

## **EAS LEADERS' STATEMENT ON COUNTERING IDEOLOGICAL CHALLENGES OF TERRORISM AND TERRORIST NARRATIVES AND PROPAGANDA**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States of America, on the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Manila, Philippines on 14 November 2017;

**REAFFIRMING** that the East Asia Summit, with ASEAN as the driving force, will continue to be a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia;

**REITERATING** that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes a global threat to international peace and security and cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, ethnic group or civilisation and that any act of terror is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of the motivations of its perpetrators, whenever, wherever, and by whomsoever committed;

**NOTING** with concern that terrorists craft distorted narratives that are based on the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of religion to justify violence, which are utilized to recruit supporters and Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), mobilize resources, and garner support from sympathizers, in particular by exploiting information and communications technologies, including through the Internet and social media;

**REAFFIRMING** determination to prevent, suppress and eliminate international terrorism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and recognising the need to fully implement the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, as well as the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

**REAFFIRMING** our strong condemnation of terrorist attacks and recalling our strong determination and commitment to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism as a part of these broader counterterrorism efforts, through increased solidarity and global action including, as appropriate, the implementation of the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and the 2017 ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, the principles reflected in the 2015 East Asia Summit Statement on Countering Violent Extremism and the 2014 East Asia Summit Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organisations in Iraq and Syria;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** commitments to strengthen cooperation in line with the EAS Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates;

**UNDERSCORING** the leading role of States and their competent agencies in preventing

and countering terrorism and violent extremism at the national, regional and international levels, and stressing the necessity to develop international cooperation in accordance with international law and the principles of the UN Charter, including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of all States, as well as taking into account the Declaration of the EAS on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations;

**STRESSING** the urgent need to develop the most effective means to counter terrorist activities globally, including countering the spread of terrorist and violent extremist ideology and propaganda, and incitement of and recruitment to commit terrorist acts and in this regard recalling the UN Security Council Resolution 1624 (2005) which calls on States to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law to prohibit by law incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as welcoming the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2354 (2017) in support of a comprehensive international framework on countering terrorist narratives;

**RECOGNISING** the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and the drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, both internal and external, pursuant to international law and while ensuring national ownership and recognizing that none of these can excuse or justify terrorist acts;

**DESIRING** to further strengthen our cooperation to counter the ideological challenges of terrorism and terrorist narratives and propaganda;

**DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:**

1. Encourage all States to accede to and/or ratify and implement relevant international instruments on counter-terrorism;
2. Implement relevant UN Security Council Resolutions on counter-terrorism and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, support the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and take note of the UN Secretary General Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism;
3. Join efforts to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism in the region in accordance with international law and principles of the UN Charter, including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States, as well as taking into account the Declaration of the EAS on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations, including the principle of non-interference, and enhance cooperation to support initiatives and measures aimed at combating those conditions;
4. Support ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-

Terrorism, and the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime, where appropriate and in accordance with national priorities;

5. Strengthen cooperation to promote the values of moderation and terrorist deradicalisation initiatives, including through exchange of experiences and best practices;
6. Commit to enhance cooperation through the exchange of experiences and best practices on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration in order to counter the ideological challenges of terrorism and terrorist narratives and propaganda, and to take necessary and appropriate measures in this regard in accordance with international obligations and domestic laws;
7. Strengthen cooperation to stop terrorism financing efforts, suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and prevent recruitment of members of terrorist groups;
8. Counter the use of ICTs, in particular the Internet and social media platforms, for terrorist purposes, inter alia, for spreading terrorist and violent extremist ideology and propaganda, radicalizing to violence, recruiting to join terrorist organisations and inciting individuals to commit terrorist acts, in line with international law and national legislation;
9. Cooperate to counter terrorist and violent extremist ideology and propaganda, and promote positive messages of respect, inclusion and moderation, including through developing a compendium of regional counter-narratives and a regional network for civil society organisations to amplify effective messages across the region;
10. Encourage public-private partnerships and cooperation with civil and religious society, the business community, technology sectors, the media, and educational institutions to support and contribute to national, regional and global campaigns against terrorism as well as to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding, promote moderation, respect and coexistence, disseminate positive alternative narratives, and foster an environment that is not conducive to terrorism while respecting international obligations, including human rights and fundamental freedoms;
11. Continue to work with the United Nations and other international and regional institutions and, where appropriate, other relevant centres in ASEAN and other regions to continuously develop strategies, techniques and tactics to counter terrorism and related threats.