

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF
THE 7TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE ASEAN AGREEMENT ON
DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND
THE 6TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

4 October 2018
Putrajaya, Malaysia

1. The 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) were convened back to back in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 4 October 2018. The Meeting was opened by H.E. Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad followed by the ASEAN Humanitarian Ride that was held in commemoration of the 2018 ASEAN Day for Disaster Management. The Meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Dr. Wan Ismail. 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 expressed their condolences and extended their heartfelt sympathies to the families affected by the earthquakes and tsunami that struck Central Sulawesi Province on 28 September 2018. The Ministers resolved to continue to support the Government of Indonesia through these difficult times and are ready to provide support to complement the ongoing response operation led by Indonesia. The Ministers commended rapid deployment of the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) by the AHA Centre to support rapid assessments on the ground and facilitate ASEAN's response and international assistance to the affected areas. Meanwhile, the AHA Centre is also mobilising the regional stockpile under Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA) and is coordinating with various partners and stakeholders to provide additional support to communities affected by the disaster.

3. The Ministers welcomed the chosen theme 'Strengthen Public Private Partnership', echoing the vision and commitment of ASEAN Leaders to stay united amidst growing uncertainties in the global strategic landscape. The theme also reflects the whole-of-society approach in the region's efforts in building a resilient and innovative

ASEAN, especially the central role of private sector partnerships in inculcating resilience and innovation as key drivers for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

4. The Ministers noted with appreciation the achievements of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) in the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 as well as the Governing Board of the AHA Centre in overseeing and guiding the operationalisation of the AHA Centre. The timely conduct of the Mid-Term Reviews of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020, the AHA Centre Work Plan 2020, as well as the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management, assures that the region is steadfast in the advancement of disaster management initiatives and responsiveness towards future trends and priorities in the humanitarian landscape.

5. The Ministers commended the accomplishment achieved across all the priority programmes of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 that include the convening of the 3rd ASEAN Urban Resilience Forum, 4th ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management, 4th ASEAN Senior Executive Programme in Disaster Management, the development of the ASEAN Resilient Recovery Toolbox, the ASEAN Safe School Initiative Regional Training and Learning Exchange Workshop on Comprehensive School Safety, the establishment of the ASEAN Standards and Certification of Expertise in Disaster Management (ASCEND) Task Force and development of competency standards, the convening of the Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Course for ASEAN, the establishment of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Task Force, the completion of the Guidebook for Urban Resilience, and many more.

6. The Ministers commended the initiatives taken by the ACDM in collaboration with other sectors to better address disaster hazards. These include concept papers on Women, Peace and Security in Disaster Management, and Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, as well as exploring collaborations with relevant sectoral bodies on multi-sectoral response to pandemics-related disaster and mental health and psychosocial support in disasters.

7. With a view to realising the Declaration on One ASEAN One Response by 2020, the Ministers appreciated the convening of the ASEAN Senior Officials Multi-Sectoral Workshop held in March 2018 and concurred with the recommendations of the workshop that ASEAN's engagement in disaster response, as coordinated by the AHA Centre, shall be prioritised for natural disaster emergency response and that ASEAN's response to disasters emanating from human induced hazards shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Ministers endorsed the ASEAN Guidelines on the use of the ASEAN Emblem during Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief as this can raise awareness on ASEAN and its activities in the spirit of One ASEAN One Response.

8. The Ministers looked forward to the forthcoming ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX 2018) which will take place in Cilegon, Indonesia on 4-10 November 2018. ARDEX 2018 will simulate an earthquake scenario with subsequent tsunami and hazardous material leaks in industrial zones through a Table-Top Exercise (TTX), Command Post Exercise (CPX) and Field Training Exercise (FTX).

9. The Ministers were pleased to note that the ASEAN Secretary-General, in his role as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, is actively working with the ASEAN Member States and other partners to support Member State's efforts in humanitarian assistance and meaningful recovery for the disaster-affected communities. The Ministers welcomed the initiatives proposed by the ASEAN Secretary-General to ensure the sustainability of the AHA Centre and align its operations with ASEAN's mandate in addressing humanitarian situation on the ground. The Ministers further noted the observation of the ASEAN Secretary-General that scaling up in country capacities in disaster management and emergency response is imperative to enhance resilience and ensure that relief efforts and response operations are undertaken without delay.

10. In addition to investing in preparedness, upstream measures by mitigating disaster risks are also in place, which includes the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (ADRFI), and the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) as a disaster risk management solution for the region with the initial participation of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

11. The Ministers encouraged for the prompt finalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ASEAN and the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Field of Disaster Management, as well as the MOU with the International Federation on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on the Strengthening of Community Resilience in Southeast Asia are work in progress to be concluded soon. The Ministers further noted that ASEAN and the People's Republic of China are working on the project arrangement work plan that will facilitate the provision of Information and Communications Technology equipment as well as capacity building activities in the near future.

