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Statement by

His Excellency Sovann Ke

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to the United Nations**

On behalf of

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Sixth Committee

Agenda Item 112

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 3 October 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have the honor to address the Sixth Committee today on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee and other members of the bureau. We assure you of our full cooperation, and are confident that under your able guidance this Committee will accomplish its work with great success.

ASEAN would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism” contained in document A/77/185 which outlines the efforts undertaken by Member States, regional and international organizations in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman!

Terrorism has grown in complexity and can affect anyone and anywhere. ASEAN takes note with grave concern the return of lone wolf terrorists and the rise in terrorism in particular in regions and countries experiencing conflict and instability. This rising threat has claimed many innocent lives, caused destruction and displaced people, and hindered socio-economic development including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. ASEAN condemns in the strongest terms the attacks carried out by terrorists in the region and around the world, and will continue working tirelessly to eradicate the scourge of terrorism by bringing perpetrators to justice.

As the world is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, terrorist groups are able to take advantages of the internet and social media in spreading information and propaganda which has resulted in new patterns of radicalization. Against this backdrop, the international community must commit to full engagement in the fight against terrorism.

ASEAN firmly supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and commits to full implementation of the Strategy. We also take note of the progress made in supporting and advancing the rights and needs of victims of terrorism and welcome the successful convening of the First United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism held last month. We also commend the work of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), and their provision of technical support to Member States.

Mr. Chairman!

When it comes to addressing the complex challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, everyone has a role to play. In our region, ASEAN is guided by the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2018-2025. The Plan of Action aims to further strengthen the close

cooperation among ASEAN Member States in preventing and countering the rise of radicalization and violent extremism, while taking an integrated evidence-based approaches, and enhancing collaboration among ASEAN sectoral bodies in countering radicalization in our region and beyond.

Moreover, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism together with the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), which has been ratified by all ten ASEAN Member States, serve as a framework for regional cooperation to prevent and suppress extremism while deepening counter-terrorism coordination.

We have been actively promoting these ideals among the populations at our national and regional levels. During the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum in August 2022, the Ministers commended the region's continued commitment to addressing the complex challenges posed by terrorism, violent extremism conducive to terrorism (VECT), and transnational organized crime against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through cross-sectoral and cross-pillar cooperation in border management and combating terrorism, trafficking in persons, and illicit drugs.

Mr. Chairman!

No terrorist act can be justified in any circumstances. In this sense, ASEAN will continue playing an active role in addressing the growing threat of terrorism across the globe, and exploring new forms of counter-terrorism collaboration and strengthen cross-sectoral counter-terrorism cooperation with partners. We reiterate our long-lasting position that terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any race, religion, nationality, or ethnicity.

The fight against terrorism must be carried out in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, while respecting well-established international humanitarian and human rights laws, principles of independence and sovereign equality of states, as well as non-interference in domestic affairs as they are critical in ensuring an effective global counter-terrorism response.

Envisaging a world free of terrorist threat, ASEAN is prepared to work closely with other delegations in improving the global counter-terrorism architecture, including through continued deliberations on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the Sixth Committee to achieve consensus on this very important instrument.

Mr. Chairman!

Terrorism is not just a severe threat to ASEAN's progress, but a shared global threat which undermines international peace, stability, security and prosperity. We wish to reassure you that ASEAN will continue working proactively and remain committed to defeating this scourge for the benefit of all people.

I thank you.