful conclusions.

ASEAN would also like to thank the Secretary General for his report on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism," contained in document A/74/151. The report clearly outlines the efforts undertaken by Member States as well as regional and international organizations in the fight against terrorism. ASEAN strongly supports global action against terrorism, and we remain fully committed to fighting this scourge in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chairman,

International terrorism is a serious threat to international peace and security. Just in the last year, we have witnessed heinous terrorist attacks perpetuated in different countries across the world, in New Zealand and Sri Lanka and some other places. Disturbing in their nature, these attacks are becoming increasingly elaborate in their coordination and execution, all the while terror groups seek to maximize deadly impact on peaceful societies.

ASEAN strongly condemns these atrocious, unjustifiable acts. We are concerned with the intensity and spread of terrorist attacks throughout the world, and reaffirm our commitment to global counter-terrorism action. In this context, ASEAN supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, which provide a comprehensive, strategic approach for national, regional and international counter terrorism efforts.

Given that terrorists evolve their practices over time, ASEAN would like to stress the importance of keeping the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy relevant, so as to account for evolving trends and emerging new threats. As such, ASEAN looks forward to the seventh biannual review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy during this seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

In combating the growing threat of radicalization and extremism, ASEAN considers it of utmost importance to ensure that all measures, including all relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, safeguard and protect fundamental freedoms. As such, the fight against terrorism must be carried out in full accordance with the United Nations Charter, including respect for well-established international

humanitarian and human rights laws. Moreover, the principles of independence and sovereign equality of States must be wholly respected, while terrorism itself must not be associated with any race, religion, nationality, or ethnicity.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN is committed to eradicating the scourge of terrorism in our region and globally. The ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), which has been ratified by all ten ASEAN Member States, serves as a framework for regional cooperation to prevent and suppress terrorism while deepening counter-terrorism coordination. The ACCT enhances the region's strategic role in this global fight, while helping develop a safer and more secure world for everyone.

Over the years, ASEAN has strengthened its internal cooperation, setting up systems which enable our law enforcement to respond effectively to potential crisis situations. The ASEAN Communication and Coordination Protocol for Crisis Management, enables ASEAN members to expeditiously share information and intelligence, as well as provide assistance in cases of large-scale attacks.

ASEAN has and will continue to support its partners, and we encourage all States to enhance their information sharing methods, allowing for provision of technical assistance, exchange of best practices as well as capacity building measures. We are grateful for the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), as well as the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the UN Counter-Terrorism Center for their tireless work, leadership, and country assistance in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN will continue to play an active role in addressing the growing threat of radicalization and violent extremism. We envision a world free of terrorist threats and, as such, are prepared to actively work with other delegations in refining and improving the global counter-terrorism architecture. In this light, we would like to reaffirm the importance of continuing deliberations on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in this Sixth Committee, with a view to achieving consensus on this important instrument.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.