

JOINT STATEMENT

THIRTEENTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (13TH AMMTC) Bangkok, Thailand, 27 November 2019

1. We, the ASEAN Ministers/High-Level Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, responsible for handling transnational crime matters, convened the Thirteenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 November 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the 13th AMMTC) to consolidate and further strengthen regional cooperation in combating transnational crime. The 13th AMMTC was chaired by the AMMTC Leader of Thailand, General Chaichan Changmongkol, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Thailand.
2. The Meeting was preceded by the Preparatory ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) for the 13th AMMTC on 26 November 2019.
3. We took note of the report of the outgoing Chair of the 12th AMMTC held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 29 October – 2 November 2018. The Report highlighted significant achievements carried out in the past year including the adoption of the ASEAN Plan of Action (PoA) to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2018-2025 and the SOMTC Work Programme 2019-2021 which would contribute to the realisation of an ASEAN Community that is resilient and safe for our people.
4. We took note of the outcomes of meetings under the purview of AMMTC including the 19th SOMTC and Its Related Meetings held on 23 – 26 July 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and the 23rd ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting (DGICM) and Its Related Meetings held on 20 - 21 August 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
5. We adopted the Work Plan of the ASEAN PoA to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2019-2025 (Bali Work Plan). The Work Plan is a testament to ASEAN's commitment to synergise cross-sectoral and cross-pillar collaboration in preventing and combating transnational crime with the largest number of participating ASEAN Sectoral Bodies/Entities/Organs.

6. We noted the significant progress in addressing the need for a monitoring and reporting mechanism for the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP). We looked forward to the conduct of Country-Level Consultations by the Philippines with all ASEAN Member States regarding the proposed Focal Point System of National ACTIP Representatives.
7. We commended the efforts of SOMTC in strengthening cooperation in addressing transnational crime with our Dialogue Partners and welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-China Work Plan on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues (2019-2023), the ASEAN-European Union Work Plan to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2018-2021) and the SOMTC-United States Work Plan for Transnational Crime (2019-2021). We looked forward to the implementation of these Work Plans as well as the finalisation of the draft work plans with Australia, Canada and Russia.
8. We also noted with satisfaction the adoption of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the SOMTC Working Group on Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife and Timber. We looked forward to the Working Group's future endeavours to cooperate on the prevention and combating of Illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber in ASEAN and beyond.
9. We also endorsed the alignment of SOMTC and the AMMTC chairmanship following the ASEAN chairmanship beginning in 2021. We welcomed Brunei Darussalam to assume the chairmanship of SOMTC and the AMMTC in 2021.
10. Following ASEAN Leaders' commitment at the 34th and 35th ASEAN Summits to strengthen cross-sectoral and cross-pillar collaboration in preventing and combating transnational crime, we noted with interest the on-going discussion on Thailand's Concept Paper entitled "A Regional Border Management Cooperation Roadmap" at SOMTC and the DGICM, which is expected to further strengthen cooperation on border management as reflected in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. In this regard, we encouraged SOMTC and the DGICM to continue the discussion on the proposed document for consideration of the next AMMTC in 2020 in Viet Nam.
11. We commended the efforts undertaken by SOMTC-Viet Nam to draft the Concept Paper on Trafficking of Antiquities and noted with satisfaction the on-going discussion of this Concept Paper.
12. We welcomed the achievements of the 13th AMMTC which helped contribute to the ASEAN Chairmanship theme this year of "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability".
13. We inaugurated the First ASEAN Plus Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC + ROK) Consultation with a view to further

strengthening our collective endeavours to tackle transnational crime and cross-border challenges, especially those of the ten priority areas under the purview of SOMTC. We noted the adoption of the SOMTC-ROK Work Plan for Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Transnational Crime 2019-2023 and looked forward to its effective implementation. We welcomed the meeting's contribution to the ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership and to the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations.

14. We welcomed the kind offer by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to host the 14th AMMTC in 2020.

15. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for their warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations, including the excellent meetings and arrangements that were held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of friendship and cordiality.
