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**Myanmar's Statement on Assessment of the situation
pertaining to terrorism and transnational crimes in
the ARF Region**

(9th ARF Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crimes)

(Kuala Lumpur, 29-31 May 2011)

Mr. Co Chairs,

Distinguished participants,

First of all, allow me associate myself with the previous speakers in expressing and on behalf of the Myanmar delegation, our appreciation to the host Malaysia, for hosting this meeting and for its warm hospitality accorded to us and the co-chair, Japan for generously funding for the realization of this important event.

As you all are aware, each and every nation of the world have come to realize that terrorism and transnational crime are posing a serious threat to security of states. Terrorism and Transnational crime constitute one of the most flagrant violations of international law. It transcends national borders, disrespect religion and race and cause loss of innocent lives and emotional distress to mankind.

Today, many nations are experiencing terrorism and transnational crime and therefore, we need to think of security in a broader and more comprehensive context. Security threats are very much inter-connected and are often beyond national boundaries. Transnational crime is one of them and a serious security concern of the 21st Century.

In particular, recent terrorist attacks and continued threats of terrorism, have reminded us to expand our cooperation to combat this frightening threat.

However, it is not possible to combat these evils individually and their menace cannot be solved by a single state. This global threat requires a global solution and cooperation is essential not only at regional but also at the international level to address this daunting challenge. Therefore, fighting terrorism and transnational crime must be conducted in a responsible, careful and systematic manner.

As for Myanmar, we have had bitter experiences of terrorist attacks on our soil and our foreign missions abroad. Therefore, Myanmar regards terrorism and transnational crime as a serious threat to regional and international peace, and unequivocally condemns all forms and manifestations of terrorism.

Myanmar, as a state party of the United Nations, is carrying out implementation of combating terrorism pursuant to UN conventions and protocols. Myanmar has also been cooperating with regional and ASEAN countries in order to suppress terrorism.

We have also noted that member countries of ARF has been experiencing a wide range of issues which are connected to terrorism and transnational crime such as maritime security, illicit drugs, cyber security and so on.

As narcotic drugs play a vital role in terrorism and transnational crime, the Government of Myanmar has waged a relentless war on it since regaining her independence in 1948.

The government fully recognizes the ominous threat posed to mankind by narcotic drugs and the paramount need to eliminate this problem. Accordingly, the highest political level of the government gives its full attention and priority on drug

matters and have lay down consistent policy to combat this menace. The government is determined to eradicate poppy production and to restructure the economy of the opium producing areas in the country and step up activities have been taken to obtain these ultimate objectives.

As these threats are affecting the ARF region, we need to strengthen our cooperation and future activities to be more comprehensive, multifaceted and action-oriented. We are of the view that ARF should continue to work with other regional and international organizations, including the United Nations.

We fully support the existing ARF work plan for counter terrorism and Transnational Crime which enhance the future work of ARF Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crimes mechanism.

We hope that ARF Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Work Plan framework would be creating more practical cooperation and technical supports among ARF participants.

In order to move the ARF work on CTTC forward, we need to strengthen our cooperation in the practical progammes on areas of illicit drugs, bioterrorism and bio-security, cyber-security and cyber-crime.

Taking the opportunity of participating in this important meeting, Myanmar expresses its appreciation to the Government of Japan for working closely and supporting counter terrorism efforts of ASEAN. Our joint efforts will yield mutual benefits and we strongly believe that Japan will continue to support ASEAN-Japan cooperation in the field of counter terrorism.

In conclusion, Myanmar will keep up its momentum to combat terrorism and Transnational Crime of all forms as a responsible member of ASEAN and the United Nations and

calls upon all participants of this meeting to continue our collective efforts to fight the menace.

Thank you.