



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia**  
*to the United Nations*

**STATEMENT BY**

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**ON BEHALF OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)**

**COMPRISING BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, THE  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC,  
MALAYSIA, THE UNION OF MYANMAR, THE REPUBLIC OF THE  
PHILIPPINES, THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, THAILAND AND THE  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 106: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**AGENDA ITEM 107: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL**

**AT**

**THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF  
THE 60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK**

**FRIDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005**

*(Please check against delivery)*

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprising Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Malaysia.

2. ASEAN avails itself of this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important Committee, as well as members of your Bureau. We assure you of ASEAN's full support and cooperation in ensuring that the work of this Committee will be brought to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Following the Leaders' Declaration against Transnational Crime in 1997, ASEAN has initiated various mechanisms to address all aspects of transnational crime. The ASEAN Leaders, at their 10<sup>th</sup> Summit in Vientiane in November 2004, adopted the Vientiane Action Plan (VAP) that gives priority to the establishment of institutionalised coordination mechanisms among relevant ASEAN bodies to strengthen cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues and transnational crimes.
4. ASEAN cooperation in combating transnational crime takes place within the framework of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMM-TC). The AMM-TC is a policy body that meets every two years to discuss the framework of cooperation and oversee the implementation of activities, is committed to accelerating the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime and its Work Programme. The AMM-TC has identified eight specific areas of cooperation under the Work Programme: trafficking in persons; illicit drug trafficking; sea piracy; money laundering; arms smuggling; terrorism; international economic crime; and cyber crime. In

implementing the Work Programme in the past year, Member Countries have carried out several seminars/workshops and training programmes on these areas. The 5<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) in June 2005 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, agreed to revise the Work Programme and focus ASEAN's efforts at combating transnational crime on four prioritised areas, namely, counter-terrorism, combating illicit drug trafficking, combating trafficking in persons and anti-money laundering.

5. Apart from intra-regional cooperation, ASEAN has also instituted extra-regional cooperation mechanisms and has enhanced its cooperation with Dialogue Partners (particularly China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the European Union, Australia, the Russian Federation and the United States of America) in combating transnational crime. Among others, it has established cooperation with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, under the framework of ASEAN Plus Three, to promote cooperation in combating transnational crime, both at the ministerial and senior officials levels. Several projects on combating transnational crime and terrorism have been successfully implemented by ASEAN and its cooperation partners.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Within ASEAN, terrorism as an issue is addressed as a component of the larger issue of transnational crime, though with increased emphasis given to it. As the methods used by terrorists in planning, financing and executing their operations tend to be similar to those adopted by transnational crime groups, combating terrorism requires an approach which goes beyond military means. It involves, *inter-alia*, legislation and law enforcement.
7. The Vientiane Action Programme also contains several measures to guide ASEAN's efforts in countering terrorism from 2005-2010, which form the preparatory steps towards the conclusion of an ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. Apart from the measures in the VAP, ASEAN has implemented practical measures to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation with its external partners through the sharing of intelligence. ASEAN has also strengthened its

financial regulatory and legal frameworks to cut off terrorist from their resource base and further restrict their activities. ASEAN has, in addition, formulated a treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. This will assist in reducing the legal red tape that hinders the fight against terrorism and will facilitate cross-border cooperation in criminal investigations and the gathering of evidence for court proceedings.

8. ASEAN has consistently and actively supported the role of the United Nations in playing a leading role in maintaining international peace and security and in countering international terrorism. ASEAN Member Countries are party to some of the 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism. In its Work Programme, ASEAN Member States are encouraged to sign and/or ratify all relevant anti-terrorist conventions, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

9. With regard to the issue of drug control, ASEAN has set up the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) as its main body in tackling the drug menace. At the 25<sup>th</sup> ASOD Meeting held in September 2004 in Makati City, the Philippines, ASEAN Member Countries reiterated their commitment to combat drugs abuses in their respective countries and in the region to achieve the goal of a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015. A Joint Declaration for a Drug-Free ASEAN wherein all ASEAN Member Countries are committed to eradicating the production, processing, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs in Southeast Asia by 2020 was adopted at the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in 1998. In view of the encouraging results in regional and international cooperation to tackle the narcotics problem, the 33<sup>rd</sup> AMM in 2000 moved up the deadline to 2015.
10. ASEAN continues to work closely with its Dialogue Partners, as well as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other regional organizations and NGOs in combating the drug menace in the region and looks forward to continued and enhanced cooperation with the United Nations in these areas of

common concern. To enhance regional drug control efforts the governments of ASEAN and China initiated the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) in Bangkok in October 2000. The ACCORD and the Plan of Action was endorsed as the sole cooperative framework for drug control in ASEAN and China by 36 countries and 16 international organizations. The ACCORD is the premier mechanism for regional drug control cooperation and represents the commitment by the governments of ASEAN and China to make the region drug-free by 2015. This commitment translates into specific actions that go beyond national efforts and are guided by a cooperative framework for the benefit of all ACCORD partners.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.