



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

327 East 58th Street, New York, NY 10022
TEL: (212) 336-0777 FAX: (212) 759-7672



Please check against delivery

STATEMENT BY

MS. SOMALY CHEA, COUNSELLOR
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

SIXTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 111
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 5 OCTOBER 2021

Thank you, Madam Chair,

I have the honor to address the Sixth Committee today on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

At the outset, ASEAN would like to congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election. We assure you of our full cooperation, and are confident that under your able leadership this Sixth Committee will accomplish its work with great success.

ASEAN would also like to thank the Secretary General for his report on “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism” contained in document A/76/201. The report clearly outlines the efforts undertaken by Member States as well as regional and international organizations in the fight against terrorism.

Madam Chair,

International terrorism is a shared global threat, 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.

ASEAN remains deeply concerned with the continuing threat of terror attacks posed by terrorist organizations globally. We strongly condemn and reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and will continue working tirelessly to eradicate this scourge of evil by bringing perpetrators to justice.

The COVID-19 pandemic, along with the ensuing economic recession, presents new challenges in the fight against terrorism. It has revealed several fragilities of our world and exacerbated conditions conducive to terrorism. Likewise, this pandemic has had profound impacts on victims of terrorism, as vital services for victims have been interrupted, delayed or ended while Governments focus attention and resources on fighting the pandemic. Hence, the need to strengthen international cooperation in fighting this common scourge and to support victims and survivors of terrorism has become more crucial than ever. In this light, ASEAN reiterates its strong support for the full implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Full implementation of the 2030 Agenda will propel the global economy while addressing the root causes of violence, thus contributing to peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

At the same time, it is important to enhance policy coordination and sharing of information, particularly as these relate to travel monitoring and border control enhancements including through the use of technological advancements. The Second Counter-Terrorism Week held earlier this year in June has shown the efficacy of engaging a wide array of participants in such processes.

Furthermore, the interconnectedness of digital social networks necessitates greater coordination of efforts in preventing the spread of violent extremism via social media channels. COVID-19 has shown how easily misinformation can spread over the internet, affording terrorists simple means to target and radicalize susceptible individuals online.

In this regard, ASEAN is guided by the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2018-2025. The Plan of Action aims to further strengthen the close cooperation among ASEAN Member States with a view to developing integrated, evidence-based approaches, as well as enhancing collaboration among ASEAN sectoral bodies in countering radicalization in our region and beyond.

Madam Chair,

The fight against terrorism is a global undertaking, requiring comprehensive, well-coordinated responses from the international community, with the United Nations leading the way forward. In this light, ASEAN fully supports the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and we welcomed the convening of the Seventh Biennial Review of the Strategy during the 75th session of the General Assembly which resulted in the consensual adoption of resolution A/75/291 on the Seventh Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. ASEAN believes that it reflects the common will and determination of the United Nations' Member States to prevent and counter terrorism as a common threat. We are also pleased that the updated Strategy includes references to new challenges and threats that have emerged and ways to comprehensively address them.

We appreciate the work of the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), and their provision of technical support to Member States. ASEAN is continuing its active engagement in discussions and the formulation of appropriate actions, including through our participation in the Second Counter-Terrorism Week and looks forward to the inaugural United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, which is envisioned to take place this year.

ASEAN is strongly committed to eradicating the scourge of terrorism in our region and globally. The ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism together with the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, which has been ratified by all ten ASEAN Member States serve as a framework for regional cooperation to prevent and suppress extremism while deepening counter-terrorism coordination.

No terrorist act can be justified in any circumstances. In this context, ASEAN reiterates its longstanding position that terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

We have been actively promoting these ideals among the populations at our national and regional levels. During the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum in September 2020, the Ministers

commended the region's continued commitment in addressing the complex challenges posed by terrorism, violent extremism conducive to terrorism (VECT), and transnational crime against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through cross-sectoral and cross-pillar cooperation in border management and combating terrorism, illegal weapons smuggling, trafficking in persons, and illicit drugs. The Ministers also encouraged engagement with local communities with a view to developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremist narratives, including by empowering youth, women, religious, cultural and education leaders, so as to adopt tailored approaches to promote social inclusion among the people. We are also committed to deepening regional cooperation on anti-money laundering and countering terrorism financing, including through different ASEAN-led mechanisms.

As the international community moves forward from the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN will continue playing an active role in addressing the growing threat of terrorism across the globe. We are prepared to actively work with other delegations in refining and improving the global counter-terrorism architecture, including through continued deliberations on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in this Sixth Committee, so as to achieve consensus on this very important instrument.

Thank you, Madam Chair.