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TẠI LIÊN HỢP QUỐC

PERMANENT MISSION  
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**Statement**  
**by H.E. Ambassador Le Luong Minh,**  
**Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**  
**on Behalf of the ASEAN Member Countries**  
**at the Sixth Committee of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**  
**on Agenda Item "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**  
*(New York, 6 October 2005)*

*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 "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,*

Last Saturday night, the world was again shocked by terrorist attacks in Bali that took some 20 lives and injured more than a hundred other people. A member of ASEAN - Indonesia - again became victim of most heinous crimes. This terrible act of targeting innocent people in public area is clearly an act of terrorism. As affirmed by our Heads of State and Government during the High Level Plenary Meeting of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly, terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The ASEAN member countries condemn every act of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and call for further strengthening international cooperation

in the fight against terrorism. Guided by the experience of the fight against terrorism over the past years, 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 reject any attempt to associate terrorism with any race, religion, nationality or ethnic group.

The ASEAN member countries believe that in the fight against terrorism, the United Nations must play a leading role. In this context, we are pleased to note that this year, the United Nations has recorded an important achievement in the strengthening of the international legal framework against terrorism by adopting, on 13 April 2005, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism to which all ASEAN member countries are encouraged to consider to become parties. We look forward to working with other Delegations with a view to reaching an agreement on and concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the 60th Session of the General Assembly.

*Mr. Chairman,*

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 the fight against terrorism.

The 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane from 29-30 November last year adopted the Vientiane Action Program that contains measures to guide ASEAN's efforts in countering terrorism from 2005-2010. These measures serve as the preparatory steps with a view to concluding an ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement and an ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism as well as establishing an ASEAN Extradition Treaty as envisaged by the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action.

Intra-ASEAN inter-sector cooperation on counter-terrorism continues to progress. The 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meetings on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) held respectively in September 2004 in Bandar Seri Begawan and in June 2005 in Siem Riep discussed and reviewed the ongoing cooperation and activities in combating transnational crime and terrorism. In addition, coordination among the ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) in fighting terrorism has been further strengthened following their 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> annual conferences respectively held in August 2004 in Thailand and in May 2005 in

Indonesia. They called for, among other measures, enhancing the existing mechanisms of cooperation and coordination among ASEAN member countries in preventing and suppressing all aspects of terrorist activities and other transnational crimes, and enhancing the exchange of information and intelligence. They also signed the MOU and Consortium Agreement for the e-ASEANAPOL database system.

ASEAN has also moved progressively to enhance extra-regional cooperation in countering terrorism with its Dialogue Partners. ASEAN has signed joint declarations on cooperation to combat international terrorism with Japan in November 2004, and with New Zealand, Republic of Korea and Pakistan all in July 2005. This brings the total number of such joint declarations to 10. At the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Summit held in November 2004 in Vientiane, the leaders reiterated their determination to further concerted efforts to fight terrorism in East Asia and their commitment to support global efforts to combat international terrorism.

In terms of enhancing counter-terrorism capacity, the past year has witnessed further efforts by ASEAN. ASEAN and AusAID have successfully completed the "Foundation Course for Senior Officers on the Theory of Counter-Terrorism Recognition and Multilateral Collaboration for Combating Terrorism" in January 2005. Within the framework of ASEAN-Denmark cooperation, project ideas for strengthening the legal capacity of Member Countries to combat terrorism and sea piracy are being formulated. ASEAN and the US are working on activities under the ASEAN-US Work Plan to combat international terrorism. ASEAN continues strengthening cooperation with United Nations agencies and other regional organizations in combating transnational crime and terrorism.

*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 in combating international terrorism. We believe this will ensure peace and stability, create an environment conducive to our efforts to attain 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.*