

**The Sixth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters  
(6<sup>th</sup> AMMD)  
18 October 2018, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

**Chairman's Statement**

1. The Sixth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (6<sup>th</sup> AMMD) was held on 18 October 2018 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. His Excellency Senior Lieutenant General To Lam, Minister of Public Security, Viet Nam, was the Guest of Honour at the Opening Ceremony of the 6<sup>th</sup> AMMD, and officially opened the Meeting.
2. The 6<sup>th</sup> AMMD was chaired by His Excellency Senior Lieutenant General Le Quy Vuong, Deputy Minister of Public Security, Viet Nam. The Meeting was attended by the ASEAN Ministers responsible for drug matters, ASEAN Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies and their respective delegations and the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.
3. The Ministers recognised significant achievements made since the convening of the first AMMD, which had strengthened ASEAN's resolve against drug abuse, and renewed the commitment towards the Drug Free ASEAN aspiration. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD), and its five working groups for their efforts in addressing the regional drug situation. They also acknowledged the contributions made through regional cooperation mechanisms, such as the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF), the ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF), the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center (ASEAN-NARCO) and the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN).

4. The Ministers acknowledged the continuing threat from the production and trafficking of illicit drugs faced in the region, such as the multiple record seizures of illicit drug seizures since 2017, the new challenges posed by the New Psychoactive Substances, and the use of internet and parcel posts to facilitate drug activities. The Ministers therefore re-affirmed their strong commitment, and readiness to implement the proposed activities as guided by the *ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025* (ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2025), as well as the *ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle 2017-2019* (ASEAN Cooperation Plan 2017 – 2019).

5. The Ministers reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment in realising the aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN, through a zero-tolerance approach towards illicit drugs. This will provide our people and communities with society free from the abuse and ill effects of drugs. ASEAN shall continue to be resolute in our position, despite the shift in drug policies seen in other parts of the world advocating decriminalisation or legalisation of drugs.

6. The Ministers called on Member States to maintain ASEAN unity and solidarity in their participation at the United Nations Commission of Narcotic Drugs (CND) and related meetings, especially during discussions of the future global drug plan at the 62<sup>nd</sup> CND in 2019.

7. Recognising that the global discussion on the drug problem continues to lean towards more liberal approaches on drugs, which goes against ASEAN's longstanding commitment to achieving drug-free communities, the Ministers adopted the ASEAN Joint Statement that

would be delivered by Viet Nam at the High-Level Segment at the 62<sup>nd</sup> CND in March 2019, which would reiterate the following key positions by ASEAN:

- a) Member States' shared commitment to a zero-tolerance approach towards illicit drugs;
- b) The centrality of the CND, and the three international drug conventions<sup>1</sup>;
- c) The complementary and mutually-reinforcing nature of the 2009, 2014 and 2016 political documents<sup>2</sup>;
- d) The ASEAN Member States' shared commitment to a Drug-Free ASEAN vision;
- e) The ASEAN Member States' resolve in rejecting attempts to universalise any drug policies, including calls to legalise illicit drugs; and
- f) The need to respect the sovereign right of each state.

8. As a show of ASEAN solidarity, the Member States also agreed to incorporate the abovementioned key positions where appropriate, in their Country Statements if they are also delivering their Country Statement at the 62<sup>nd</sup> CND.

9. As there would be a normative segment on the implementation of the international drug control treaties, the Ministers also adopted another ASEAN Joint Statement that would be delivered by Singapore at the

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<sup>1</sup> The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,

<sup>2</sup> The 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the High-Level Review in March 2014 and the Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem.

Fifth Intersessional Meeting of the CND on 7-9 November 2018. This Statement would reaffirm ASEAN's resolute stand against legalisation of illicit drugs for non-medical and non-scientific use and urge the international community to uphold the provisions of the international drug control conventions, which the international community has jointly affirmed as the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

10. The Ministers took note of the report of the first internal review of ASEAN Work Plan 2016 – 2025 prepared by Brunei Darussalam. The Ministers also agreed to continue to monitor the progress of the implementation of their activities listed in the Work Plan, and assess the implementation of their national-level activities.

11. Recognising that the illicit drug trafficking from the Golden Triangle will have a downstream effect on all ASEAN Member States, the Ministers encouraged the ASEAN Member States to continue with the implementation of activities in the ASEAN Cooperation Plan 2017 – 2019.

12. The Ministers adopted the *Guiding Criteria and Modalities in Engaging External Parties for the AMMD and its Subsidiary Mechanisms*, which sets out the criteria and modalities to assess requests for consultations and informal meetings by external parties, and ensure adherence and consistency in the conduct of ASEAN's external relations.

13. The Ministers meeting appreciated Thailand's efforts to enhance ASEAN-wide border management cooperation arrangement which

safeguards the region against the threats of transnational crime, including illicit drugs trafficking.

14. The Ministers welcomed the offer by Cambodia to host the 7<sup>th</sup> AMMD in 2020.

15. The Ministers expressed their deep appreciation to the Government and people of Viet Nam for the warm welcome and the generous hospitality accorded to all ASEAN Member States, as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

16. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality, in keeping with ASEAN's journey towards a region of "*One Vision, One Identity, One Community*".

**Viet Nam**

**18 October 2018**