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STATEMENT BY

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OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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

SIXTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 114
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

75TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 6 OCTOBER 2020

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.

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/75/176. The report clearly outlines the efforts undertaken by Member States as well as regional and international organizations in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

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 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 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 2020 Virtual Counter-

Terrorism Week held earlier this summer 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.

Mr. Chairman,

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 look forward to the Strategy's Seventh Biennial Review during this 75th session.

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 will continue its active engagement in discussions and the formulation of appropriate actions, including through our participation in the Second High-Level Counter-Terrorism Week and the inaugural United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, which are envisioned to take place next 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 would like to reiterate 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 this September, 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, Mr. Chairman.