



## **ASEAN LEADERS' JOINT STATEMENT IN ENHANCING COOPERATION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of ASEAN, at the 18th ASEAN Summit;

**COMMITTED** to intensify our efforts toward regional integration and community building through enhanced cooperation as provided for in the Bali Declaration of ASEAN Concord II and the Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015), as well as the three blueprints of the ASEAN Community;

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint on the commitment of the ASEAN Leaders to strengthen cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues particularly in combating transnational crimes and other transboundaries challenges;

**NOTING** the Fourth Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in Bali on 29-30 March 2011, and taking note with appreciation of the ongoing activities and achievements of the Bali Process;

**COGNIZANT** of the need to ensure the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children and other relevant international conventions and protocols on trafficking in persons, to which ASEAN Member States are parties;

**ENCOURAGED** by the significant progress and achievements made by ASEAN in implementing anti-trafficking measures and programmes including the Work Programme to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime 2010-2012 which will further strengthen regional and international cooperation to combat and prevent trafficking in persons;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the decision by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime to explore the possibility of developing an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons;

**DO HEREBY AGREE** as follows:

1. To strengthen further regional and international cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons;

2. To further enhance the work of the existing network of law-enforcement agencies including the Heads of Specialist Units in order to effectively address the issue of trafficking in persons;
3. To promote a victim-centered approach by distinguishing victims of trafficking in persons from the perpetrators, and identifying the countries of origin and nationalities of such victims;
4. To ensure that such victims are treated humanely and provided with such essential medical and other forms of assistance deemed appropriate by the respective receiving/recipient country, including prompt repatriation to their respective countries of origin;
5. To cooperate on enhancing our capacities in all its aspects to address the issue of trafficking in persons.
6. To task our Ministers in charge of Transnational Crimes (AMMTC) to accelerate the consideration of an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons.

Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia, this Eighth of May in the Year Two Thousand and Eleven, in a single original copy, in the English language.