



SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
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STATEMENT

**by H.E. Ambassador Le Luong Minh, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam,
on Behalf of the ASEAN Member Countries
at the Sixth Committee of the 61st Session of the General Assembly
on Agenda Item 100 "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**

New York, 11 October 2006

Mr. Chairman,

I have the great honor to speak today at the Committee on behalf of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and my own country - Viet Nam, on Agenda Item 100 "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism".

First of all, I wish to warmly congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this very important Committee. My equally warm congratulations go to the other members of the Bureau.

Mr. Chairman,

The ASEAN Member Countries wish to reiterate our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security; constitutes the most flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law; endangers the territorial integrity and stability of States, causes

adverse consequences for economic and social development and the destruction of the infrastructure of States.

The ASEAN Member Countries continue to uphold the view that the measures to be taken against terrorism must be comprehensive, balanced and in compliance with international law, particularly the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. At the same time, we emphasize the need to address the root causes of terrorism and we hold that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

The ASEAN Member Countries believe that, in the fight against terrorism, the United Nations must continue playing a leading role. In this context, we take note of the adoption, on 8 September 2006, of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and would like to express our sincere thanks to H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, President of the 60th Session of the General Assembly, and the Co-chairs - H.E. Ambassador Vanu Gopala Menon of Singapore and H.E. Ambassador Juan Antonio Yáñez Barnuevo of Spain, for their efforts in this commitment. We look forward to working with other Member States with a view to early concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to reaffirm our commitment to prevent, suppress and eliminate international terrorism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Fighting terrorism and other related crimes is always a priority for ASEAN. During the past year, the ASEAN Member Countries have continued to spare no efforts in building and strengthening coordination and cooperation in the region and between regions in this regard.

Intra-ASEAN inter-sector cooperation on counter terrorism continues to progress. The annual ASEAN Ministers Meetings on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), the 5th of which was held in November 2005 in Hanoi, play a significant role in enhancing cooperation in combating terrorism and transnational crimes among the ASEAN Member Countries and with ASEAN Dialogue Partners. In this regard, we also look forward to the convening of the 6th AMMTC in Brunei Darussalam in 2007.

All the ASEAN Member Countries have signed the Regional Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT), which would improve the effectiveness of cooperation in combating transnational crime and terrorism

through mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and would hopefully be ratified by the remaining ASEAN Member Countries. We are now working towards the early conclusion of an ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, as set out in the Vientiane Action Program (VAP) adopted in November 2004 and envisaged by the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action.

The ASEAN Member Countries are also strengthening continued close cooperation between security-related bodies, such as Interpol, ASEANAPOL and the relevant national authorities, particularly relating to intelligence information sharing on terrorism. Efforts have been made to strengthen the existing technical cooperation for the development of capacity and capability of counter terrorism-related agencies and officials. In this connection, we are working to further cooperation between the regional centres, in particular, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur, the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok and the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in Semarang.

As for extra-regional cooperation, ASEAN has issued joint declarations with Australia, China, EU, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia and the United States on cooperation in counter-terrorism and combating transnational crimes. In July this year, we concluded another joint declaration with Canada, bringing the total number of such joint declarations to 11. In the dialogue at all levels between ASEAN and other Partners, combating terrorism is always given high priority in our cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, let me on behalf of the Member Countries of ASEAN assure you that ASEAN will continue to promote coordination and cooperation with the international community, especially with the United Nations, in combating international terrorism. We believe this will ensure peace and stability, create an environment conducive to our efforts towards sustainable development, progress and prosperity in ASEAN, thus contributing to the maintenance of regional and international peace, security and stability.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.