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Statement by
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to the United Nations

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

Sixth Committee

Agenda Item 110
Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

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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 on **"Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism."** Allow me to begin by extending my heartfelt congratulations to you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee. 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. 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. In this context, ASEAN warmly welcomed the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/79/129 last year, to establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.
2. In 2026, the United Nations General Assembly will undertake the ninth review of the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy, commemorating two decades since its adoption as a foundational instrument for global collaboration in preventing and combating terrorism. This significant juncture provides Member States with a timely opportunity to assess advancements achieved since the eighth review in 2023, while also deepening collective understanding of evolving challenges and identifying strategic responses to emerging threats. 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.

Mr. Chairman,

3. 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. Therefore, ASEAN has established a comprehensive and robust framework at the regional level to address terrorism in all its manifestations. 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. We noted the steady progress

made in advancing Timor-Leste accession to ASEAN legal instruments under the oversight of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), including the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT).

4. ASEAN recognizes the growing nexus between terrorism and transnational crime. Our efforts to combat transnational crime are thus part of our comprehensive approach to eliminate terrorism. ASEAN Ministers responsible for combatting transnational crime, alongside Timor-Leste as Observer, at the 19th AMMTC, convened in Melaka, Malaysia, from September 8-12, 2025, with key outcomes including the adoption of the ASEAN Plan of Action (POA) in Combating Transnational Crime (2026-2035), the Melaka Declaration on Combatting Transnational Crime, and the ASEAN Declaration on Countering People Smuggling in Southeast Asia. The meeting also established an ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Working Group on Money Laundering, approved the ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap, and adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Combatting Cybercrime and Online Scams.
5. Recognising the final implementation phase of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism (PoA PCVE) 2018-2025 and the Bali Work Plan 2019-2025, ASEAN encouraged all relevant ASEAN Entities to intensify their efforts to fully implement the Work Plan, including through collaborations with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other external parties, guided by the principles of ASEAN Centrality and mutual respect. We are looking forward to the development of the successor document of the PoA PCVE and its corresponding cross-sectoral work plan, building upon regional best practices, including prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration, and utilizing the role of community and religious leaders in strengthening social resilience. We also looked forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Use of Sports for Preventing Violent Extremism at the 47th ASEAN Summit, which will take place in Kuala Lumpur from Oct 26 to 28, 2025.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. Furthermore, ASEAN recognizes the significant contributions of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) initiatives and ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (EWG-CT). 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 EWG framework remains an essential mechanism for enhancing practical security cooperation in the region, particularly in addressing the evolving nature of terrorism and extremism.

Mr. Chairman,

9. ASEAN remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting global efforts to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. ASEAN's approach to eliminating international terrorism includes enhancing regional and international cooperation, strengthening counter-terrorism laws and capacity building, and preventing radicalization through education and community engagement. Key measures involve protecting soft targets, combating foreign terrorist fighters, sharing intelligence, and preventing terrorist exploitation of cyberspace, as well as cutting off terrorist financing. ASEAN also emphasizes that all counter-terrorism efforts must uphold human rights, the rule of law, and international law, while also addressing the root causes of extremism through sustainable development and social inclusion. 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.
10. Lastly, we emphasize that all counter-terrorism efforts must be carried out with full respect to the United Nations Charter, international humanitarian law, and

international 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.