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STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SOVANN KE**  
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

SIXTH COMMITTEE  
AGENDA ITEM 111  
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

73<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 3 OCTOBER 2018

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honor to address the Sixth 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.

ASEAN would like to sincerely congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee, and other members of the bureau on their election. We are confident that under your able leadership the work of this Committee will be guided to a successful conclusion. We assure you, Excellency, of our full cooperation.

ASEAN notes the Secretary General's report on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" contained in document A/73/125. This informative report clearly outlines the concerted efforts undertaken by Member States as well as regional and international organizations in the fight against terrorism. ASEAN strongly supports the commitments expressed by members in this regard, as we remain fully committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Since the turn of the century, terrorism has grown into an ever-present threat to global peace and security. As terrorist practices evolve, they continuously threaten human welfare by disrupting everyday life and instilling fear and anxiety among populations. Furthermore, terrorism negatively impacts global economic prosperity as it undermines our dedicated efforts to achieve sustainable development for the global community.

ASEAN is deeply concerned with the continuing threat of terror attacks worldwide. Terrorist practices are unjustifiable, while motivations behind these heinous acts are inexcusable and indefensible. ASEAN strongly condemns and rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and we remain strongly supportive of the global efforts to eliminate international terrorism at its core.

Addressing the continuing threat of terrorism requires a comprehensive approach, with the United Nations leading the way forward. In this context, ASEAN supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which serves as a common strategic and operational approach in the global fight against terrorism.

Guided by the four pillars of the Strategy, ASEAN will continue to support the Strategy's effective implementation at the national, regional and international levels. The importance of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was highlighted during its Sixth Biennial Review earlier in June this year. As we have heard during that time, strengthening the role and capacity of the United Nations to support Member States in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is of utmost importance.

In this context, the international community must avoid a one-size-fits-all approach, but instead account for country-specific cultural, historic, and religious differences. The Strategy embraces this dynamic and allows for necessary working flexibility, effectively bringing parties to common approaches. Nevertheless, it is important to further improve on the implementation of the Strategy by promoting information exchange between Member States, while sharing technical assistance at all levels of implementation.

In this context, I would like to note that in March 2018, at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, Australia and ASEAN have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Counter International Terrorism. This historic agreement, promotes our regional security by ensuring close cooperation between the parties, including through enhanced technical and regulatory assistance on issues such as electronic evidence, financial intelligence, and countering online radicalization.

We encourage all others to engage in such closer cooperation to ensure a safe and prosperous world for all. In this light, ASEAN would like to commend the Secretary General for successfully hosting the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in June this year. Such an engagement allowed for timely exchange of best practices, and enabled top ranking anti-terrorism officials to form invaluable personal connections, which will aid cooperation efforts into the future.

**Mr. Chairman,**

ASEAN has consistently advocated for comprehensive strategies in the fight against terrorism. We stand for coordinated efforts that avoid duplication and silo approaches. The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism provides important leadership in this regard. Tasked, among other things, with enhancing coordination and coherence across the 38 Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities, it ensures balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

ASEAN also greatly appreciates the efforts undertaken by 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. The strengthening of the delivery of the United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States is highly important and we encourage all partners to redouble their efforts in this regard.

Importantly, the fight against terrorism must be carried out in 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 fully respected, as they are essential in ensuring an effective global counter-terrorism response.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate ASEAN's deep commitment to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. As we recognize that terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any race, religion, nationality, or ethnicity, we look forward to working with all our partners towards an effective draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

The Member States of ASEAN will continue their constructive efforts to achieve consensus on the outstanding issues for the draft Convention, because achieving consensus on such a Convention would ensure a safe, peaceful, and prosperous world for all.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**