



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

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Statement
by
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Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the
United Nations
on behalf of
the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
at
the Sixth Committee of the 71st Session of the United Nations
General Assembly on
"Measures to eliminate international terrorism"
(Agenda item: 108)

New York, 3 October 2016

(Please check against delivery)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to address this Committee today on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

[Possible alignment with the NAM / G77 Statement]

At the outset, allow me to warmly congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee. We assure you of our full cooperation, and are certain that under your able guidance this Committee will come to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN welcomes the Secretary General's report on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism," contained in document A/71/XXX. The report clearly outlines the concerted effort undertaken by Member State governments as well as regional and international organizations in the fight against terrorism. ASEAN fully supports the commitment expressed in this regard, and remains deeply committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

As terrorism becomes more and more transnational in nature, threats to global peace and security continue undiminished. International terrorism represents an ever-present danger, threatening human welfare while undermining global stability and prosperity. It threatens the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and with it a better future for all.

The nature of international terrorism is complex, and terrorist practice itself is constantly evolving. As such, the fight against terrorism requires a comprehensive approach, with full engagement from the global community. In this context, ASEAN supports the United Nations' Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which serves as a common strategic and operational approach to fighting terrorism, promoting consistency and coordination in national, regional, and international counter-terrorism responses.

The review conference of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, held just a few months ago, has reiterated the global commitment to combating terrorism, reaffirming the importance of integrated and balanced implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy, which address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

The intensity and spread of terrorist attacks throughout the world are concerning for everyone; and so, the focus on prevention should be enhanced. In this context, we

welcome the take note of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as it provides good recommendations to counter violent extremist behavior and radicalization, particularly among young people and welcome this initiative by the Secretary-General.

Mr. Chairman,

The fight against terrorism is not a fight any one nation can win alone. Everyone has a role to play, especially as it comes to addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In this regard, ASEAN reiterates its strong support for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which can contribute to promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies. ASEAN Leaders consider terrorism a profound threat to international security, and a direct challenge to the attainment of peace, progress and prosperity for ASEAN and the realization of ASEAN Vision 2020.

ASEAN is deeply committed to fighting terrorism and we have intensified our collective efforts to prevent and counter the activities of terrorist groups in the region. The ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), which has been ratified by all ten ASEAN Member States, serves as a framework for regional cooperation to prevent and suppress terrorism while deepening counter-terrorism coordination. The ACCT enhances the region's strategic role in this global fight, while developing a safer and more secure world for everyone.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN will continue playing an active role in addressing the growing threat of radicalization and violent extremism throughout the world. In this context, we would like to reiterate our longstanding position that terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any race, religion, nationality, or ethnicity.

The fight against terrorism must be carried out in full accordance with the United Nations Charter, including respect for well-established international humanitarian and human rights laws. Moreover, the principles of independence and sovereign equality of states, as well as non-interference in domestic affairs should be wholly respected as they are essential in ensuring an effective global counter-terrorism response.

Envisioning a world free of terrorist threat, ASEAN is prepared to actively work with other delegations in refining and improving the global counter-terrorism architecture. In this context, we would like to reaffirm the importance of continuing deliberations on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in this Sixth Committee, so as to achieve consensus on this very important instrument.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we wish to reassure you that ASEAN will continue working proactively to ensure international peace, stability, and prosperity for all.