12. The Meeting were appreciative towards ASEAN's efforts to position itself as a global leader in disaster management by 2025 as encapsulated in the ASEAN 2025 Vision on Disaster Management, and applauded ASEAN's articulation of her position during the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2018 held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The Ministers reaffirmed strong commitments to regional

and international efforts in reducing and preventing disaster risks, while emphasising the importance of forging truly integrated and holistic approach of disaster risk governance, with a view to fostering the culture of resilience and care for the environment. In the same vein, the Ministers looked forward to ASEAN's subsequent joint statement at the 2019 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and expressed that such statement reflect the region's wealth of experience as well as innovative thinking on inclusive stakeholder participation in disaster management and resilience building.

13. The Ministers recognised the important role of the AHA Centre in operationalising the Declaration on One ASEAN One Response and extended their appreciation for AHA Centre's efforts in facilitating ASEAN's collective disasters to the recent multiple disasters in the region and providing assistance for communities affected by Tropical Storm Son-Tinh and flooding in Lao PDR and Myanmar; Typhoon Mangkhut in northern Philippines; earthquake in Lombok of Indonesia; and most recently, the earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi Province of Indonesia. Within just the span of seven years since its establishment, the AHA Centre has responded to 30 emergencies, bringing ASEAN's solidarity to communities affected by the disasters and turning ASEAN's commitment under AADMER into practical and effective actions.

14. The Ministers also appreciated the role of the ASEAN Member States and the AHA Centre in coordinating humanitarian assistance to human-induced disasters in Marawi, the Philippines; Rakhine State in Myanmar; and Yangon landfill fire in Myanmar. This demonstrated AHA Centre's capacity to go beyond its current scope and mandate. The Ministers also agreed that the AHA Centre will continue to enhance One ASEAN One Response within the region and start developing a proposal for ASEAN to respond collectively outside the region.

15. The Ministers commended various achievements of the AHA Centre in the past one year, in particular with regard to the development of ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP), following regional contingency planning workshops for three potential mega-disaster scenarios to identify common needs and resource gaps; strengthening of the ASEAN Standby Arrangements; expanding the Disaster Emergency Logistics System of ASEAN (DELSA) through the establishment of two DELSA satellite warehouses in the Philippines and Thailand in addition to the first regional stockpile in Subang, Malaysia; the development of Standard of Procedure (SOP) for Joint Operations and Coordinating Centre of ASEAN (JOCCA) as a coordination platform for ASEAN responders on the ground during emergency response; and the development of the revised ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) Guidelines and the revised ASEAN Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and

Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP), to facilitate ASEAN's response in times of disasters.

16. The Ministers also appreciated the efforts of the AHA Centre in running ASEAN-centric capacity building programmes to nurture talents, in particular through the second phase of the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme that aims to generate at least 100 future leaders in disaster management by the year 2020; the establishment of ASEAN-ERAT regional specialists or ASEAN-ERAT Level 2 with expertise in rapid assessment, humanitarian logistics and information management under the ASEAN-ERAT Transformation Plan; and the pilot conduct of Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Course for ASEAN with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and other partners as the foundation to develop a specialised course on ASEAN Civil-Military coordination.

17. To ensure sustainability of the AHA Centre to perform its functions effectively and operationalise One ASEAN One Response, the Ministers remain committed to ensure sustainability of the AHA Centre as the primary ASEAN regional coordinating agency on disaster management and emergency response, and agreed to the suggestion to increase the annual and equal contribution of ASEAN Member States to the AHA Centre Fund, from USD 50,000 to USD 90,000, for the period of 5 years, starting from 2019. ASEAN Member States were also encouraged to provide more voluntary contributions to the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (ADMER) Fund.

18. In view of the increasing frequency and complexity of disasters in the region, the Ministers recommended that the AHA Centre and the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (AHAC) conduct joint fund raising and pledging conferences to mobilise more resources to ensure sustainability of the AHA Centre as well as sustain ASEAN's collective response for relief and recovery stages.

19. The Ministers also agreed to support the resource mobilisation efforts, among others by engaging potential partners, including private sector entities, philanthropic organisations and key influencers, to support ASEAN's collective response to disasters.

20. The Ministers agreed to explore engaging cooperation with relevant dialogue partners, starting with China, Japan and Republic of Korea through the ASEAN Plus Three platform.

21. The Ministers applauded the leadership of Malaysia as the Chair of the ACDM, the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the COP to AADMER and the AMMDM in 2018. The Ministers expressed confidence for the leadership of Myanmar as the forthcoming 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 7th AMMDM and the 8th Meeting of the COP to AADMER, scheduled in Myanmar in 2019.

22. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the AADMER and the 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management, in particular for the excellent arrangements made and hospitality extended to all delegations.

(END)