



# MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA**

**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, THAILAND AND  
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 105: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**AGENDA ITEM 106: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL**

**OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE**

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

**NEW YORK, 9 OCTOBER 2014**

Madam Chair,

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 time of technological advancement, the world has become borderless and the 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. In line with the recommendations set forth in the Secretary-General's report in addressing transnational organized crimes, ASEAN continues to undertake necessary actions for stronger and more effective regional and international cooperation in combating these crimes. ASEAN recognizes that such cooperation is vital to ensuring the successful domestic prosecutions of offenders as well as to eliminating safe havens for the offenders of transnational crime.

Madam Chair,

4. Transnational crime is of great concern to us all, and the ASEAN Member States are no exception. In combating transnational crime, regional cooperation on issues of similar concerns and interests remain an important and effective method. For ASEAN, cooperation under the rubric of transnational crime takes place primarily within the framework of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC). AMMTC discusses the framework of cooperation and oversees the implementation of activities to combat issues related to transnational crime.
5. In addition, Senior Officials Meetings on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) are held annually to implement and review decisions taken at the AMMTC level. Provisions for new projects and further areas of cooperation, including cooperation with ten Dialogue Partners of ASEAN to tackle issues of transnational crime, are also deliberated at this meeting.

Madam Chair,

6. Continuing on from the 9<sup>th</sup> AMMTC, ASEAN senior officials considered and discussed programmes and work plans to combat transnational crime at the 14th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) held in Bandar Seri Begawan from 23 to 26 June 2014. The SOMTC Work Programme 2013-2015 consist of clear policies, guidelines and activities concerning eight priority areas of transnational crimes; including terrorism, trafficking in persons, sea piracy and arms smuggling, to name a few.

7. We are encouraged with the progress made by ASEAN on the subject thus far, as we double our efforts to fully implement the relevant provisions of the ASEAN Political Security Community Blueprint by 2015. We have convened the inaugural Working Group on Cybercrime in May 2014; and made progress in the drafting of the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (RPA).

8. As transnational crime recognizes no boundaries, cooperation from beyond ASEAN is required to curb the threats of transnational crime. In this regard, ASEAN will continue to discuss cooperation on common areas to combat transnational crime in the region with its Dialogue Partners, among others, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, through AMMTC Plus Three Consultation; AMMTC Plus China Consultation; and the AMMTC Plus Japan Consultation.

9. Beyond AMMTC, we are also pleased with the significant development in ASEAN-Japan's cooperation on transnational crime, as illustrated by the convening of the inaugural ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue and the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism (CT) Dialogue from 28 to 30 May 2014 in Singapore. These dialogues provided a useful platform for ASEAN and Japan to engage in and discuss possible avenues for cooperation in the fight against cybercrime and counter-terrorism.

10. As ASEAN is fast approaching the realization of ASEAN Community 2015, it must ensure that the integration process is not hampered by transnational crimes. Moving ahead, ASEAN is looking forward to develop greater practical cooperation in the context of progressing beyond declarations of common positions and eventually achieve the ultimate goal of establishing regional peace and stability.

Madam Chair,

11. We are alarmed at the recent spate of terrorist acts across the world. We are disturbed by the heinous and inexplicably unjustified crimes of terrorism against innocents. We believe the international community shoulders the responsibility to eradicate terrorism. ASEAN welcomes the recommendation of the Secretary General that Member States need to strengthen its capacity for rule of law based criminal justice responses to terrorism.

12. At the regional level, ASEAN adopts preventive measures in addressing the threat of terrorism. ASEAN has developed a regional Convention on Counter-Terrorism, which complements the United Nations Global Strategy on Counter Terrorism and the relevant UN Resolutions and Conventions, to ensure the security of the region and its people.

Madam Chair,

13. We acknowledge the urgency to redouble our efforts in the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Combatting Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use 2009-

2015 and the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) on Drug Free ASEAN by 2015 as we continue to strive towards the vision of a drug free ASEAN 2015. Among others, the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) held in Manila, the Philippines from 1 to 4 July 2014 discussed measures to strengthen border, air and seaport control and promote joint operations as well as exchange information on the emergence of new psychoactive substances.

14. The target of a drug free ASEAN by 2015 is not a lofty one, given the strong support at the highest political level for improving the security and stability of the region. Leaders of ASEAN have given serious emphasis on mobilizing government efforts to address this concern. That said, we also note that the ASEAN region comprises of countries that vary significantly in their economic and social development. These variances should be taken into consideration in any region-wide assessment of the drug problem and the responses to the threat.

15. ASEAN also lauds the work of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) in addressing illicit drug crop cultivation through development-oriented drug control programmes, particularly in the South East Asia region. We are encouraged that UNODC's alternative development programmes had improved the livelihood of targeted farmer households in Lao PDR and Myanmar. The programme had significantly improved the farmers' food security situation, enhanced opportunities to earn licit income and enabled access to water, health services, markets and credits in opium poppy-growing areas in these countries.

Madam Chair,

16. 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 an essential safety regulator to ensure social stability, economic well-being and political peace. The disconnection between the realities of transnational crime and the limits of national systems presents a significant challenge to the ability of countries to effectively respond to the issue.

17. 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.

18. For ASEAN, we subscribe to the goal of protecting more than 600 million of our population from transnational crimes of all sorts. As we are gearing towards the successful realization of an ASEAN Community in 2015, we will continue to strive for a prosperous environment, where our community is not only progressive, but peaceful and free from drugs and crimes.

Thank you, Madam Chair.