



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



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Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic
Republic to the United Nations**

on behalf of

the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

at

**the Sixth Committee of the
68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

on

**"Measures to eliminate international terrorism"
(Agenda item: 110)**

New York, 7 October 2013

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

I have a great honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), comprising Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Lao People's Democratic Republic. Let me, at the outset, congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election, and pledge our full support and cooperation to you.

On behalf of ASEAN, I offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Government and the people of Kenya on the recent terrorist attack in Nairobi, and joins the international community in condemning such a heinous act of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN welcomes the report of the Secretary General of the United Nations on this issue, which is contained in the document A/68/180.

ASEAN remains deeply concerned of the threat posed by international terrorism. This non-traditional threat to peace, security and stability has continued to occur in different scales in many parts of the world. Terrorist acts not only cause the loss of life of innocent peoples, but also impede social and economic development of nations, create a climate of fear and lead to injustices in societies. ASEAN, therefore, condemns and rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed, while perpetrators must be prosecuted.

As terrorism is a global concern, combating terrorism requires a comprehensive approach and collective response of the world community. ASEAN attaches great importance to the efforts made by the United Nations in taking the lead in the fight against terrorism. We support the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which reflects the international community's action in addressing this issue seriously. This Strategy should be undertaken in a balanced and integrated manner in order to do away with the threat of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

ASEAN has and will continue to support the effective implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which has promoted cooperation at all levels, particularly in the area of information sharing, exchange of best practices and experiences, technical assistance, and capacity building on fighting against terrorism. Therefore, we are ready to contribute in the discussion of the Fourth Biennial Review of the Strategy that will take place under this General Assembly Session, next year.

ASEAN appreciates the work done by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and other UN relevant bodies, and we thank them for their efforts and assistance to Members States in the past years. ASEAN fully encourages these mechanisms to redouble their efforts in implementing their work plans and programmes. ASEAN calls on the UN bodies dealing with combating international terrorism to continue enhancing synergies among them and avoid competition and duplication of their works.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN is intensifying efforts to build the ASEAN Community by 2015. However, ASEAN still faces a number of challenges, among others, the development gaps among its Member States and non-traditional security threats such as terrorism and transnational crime. Given that the ASEAN region has been affected terrorist attacks in some parts of some countries over the past years. We remain actively committed in the global fight against terrorism, by taking several steps to enhance coordination and cooperation within the region and beyond.

Throughout this year, ASEAN has undertaken numerous activities and adopted measures to combat terrorism both within the ASEAN framework and between ASEAN and other partners. All ASEAN member states have ratified the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT). This Convention serves as a regional framework to deal with terrorism. It also enhances not only ASEAN's regional strategic role but also complements the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, international conventions on counter-terrorism and relevant UN resolutions. In addition, ASEAN has also conducted a successful review of the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism that has contributed to addressing, among others, the root causes of terrorism as well as enhancing cooperation on the promotion of moderation.

At the ASEAN Summit held in April this year, ASEAN Leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to intensifying and strengthening regional cooperation amongst ASEAN Member States in tackling terrorism and transnational crime. They urged and encouraged the relevant bodies to redouble their works in implementing their respective work plans, activities and programmes related to the priority areas of addressing the increasing non-traditional security threats in the region. Recently, the Work Programme 2013-2015 for ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) was adopted at the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 16-19 September 2013, which is of importance to enhance the efforts on combating these crimes.

In relation to the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) framework, the 11th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) was held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 4-5 March 2013. Participants in the meeting shared experiences in their respective national efforts to combat terrorism, including the suppression of terrorist financing, de-radicalization and counter-radicalization of terrorists and terrorist suspects, and the strengthening of national criminal legislation and criminal justice systems. The meeting also recognized the nexus between terrorism and other transnational crimes such as migrant smuggling, drug trafficking and money laundering. These and other outcomes were reported to the 20th ASEAN Regional Forum in Brunei Darussalam on 2 July 2013, where Ministers reaffirmed the importance of intensifying cooperation in information sharing and building capacity to address non-traditional security threats and challenges including terrorism.

Furthermore, counter-terrorism issue was also discussed in other meetings such as the 7th ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting (ADMM)- Plus held in Brunei Darussalam on 7 May 2013, and the 3rd East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting held in Brunei Darussalam on 29-30 June 2013. The ADMM-Plus has also indentified counter-terrorism as an area of cooperation. An ADMM-Plus Counter-Terrorism Exercise was also held in Indonesia in September 2013 to further practical cooperation amongst the ADMM-Plus militaries in tackling the threat of terrorism.

With regard to cooperation with Dialogues Partners, the 11th Joint ASEAN-Russian Federation Cooperation Committee was also held in Jakarta to discuss ways to enhance ASEAN-Russian Cooperation on all areas, including combating terrorism and transnational crimes.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN reiterates that terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any religion, race, nationality or ethnicity; while fighting against terrorism, human rights and fundamental freedoms shall always be respected in conformity with the UN Charter, main principles of international law in particular the international humanitarian and human rights law.

ASEAN reiterates the importance of further deliberations of a draft *Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism* at the Sixth Committee and hopes to see the realization of this Convention, as this would certainly contribute to enhancing and strengthening the UN legal framework on counter-terrorism. ASEAN, therefore, calls on all UN members to work together and address the outstanding issues in a constructive and interactive manner. ASEAN looks forward to interactive and fruitful dialogue of our deliberation.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.