



# MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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**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 REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, THE REPUBLIC OF  
THE PHILIPPINES, THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, THE KINGDOM OF  
THAILAND AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 108: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**AGENDA ITEM 109: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL**

**OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE**

**68<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 9 OCTOBER 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

1. It gives me great pleasure to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam on these pertinent issues.

2. In this borderless digital world we currently live in, exchanges of information, goods and services are moving at a remarkable pace. Unfortunately, this advancement has also resulted in transnational crime becoming increasingly pervasive and diversified threatening regional and international security.

3. Transnational crime is of great concern to us all, and ASEAN Member States are no exceptions. Therefore, to effectively combat transnational crime, cooperation among all stakeholders - countries, organizations, civil society organisations and public through the exchange of information, capacity-building, mutual legal assistance and joint investigations is imperative.

4. For ASEAN, cooperation under the rubric of transnational crime primarily takes place within the framework of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), which discusses the framework of cooperation and oversees the implementation of activities to combat issues related to transnational crime. In addition, annual Senior Officials Meetings on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) are held to implement and review the decisions taken at the AMMTC level, as well as to recommend new projects and further areas of cooperation, including with ten Dialogue Partners of ASEAN to tackle issues of transnational crime.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Our collective efforts and relentless commitment were further strengthened at the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), which was recently convened in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic from 15 to 19 September 2013. The Ministers had adopted the SOMTC Work Programme for 2013-2015, which consist of policies, guidelines and activities concerning eight priority areas of transnational crimes; namely terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money laundering, sea piracy, arms smuggling, international economic crime, and cybercrime. The Ministers also noted the formation of the Working Group on Cybercrime, to enhance efforts for tackling such crimes.

6. The Ministers commended the completion of ratification of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) by all ten ASEAN Member States by 11 January 2013 and noted the progress in the development of an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (RPA).

7. As mentioned earlier, cooperation from all parties is needed to curb the threats from transnational crime. In this regard, ASEAN also renewed its cooperation with its Dialogue Partners, among others with the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, through the 6<sup>th</sup> AMMTC Plus Three Consultation; the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMMTC Plus China Consultation which commemorated its 10<sup>th</sup> year of cooperation on law enforcement; and the inaugural AMMTC Plus Japan Consultation which was also held to discuss cooperation on common areas to combat transnational crime in the region.

8. AMMTC would continue to play its proactive role in responding to transnational crime challenges facing the region, through its Sectoral Bodies that could give greater emphasis on the eight priority areas, among others, the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime and the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM).

9. As ASEAN is accelerating towards the realisation of ASEAN Community 2015, it must ensure that the integration process would not be hampered by transnational crimes of all sorts as the ASEAN Community must not only be prosperous, but also peaceful and safe. Furthermore, ASEAN is looking forward to develop greater practical cooperation in the context of moving beyond declarations of common positions and eventually achieve the ultimate goal of establishing regional peace and stability.

Mr. Chairman,

10. On the topic of international drug control, ASEAN believes that prevention is more effective than cure. A drug free ASEAN 2015 is not just a lofty target. It is one of our high-priority agendas. We are aware of the urgency to redouble our effort in the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use 2009-2015 and the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) on Drug-free ASEAN by 2015. ASEAN Ministers, Senior Officials and the Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies recently met at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 3 September 2013 to reaffirm this commitment as well as to take stock of the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) Work Plan.

11. It is crucial for all parties concerned to work hand-in-hand in the fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. With this in mind, ASEAN has a number of bodies that are involved, directly or indirectly, in formulating policies and initiating activities for this effort, namely ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, a mechanism in combating transnational crime, including the abuse of narcotics and trafficking in illegal drugs; ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting through the Agreement on Customs, which also included cooperation in combating trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances; ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters, the body specifically responsible in coordinating cooperation in drugs and narcotics control; as well as the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI), which plays a significant role in terms of planning projects and educational campaigns to the community and works closely with

NGOS and community-based organizations to disseminate information and awareness on the dangers of drug abuse.

12. ASEAN also reiterates that alternative development programmes need to be strengthened and expanded in tandem with drug eradication efforts. Alternative development in ASEAN has proved to help addressing the root cause of illicit drug cultivation through sustainable development and livelihood for rural communities. As such ASEAN welcomes the Guiding Principles of Alternative Development, which has been adopted by consensus at the recent sessions of CND and ECOSOC, and will soon to be proposed for adoption to the Third Committee.

13. ASEAN also has four training centres which serve as a platform for its ASEAN Member States officials to learn and share knowledge and best practices in overcoming the threat posed by illicit drugs, namely the ASEAN Training Centre for Narcotics Law Enforcement in Bangkok, the ASEAN Training Centre for Preventive Drug Education in Manila, the ASEAN Training Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation in Kuala Lumpur and the ASEAN Training Centre for the Detection of Drugs in Body Fluids in Singapore.

14. We note the concerns raised in the Secretary-General's report on International cooperation against the world drug problem that there is a need for UNODC to strengthen the collection and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information to enhance knowledge on illicit drug trends. We welcome UNODC's continuous engagement with Member States that require assistance in capacity building to provide data in order to prepare trend analyses and threat assessments and joint response planning.

Mr. Chairman,

15. Criminal justice responses to transnational crime encompassing criminal laws, law enforcement agencies, prosecution services and the courts are typically structured and generally only operate within the confines of national borders. Crime prevention and effective criminal justice system is essential to ensure social stability, economic well-being and political peace. However, transnational crimes and other practical and political factors present challenges that impede cooperation across borders in criminal investigations and prosecutions. However, while there are many challenges, there are also important opportunities. Through national laws and international agreements, most countries have developed a range of tools that can be used by criminal justice agencies to facilitate cooperation across borders in criminal matters.

16. Indeed, while there are many international treaties and national laws already in place, the challenge to combat transnational crime remains. ASEAN needs to face and address this concern as it moves towards the realization of the ASEAN Community in 2015, to be a rule-based community of shared values and norms; a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security; as well as a dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world.

17. ASEAN must ensure that our integration and the protection of more than 600 million citizens of ASEAN will be safe and secure from transnational crimes of all sorts. Our community must not only be prosperous, but peaceful and free from drugs and crimes.

18. In conclusion, there is much more that needs to be done to make tangible progress in the fight against this menace. It is a shared dream to completely eradicate the problem of transnational crime. We hope that ASEAN together with the UN as well as other regional and international organisations, can take concrete steps in this regard.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.