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**Statement by**  
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**Cambodia to the United Nations**

**On behalf of**  
**The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

**Sixth Committee**

**Agenda Item 110**  
**Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism**

**79<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York, 2 October 2024**

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman,**

1. It is with great honor that I deliver this statement on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at this important session of the Sixth Committee on "**Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.**" Allow me to begin by extending my heartfelt congratulations to you on your election as Chair. We have full confidence in your leadership and are certain that under your guidance, our discussions will be productive and lead to significant and tangible outcomes that will advance our collective counter-terrorism efforts.
2. ASEAN deeply appreciates the crucial role played by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED). Their tireless technical assistance and support have proven instrumental in enhancing the capacity of Member States to address the evolving nature of terrorism. We recognize that their expertise, training, and assistance provide Member States with the essential tools to enhance our legal and operational frameworks to effectively combat terrorism.
3. In this context, ASEAN warmly welcomed the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/298 last year, which marked the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This Strategy remains a critical international framework, strengthening national, regional, and global efforts to combat terrorism. The progress achieved in its implementation thus far is commendable, and ASEAN reaffirms its strong commitment to fully supporting the Strategy's objectives. We must ensure that this comprehensive approach continues to evolve to meet emerging threats, building on past successes while addressing new challenges.
4. Looking ahead, we are particularly encouraged by the upcoming United Nations International Conference on Victims of Terrorism, which will focus on the role of education as a tool for prevention, peacebuilding, and victim empowerment. Scheduled for 8-9 October 2024 in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, this conference represents a crucial opportunity for Member States, experts, practitioners, and victims themselves to review progress, share experiences, and explore how education can play a transformative role in preventing terrorism and violent extremism. By empowering victims and building resilient communities, we can foster a more inclusive and peaceful society that rejects violence in all its forms.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. ASEAN firmly believes that terrorism and violent extremism represent not only immediate threats to global security but also significant obstacles to long-term

peace, stability, and development. We recognize that no nation can effectively tackle these challenges alone. Therefore, ASEAN has established a comprehensive and robust framework at the regional level to address terrorism in all its manifestations. The ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, adopted during the 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) in 2017, and the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, signed in 2007 and ratified by all ten ASEAN Member States, reflect our unwavering commitment to collective security and cooperation.

6. Our regional efforts are guided by the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism (2018-2025). This holistic strategy addresses radicalization by focusing on four key pillars: (i) the prevention of radicalization; (ii) counter-radicalization and de-radicalization initiatives; (iii) strengthening law enforcement and national legislation; and (iv) fostering regional partnerships and cooperation. To further consolidate these efforts, the Bali Work Plan (2019-2025) has been established, facilitating collaboration among 19 ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, enabling a coordinated approach to combating radicalization and violent extremism across various sectors in the region.
7. ASEAN's comprehensive strategy is further exemplified by the endorsement of the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan Against Trafficking in Persons 2023-2028 (Bohol TIP Work Plan 2.0) during the 17th AMMTC. This plan addresses transnational crimes like human trafficking and migrant smuggling, which are often intertwined with terrorist activities. By focusing on irregular migration and the associated criminal networks, we aim to disrupt the interconnected threats that challenge regional stability.
8. Additionally, the outcomes of the 31st ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), held in Vientiane on 27 July 2024, underscore the importance of continued collaboration in tackling transnational threats. Five priority areas have been identified for the 2024-2026 period: illicit drugs, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) matters, preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism, trafficking in persons, and border security management related to foreign terrorist fighters and transnational criminal travel. We strongly encourage all ARF participants to actively engage in these areas and support the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC), ensuring that these priorities are effectively addressed.
9. Furthermore, ASEAN recognizes the significant contributions of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus initiatives. These platforms have facilitated strategic information-sharing on counter-terrorism,

preventing violent extremism, and radicalization, as well as knowledge exchange, experience-sharing, and capacity-building initiatives. The ADMM-Plus framework remains an essential mechanism for enhancing security cooperation in the region, particularly in addressing the evolving nature of terrorism and extremism.

**Mr. Chairman,**

10. ASEAN remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting global efforts to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. To achieve this goal, we emphasize several critical measures that must be prioritized:
11. **Strengthening International Cooperation:** ASEAN strongly advocates for enhanced international collaboration, information-sharing, and coordination among Member States and relevant international organizations. Only by working together can we dismantle terrorist networks, disrupt their financing channels, and ensure that those responsible for terrorism are brought to justice.
12. **Addressing Root Causes:** To effectively combat terrorism, we must address its root causes, including poverty, inequality, social exclusion, and lack of education. ASEAN calls for sustained investments in sustainable development, education, and social inclusion as long-term strategies to prevent the conditions that give rise to violent extremism.
13. **Respect for Human Rights and the Rule of Law:** ASEAN reaffirms that counter-terrorism measures must always align with international human rights standards and the rule of law. We must avoid measures that could inadvertently marginalize or stigmatize communities, as this could foster further grievances and radicalization.
14. **Capacity Building:** ASEAN is committed to enhancing the capacity of Member States to effectively prevent and respond to terrorism. We call for continued technical assistance, training, and capacity-building programs that strengthen national efforts in counter-terrorism.
15. **Countering Radicalization:** Prevention is key. ASEAN underscores the importance of community-based programs, interfaith dialogue, and educational initiatives aimed at countering extremist narratives and ideologies. By fostering tolerance, inclusivity, and understanding, we can prevent the spread of radical ideologies.
16. **Protection of Soft Targets:** In today's interconnected world, public spaces and critical infrastructure remain highly vulnerable to terrorist attacks. ASEAN urges stronger cooperation in safeguarding these "soft targets" to ensure public safety and prevent future tragedies.

17. **Cybersecurity:** Terrorist organizations are increasingly using digital platforms for recruitment, propaganda, and coordination, so robust cybersecurity measures are essential. ASEAN calls for heightened vigilance and cooperation to prevent terrorist exploitation of cyberspace.

**Mr. Chairman,**

18. ASEAN stands united in its stance that terrorism is never justifiable in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of their motivations and believe that those responsible for such acts must face appropriate consequences. We will continue to actively contribute to the global fight against terrorism and violent extremism, ensuring that our collective response is comprehensive, inclusive, and respectful of human rights. In this regard, we stress that terrorism must never be associated with any particular race, religion, nationality, or ethnicity.

19. Lastly, we emphasize that all counter-terrorism efforts must be carried out with full respect to the United Nations Charter, international humanitarian law, and human rights law. It is equally vital to uphold the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, a consistent approach, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of states as we pursue these shared goals.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kind attention.**