

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF) STATEMENT ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM CONDUCTIVE TO TERRORISM

Reaffirming that terrorism in all its forms and manifestation constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed,

Reaffirming also that the acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, at threatening territorial integrity and the security of States and at destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in a decisive, unified, coordinated, inclusive and transparent manner,

Alarmed by the acts of intolerance, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, violence, including sectarian violence, and terrorism in various parts of the world including in the region, which claim innocent lives, cause destruction and displace people, and rejecting the use of violence, regardless of motivation,

Underlining that terrorism and violent extremism as when conducive to terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Stressing that human rights and the rule of law should be upheld in preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant UN Resolutions, as well as the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by UN General Assembly in 2006,

Reaffirming the significant role of ARF as one of the main multilateral forums for political and security dialogue in the region which supports for ASEAN Centrality in the ARF,

Recognizing the 2010 Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement which envisions ARF by 2020 will be able to develop an effective network for regional law enforcement and military agencies to build regional capacity, share information, and individually and collectively respond in a timely and effective manner to the threats posed by terrorism and transnational crime in the region,

Recalling the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, the 2017 ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, and the 2017 Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism,

Welcoming the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018-2025) aimed at among other addressing the drivers of

violent of extremism as adopted by the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime on 31 October 2018 in Naypyidaw, Myanmar,

Noting the important and positive contribution of women to ensure the participation and leadership of women in efforts to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism,

Noting also the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism,

Expressing concern about the danger of recruitment and radicalization to terrorism, including in prisons,

Underlining the importance of strengthening international cooperation including regional cooperation to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including on information sharing, border security, investigations, judicial processes, extradition, improving prevention and addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, preventing, and countering incitement to commit terrorist acts, preventing radicalization to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, disrupting, preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, developing and implementing risks assessments on returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their families, and prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, consistent with applicable international law,

Recognizing, that foreign terrorist fighters may be travelling with family members they brought with them to conflict zones, with families they have formed or family members who were born while in conflict zones, underscoring the need for ARF Participants to assess and investigate these individuals for any potential involvement in criminal or terrorist activities, including by employing evidence-based risk assessments , and to take appropriate action in compliance with relevant domestic and international law, including by considering appropriate prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration measures, and noting that children may be especially vulnerable to radicalization to violence and in need of particular social support , such as post-trauma counseling, while stressing that children need to be treated in a manner that observes their rights and respects their dignity, in accordance with applicable international law,

Recognizing also the need to take measures aimed at addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including but not limited to prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of the rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socioeconomic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism,

Do hereby state to:

1. Call upon ARF Participants to cooperate and support each other's effort on countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;
2. Call upon also ARF Participants to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as due process and the rule of law, in countering terrorism including violent extremism conducive to terrorism;
3. Stress the significance of a sustained and comprehensive approach, including through stronger efforts, where necessary, to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, bearing in mind that terrorism will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone;
4. Recognize the need to continue to take measures to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, and also encourage ARF Participants to further build the capacity of their financial oversight and regulatory systems in order to deny terrorists the space to exploit and raise funds, including by cooperating with the private sector through public-private partnerships with financial institutions;
5. Call upon ARF Participants to engage with domestic financial institutions and share information on terrorist financing risks to provide greater context for their work in identifying potential terrorist financing activity through multiple authorities and channels, including law enforcement, intelligence, security services and financial intelligence units, and also call upon ARF Participants to improve the integration and utilization of financial intelligence to more effectively counter the terrorist financing threats;
6. Call upon also ARF Participants to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate, and in accordance with their obligations under international law, to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts, prevent such conduct and deny safe haven to any persons with respect to whom there is credible and relevant information giving serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of such conduct;
7. Emphasize that tolerance, pluralism, respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect among peoples, including at the national, regional and global levels, while avoiding the escalation of hatred, are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation, in combating terrorism and in countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and welcomes the various initiatives in the region to this end;
8. Urge all ARF Participants to unite against violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, encourage the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to evolve strategies to address them, and underlines that States, regional organizations, non-governmental

organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and facilitating understanding, inclusive dialogue and respect for religious and cultural diversity and human rights;

