



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH MINISTERIAL
MEETING ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT (AMMDM) AND EIGHTH
MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP) TO THE
ASEAN AGREEMENT ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE (AADMER)**

4 October 2019
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

1. The 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and the 8th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) were convened as a joint session in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 4 October 2019. The Meeting was opened by H.E. U. Henry Van Thio, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, followed by activities in commemoration of ASEAN Day for Disaster Management (ADDM) 2019. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The Meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of disaster management, Secretary-General of ASEAN, representatives from all ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).
2. The Ministers congratulated Myanmar on the selection of “Bridging Disaster Recovery to Resilience” as the theme for this year’s ADDM. In this connection, the Ministers encouraged a more strategic and holistic approach in mobilizing resources to support the recovery efforts for the affected countries to enhance regional resilience and protect the socio-economic development gain.
3. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) on the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 as well as the Governing Board of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in providing guidance on the operationalization of the AHA Centre. Accomplishments in both the policy and operational fronts are essential in achieving the aspirations of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response, the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management and fulfilling the objectives of the

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025.

4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the achievements across all Priority Programmes of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 this year including the adoption of the Guidelines on the Use of the ASEAN Emblem During Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), the launched of the report of the ASEAN-ESCAP Joint Study on Drought, the conduct of the Pilot Advanced ASEAN-ERAT Courses, the establishment of two additional Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) satellite warehouses in the Philippines and Thailand, and the convening of the 5th ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM).

5. The Ministers recognized the importance of the AADMER Work Programme in charting the direction for disaster management in ASEAN, and noted the endorsement of the proposal for the development of the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 including the formation of the Task Force to support this initiative.

6. The Ministers also recognized the important role of the AHA Centre in operationalizing the One ASEAN One Response Declaration and commended the AHA Centre's assistance to the Government of Lao PDR to support the communities affected by the floods caused by Tropical Storm Podul and Tropical Depression Kajiki. The Ministers also noted the critical role of the AHA Centre in coordinating and facilitating ASEAN's collective effort in building the ASEAN Resilient Village in disaster affected areas in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia.

7. With a view to realizing the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response, the Ministers noted the preparation of the Secretary-General of ASEAN's 'Report on the Implementation of One ASEAN One Response' which would be presented to the ASEAN Leaders at the forthcoming 35th ASEAN Summit.

8. The Ministers welcomed the ASEAN Secretariat's initiative to conduct a tabletop exercise to review the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC). The Ministers looked forward to the subsequent review of the Terms of Reference of SG-AHAC to further enhance the mechanism in supporting the member states affected by natural disasters, human-induced disasters as well as pandemics.

9. The Ministers appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General of ASEAN, ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre and the Governing Board of the AHA Centre in conducting the Preliminary Needs Assessment (PNA) to identify the areas of collaboration to facilitate the repatriation process in Rakhine State, Myanmar as well as implementation of the recommendations contained in the PNA.

10. Cognizant of the importance of nurturing a mutually beneficial and collaborative relationship with ASEAN's partners in the field of disaster management, the Ministers noted the developments in the finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding with

the Russian Federation and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The Ministers also expressed support to the ASEAN Secretariat in the planning of the 2nd ASEAN-ICRC Joint Platform with the theme of “Sustainable Humanitarian Actions in Disasters” to be held on the first week of November 2019 in conjunction with the 35th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok.

11. In the spirit of an outward-looking ASEAN as envisioned in the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, the Ministers commended ASEAN’s participation in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) this year. The Ministers also appreciated the ASEAN Joint Statement at the GPDRR which articulated ASEAN’s aspirations to be the global leader in disaster management. In addition, the Ministers expressed support to ASEAN’s participation at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in 2020.

12. In this same vein, the Ministers noted the ACDM’s engagement with ASEAN Dialogue Partners from the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea to explore the possibility of establishing ASEAN Plus mechanisms on disaster management. The Ministers welcomed Japan’s agreement to establish the AMMDM Plus Japan cooperation and looked forward to the convening of the meeting of AMMDM Plus Japan in the future.

13. The Ministers noted the 11th Meeting of the Governing Board of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and congratulated progress that have been made by the Centre under the guidance of the Governing Board in the implementation of the AHA Centre Work Plan 2020, including the operationalisation of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response. The Ministers also expressed its appreciation to the AHA Centre and the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) from the ASEAN Member States for its continuous support to the Government of Myanmar’s efforts to ensure a secure and dignified repatriation process in Rakhine state through the conduct of the Preliminary Needs Assessment and the Planned Comprehensive Needs Assessment. The Ministers also took note of the AHA Centre’s plan to conduct a strategic visioning exercise as part of its 8th year anniversary to rethink how it can better enhance its services to support ASEAN Member States as the primary regional coordinating agency on disaster management and emergency response in ASEAN.

14. The Ministers also took note of the ongoing organisational development of the AHA Centre as well as its efforts to strengthen partnerships to further enhance its capacities. The Ministers noted the in-principle agreement by the Governing Board of the AHA Centre on the intent of the AHA Centre to sign the Memorandum of intent (MOI) between the AHA Centre and its counterpart in Korea, the Korea National Fire Agency, to enhance areas of collaboration on capacity development of humanitarian responders, development of standards and certification for experts in disaster management, sharing of knowledge and experience in the management of disasters, and collaboration to promote the latest technological innovation and advances to improve the management of disasters.

15. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the leadership of the Government of Myanmar as Chair of the ACDM, the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the COP to AADMER and the AMMDM in 2019, and looked forward to the 8th AMMDM and the 9th Meeting of the COP to AADMER, scheduled in the Philippines in 2020.

16. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government of Myanmar for hosting the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the AADMER and for the excellent arrangements made and hospitality provided.
