



**JOINT STATEMENT/DECLARATION OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> EAST ASIA SUMMIT  
ON REGIONAL RESPONSE TO OUTBREAK OF EBOLA VIRUS  
DISEASE**

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 November 2014

**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 9<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 13 November 2014.

**RECALLING** that in 2013 at 8<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, leaders recognised health as a fundamental right of our people and the importance of achieving universal health coverage to address diverse health needs and improving the health outcomes of our peoples by exploring possible areas of cooperation in health including addressing broader global health issues and pandemic diseases;

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** that the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak is a major burden causing significant death, illness and strain on the health care systems in West Africa, in particular Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone and beyond;

**EQUALLY CONCERNED** that the "unprecedented extent" of the EVD outbreak in West Africa constitutes a threat to international peace and security, which requires urgent action and greater national, regional and international collaboration;

**COMMENDING** the continued contribution and commitment of international health and humanitarian relief workers which indeed reflects strong international solidarity to respond urgently to the EVD outbreak;

**RECALLING** UN Resolution 2177 (2014) adopted on 18 September 2014 urging immediate action, and an end to isolation of affected States and the UNSC Resolution 2176 (2014) adopted on 15 September 2014 concerning the situation in Liberia;

**RECALLING** Resolution WHA58.3 on the revision of the International Health Regulations, which underscored the continued importance of the International Health Regulations as the key global instrument for the protection against the international spread of diseases, and which urged Member States, inter alia, to build, strengthen and maintain the capacities required under the International Health Regulations (2005) and to mobilize the resources necessary for that purpose;

**CONFIRMING** our commitment to the Plan of Action to Implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on EAS Development Initiative (2014-2015) adopted in August 2014, to enhance regional preparedness and capacity through comprehensive and integrated approaches to (i) prevention;(ii) control;(iii) care;(iv) management;(v) surveillance; and (vi) timely response to communicable diseases; emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases; and impacts of pandemics.

**RECALLING** the commitment stated in the ASEAN Charter, in which ASEAN is resolved to ensure sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations and to place the well being, livelihood welfare of the peoples at the centre of ASEAN Community building;

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint adopted in 2009, part of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015 which calls for the regional preparedness and capacity through integrated approaches to prevention, surveillance and timely response to communicable and emerging infectious diseases;

**RECALLING** the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) as a manifestation of ASEAN's global outreach to contribute in addressing the myriad of complex and dynamic global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in a more coordinated, cohesive and coherent manner and also recalls on Bali Concord III Plan of Action 2013-2017 in which calls for the enhancement of the ASEAN Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Mechanism for surveillance, prevention, preparedness, and responses to EIDs;

**WELCOMING** that the outcome of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting agreed to pledge the commitment to the vision "A Healthy, Caring and Sustainable ASEAN Community" and agreed the four clusters mission statement of a) promoting health lifestyle; b) responding to all hazards and emerging threats; c) strengthening health system and access to care; and d) ensuring food safety;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE** that we will strengthen national and regional responses to the outbreak through existing bilateral, regional and multilateral channels by:

1. Reaffirming our political commitment to increase efforts to response to the EVD crisis;
2. Fully supporting the establishment of United Nations Mission for EVD Emergency Response, or UNMEER to stem the crisis, treat the infected, ensure essential services, preserve stability and prevent further outbreaks;
3. Calling serious attention to the WHO Ebola Response Roadmap of 28 August 2014 that aims to stop transmission of the Ebola virus disease worldwide, while managing the consequences of any further international spread and also taking note of the 12 Mission Critical Actions, including infection control, community mobilization and economic recovery, to resolve the Ebola outbreak;
4. Encouraging the governments of affected countries to accelerate the establishment of national mechanisms to provide for the rapid diagnosis and isolation of suspected cases of infection, treatment measures, effective medical services for responders, credible and transparent public education campaigns,

and strengthened preventive and preparedness measures to detect, mitigate and respond to Ebola exposure;

5. Supporting the affected countries in intensifying preventive and response activities and strengthening national capacities in response to the Ebola outbreak and allotting adequate capacity to prevent future outbreaks;
6. Commending the governments that are answering the call for assistance and are sending resources to the affected countries including financial resources, equipment, and personnel;
7. Urging all parties, including those who have already made contributions, to provide urgent resources and assistance, such as field hospitals with qualified and sufficient expertise, healthcare workers to staff them, and supplies, laboratory services, logistical, transport and construction support capabilities, airlift and other aviation support and aeromedical services and dedicated clinical services in Ebola Treatment Units and isolation units;
8. Calling on all relevant actors to cooperate closely and maximize synergies to respond effectively and immediately to the EVD outbreak including to mobilize and provide technical expertise as well as additional medical capacity, such as for rapid diagnosis and training of health workers at the national and international level, to the affected countries as soon as possible to relieve the acute shortage of those workers, and those providing assistance to the affected countries;
9. Recognising the importance of exchange of expertise, lessons learned and best practices, as well as to provide essential resources, supplies and coordinated assistance to the affected countries;
10. Agreeing that a regional commitment to prevent further outbreaks in the region requires a comprehensive approach by :
  - a. Enhancing the coordinated efforts with all relevant United Nations System entities to address the EVD outbreak in line with their respective mandates

- and to assist, wherever possible, national, regional and international efforts in this regard, recognizing that an essential part of these efforts is to ensure appropriate assessments of national capacity to respond to emerging infectious disease outbreaks are undertaken, drawing on WHO technical guidance where required, and that strengthening of regional preparedness and risk mitigation strategies as part of a broader focus on health systems, including Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) is critical;
- b. Strengthening cooperation on Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) prevention and control and pandemic preparedness through improving health capacity in surveillance and outbreak investigation;
  - c. Promoting cooperation in the prevention and control of trans-boundary EIDs through improving health capacity in surveillance and outbreak investigation, and exchanging information including efficient referral mechanism among EAS participating countries;
11. Increasing public awareness by providing adequate information to the public and set up an emergency public information and warning whenever it is needed;
  12. Implementing effective health surveillance at airports and other immigration and border control areas for people whose travel originated in or who transited through Ebola-affected countries;
  13. Broadening the scope of existing emerging infectious disease preparedness plans to cover the Ebola virus disease (EVD);
  14. Anticipating the emergence of Ebola virus disease (EVD) with well-known protective and preventive measures;
  15. Strengthening cooperation among EAS participating countries in contact tracing and health quarantine;
  16. Tasking our relevant Ministries or Authorities to keep progress on this matter under regular review and work in close consultation with EAS Health Ministers with the support of WHO with a view to follow-up on the implementation of this statement and report to the EAS Foreign Ministers.

Adopted at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, this Thirteenth of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fourteen at the 9<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit.

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