9. Express concern at the increase, in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, notes that ransoms paid to terrorists are used as one of the sources of funding for their activities, including further kidnappings, calls upon ARF Participants to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments and political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, in accordance with applicable legal obligations, and encourage ARF Participants to cooperate, as appropriate, during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups;
10. Express also its concern at the increasing use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet and other media, and the use of such technologies to commit, incite, recruit for, fund or plan terrorist acts, and call upon ARF Participants to utilize such technologies in countering the spread of terrorism, including by promoting tolerance and dialogue among peoples and peace;
11. Stress to this end, that it is essential to address the threat posed by narratives used by terrorists and that, in this regard, the ARF Participants should consider developing an accurate understanding of how terrorists motivate others to commit terrorist acts or recruit them, and develop the most effective means to counter terrorist propaganda, incitement and recruitment, including through the Internet, in compliance with international law, including international human rights law;
12. Encourage ARF Participants, to consider instituting mechanisms to involve youth in the promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and intercultural and interreligious dialogue and develop, as appropriate, an understanding of respect for human dignity, pluralism and diversity, including, as appropriate, through education programmes, that could discourage their participation in acts of terrorism, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, violence, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination,
13. Encourage also ARF Participants to empower youth through the promotion of media and information literacy by including youth in decision-making processes and considering practical ways to include youth in the development of relevant programmes and initiatives aimed at preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and urge ARF Participants to take effective measures, in conformity with international law, to protect young people affected or exploited by terrorism or violent extremism conducive to terrorism;
14. Call upon ARF Participants, to highlight the important role of women in countering terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and urge ARF Participants to integrate a gender analysis on the drivers of radicalization of women

to terrorism into their relevant programmes, to consider, when appropriate, the impacts of counter-terrorism strategies on women's human rights and women's organizations and to seek greater consultations with women and women's organizations when developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

15. Affirm the importance of education as a tool to help to prevent terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and call upon ARF Participants to develop and implement strategies to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism through education;
16. Call upon also ARF Participants, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate in efforts to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including by preventing the radicalization to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, including children, preventing foreign terrorist fighters from crossing their borders, disrupting and preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, and developing and implementing prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their families, and in this regard encourage ARF Participants to develop effective strategies to deal with returnees, including through repatriation, in accordance with relevant international obligations and national law;
17. Urge ARF Participants to provide full coordination and afford one another the greatest measure of assistance, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in criminal investigations or criminal proceedings relating to the financing or support of terrorist acts, especially with those ARF Participants where, or against whose citizens, terrorist acts are committed, including obtaining evidence for the proceedings involving terrorist organizations, terrorist entities or foreign terrorist fighters, and recalls that all ARF Participants must cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism on the basis of mutual legal assistance and the principle of extradite or prosecute, welcoming their efforts to elaborate on the existing extradition and mutual legal assistance mechanisms;
18. Encourage ARF Participants, to ensure participation and leadership of women in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of these strategies for addressing returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their families;
19. Acknowledge that, given their potential status as victims of terrorism as well as of other violations of international law, every child alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crimes, should be treated in a manner consistent with his or her rights, dignity and needs, in accordance with applicable international law, in particular obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and, bearing in mind relevant international standards on human rights in the administration of justice in this regard, urge ARF Participants to take relevant measures to effectively

reintegrate children formerly associated with armed groups, including terrorist groups;

20. Encourage ARF Participants to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors, where appropriate, in developing tailored strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite recruitment to terrorist groups and the commission of terrorist acts and to address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism;
21. Stress the need to continue to provide tangible capacity-building assistance to ARF Participants in counter-terrorism matters, and recognize in this regard the need to contribute more resources for capacity-building projects, upon request, and to this end, encourage ASEAN mechanisms, ASEAN led-mechanisms and ASEAN Dialogue Partners to coordinate and integrate their work in countering terrorism including violent extremism conducive to terrorism;
22. Welcome the adoption of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Work Plan on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2019 – 2021 which among others focuses on prioritizing the region's effort to counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and look forward to the effective implementation of the Work Plan, and request ARF Participants to contribute to the Work Plan.

Adopted at ...