



## JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

### THE SEVENTEENTH ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS AND HEADS OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISIONS OF MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PLUS AUSTRALIA CONSULTATION

#### (17<sup>TH</sup> DGICM + AUSTRALIA CONSULTATION)

Singapore, 25 August 2022

1. The 17<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation was held in Singapore on 25 August 2022. The Consultation was co-chaired by Mr. Marvin Sim, Commissioner of Immigration & Checkpoints Authority of Singapore and Mr. Michael Willard, First Assistant Secretary, Department of Home Affairs of Australia and held in a hybrid format following the reopening of borders in the region.
2. The Consultation was attended by the Heads of Immigration and Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States and Australia, as well as officials from the ASEAN Secretariat. Formally established in 2005, the Forum continues to serve as a platform for sharing immigration contacts, identifying immigration training needs, and exploring opportunities for training cooperation and options for common training tools to benefit the region.
3. The Consultation noted the *ad referendum* adoption of the 2021-2022 ASEAN-Australia Programme of Work and commended its successful implementation of activities, which included the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Australia Immigration Training Committee (ITC) Meeting held on 23-24 May 2022 via videoconference, and six virtual webinars delivered to the ASEAN Member States on border issues related to transnational crime.
4. The Consultation adopted the 2022-2023 ASEAN-Australia Programme of Work and the updated Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ASEAN-Australia ITC Meeting.
5. The ASEAN Member States expressed appreciation to the Department of Home Affairs of Australia for their continued support in strengthening immigration-related capacity and capability across the

region and looked forward to the implementation of the 2022-2023 ASEAN-Australia Programme of Work.

6. The Consultation looked forward to the convening of the 18<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation that would be held in conjunction with the 26<sup>th</sup> DGICM, to be hosted by Thailand.

7. The Consultation expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all delegates.

8. The Co-Chairs thanked all ASEAN Member States and Australia for their contributions to the success of the Consultation.

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