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STATEMENT BY

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OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

SIXTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 109
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

72ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 2 OCTOBER 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. 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.
2. ASEAN warmly congratulates 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.
3. We would also like to thank the Secretary General for his informative report on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism," contained in document A/72/111, which highlights the important measures undertaken by UN Member States as well as regional and international organizations in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

4. International terrorism is a global concern, which undermines international peace and security, hinders sustainable development, and undercuts global economic prosperity. It contributes to a climate of fear and anxiety among the general population, disrupting the everyday social fabric of our societies.
5. ASEAN remains deeply concerned with the continuing threat of terror attacks posed by terrorist organizations worldwide. We strongly condemn and reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and will continue working tirelessly to eradicate this scourge of evil, bringing perpetrators to justice.
6. The fight against terrorism is a global undertaking, requiring a comprehensive, well-coordinated response from the world community, with the United Nations leading the way. ASEAN fully supports the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which reflects the international community's commitment to addressing this issue seriously.
7. 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, technical assistance and capacity building. We look forward to actively contributing to the discussions of the Sixth Biennial Review of the Strategy that will take place in 2018.
8. We welcome the establishment of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/291 on 15 June 2017, and the

appointment of the Under-Secretary General of the UNOCT. We are committed to further developing a close and mutually reinforcing relationship with the UNOCT, with a view to ensuring coordination and coherence in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

9. ASEAN appreciates the work of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, as well as other relevant United Nations bodies. We are grateful for their efforts and assistance to Member States in the past years, and encourage these mechanisms to redouble their efforts so as to effectively implement their work plans and programs.
10. In this context, ASEAN would like to emphasize the need to avoid duplication of efforts. There is a need to move away from working in silos, transitioning to an integrated, comprehensive, all-encompassing approach. Such an "All-of-UN" approach will promote consistency, allowing for effective partner cooperation toward a common strategic and operational response in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Earlier in August, during the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of ASEAN, ASEAN leaders have come together, reiterating their commitment to comprehensively address transnational challenges such as illicit drug trafficking, trafficking-in-persons, terrorism, and violent extremism. Indeed, ASEAN remains actively committed in the global fight against terrorism, and we have taken proactive measures to enhance coordination and cooperation within our region and beyond.
12. All ten of ASEAN Member States have ratified the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), which serves as a regional framework to address terrorist threats and provides a strategic way forward. ASEAN Members are committed to effectively implementing the ACCT, while taking full account of international instruments and guidelines, including the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and other relevant United Nations resolutions.
13. At the ASEAN Summit held earlier in April this year, ASEAN leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening regional cooperation amongst ASEAN Member States in tackling terrorism and transnational crime. As such, ASEAN is working closely with regional partners on frameworks to combat radicalization and extremism. We have held several regional workshops, and look forward to the convening of the Special ASEAN Ministers' Meeting on the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism later this month.

14. Protection of populations is one of the most pressing concerns for every nation. In this light, ASEAN has adopted the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which entered into force on March 8, 2017. We believe that counter-terrorism instruments, in addition to the adoption of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children will further bolster the efforts to address and eliminate Trafficking in Persons. We also look to strengthening the ASEAN Plan of Action on Combating Transnational Crime, which will further enhance our regional response to emerging trans-boundary challenges that have the potential to undermine global peace and security.
15. As every nation has a role to play in addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, ASEAN reiterates its strong support for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda can effectively address the root causes of violence, and so promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies. In this context, ASEAN would like to reiterate its longstanding position that terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any race, religion, nationality, or ethnicity.
16. Moreover, 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. The principles of independence and sovereign equality of states, as well as non-interference in domestic affairs must be wholly respected as they are essential in ensuring an effective global counter-terrorism response.

Mr. Chairman,

17. ASEAN will continue playing an active role in addressing the growing threat of terrorism throughout the world. We are prepared to actively work with other delegations in refining and improving the global counter-terrorism architecture. In this context, ASEAN 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.
18. As ASEAN celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, we will continue our proactive work to ensure international peace, stability, and prosperity for all, setting the path of success for the next fifty years.

Thank you.