

**The 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters
29 October 2015, Langkawi, Malaysia**

Chairman's Statement

1. The Fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (4th AMMD) was held on 29 October 2015 in Langkawi, Malaysia. The Honourable Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Malaysia officiated and chaired the 4th AMMD. The Meeting was attended by ASEAN Ministers responsible for drug matters, the Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Political-Security Community Department, Heads of Anti-drugs Agencies and their respective delegations.
2. The Ministers recognised the achievements and progress made in the fight against drugs, through the first three AMMDs. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) and its five working groups for their efforts towards achieving the common regional aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN.
3. The Ministers also welcomed the institutionalisation of AMMD at the 26th ASEAN Summit on 27 April 2015. The institutionalisation of AMMD will ensure high-level political commitment to the fight against drugs and provide strategic guidance to the work of ASOD.
4. The Ministers expressed grave concern about the escalating threat of the production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs in the region. The Ministers therefore re-affirmed their strong commitment and readiness to enhance regional cooperation and to continue their relentless work in mitigating the scourge of illicit drugs.

5. The Ministers appreciated the work of the UNODC Regional Survey titled *Drug Free ASEAN 2015: Evaluation and Recommendations Post-2015* and took note the recommendations outlined to be used as an ASEAN internal reference document to develop the Post-2015 ASOD Work Plan.

6. The Ministers agreed to pursue the aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN and endorsed ASOD's proposal to establish a post-2015 *Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use*. ASOD will adopt a balanced approach, involving both demand and supply reduction measures, and strengthen the areas of enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, research and alternative development. The Ministers welcomed Indonesia's proposal to host a workshop to develop the Post-2015 ASOD Work Plan.

7. Notwithstanding the progressive developments achieved at the national and regional level, the Ministers shared their concerns about the following:
 - a. Increased opiate drug production in the Golden Crescent;
 - b. Threat of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and diversion of precursors that continue to flow into this region;
 - c. Increased threat of synthetic drugs, particularly New Psychoactive Substances, and the challenges posed to law enforcement.

8. The Ministers noted the following measures that have been made to address these concerns by:
 - a. Eliminating illegal crop cultivation, engaging communities whose livelihoods depend significantly on such cultivation, and providing sustainable alternatives to these communities;
 - b. Improving prevention efforts and access to treatment and rehabilitation of drug users, and ensuring that they receive appropriate standards of care for their reintegration into society;
 - c. Tackling the illicit precursor trafficking and international drug syndicates, high value targets and profits of drug crime through robust, targeted actions by enforcement agencies;
 - d. Increasing collaborative efforts among ASEAN Member States and its Dialogue Partners; and
 - e. Promoting awareness of the danger of illicit drugs through preventive anti-drug education campaigns and adopting the green-and-white ribbon as the region's symbol of our commitment to a Drug-Free ASEAN.

9. The Ministers recognised the importance of continuous education campaigns, especially for youth and high risk groups, as these groups are vulnerable to drug abuse. Hence, effective education campaigns are necessary to raise awareness of these vulnerable groups on the danger of drug abuse.

10. The Ministers commended the efforts made by the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF) and the ASEAN-Narcotics Coordination Centre (ASEAN-NARCO) to strengthen cooperation among members. These efforts have contributed to the aspiration

of a Drug-Free ASEAN. These efforts are important as they prevent our regional trade routes from being exploited for illicit purposes, as the region moves towards closer integration. Hence, the Ministers also look forward to the expansion of operational cooperation in seaport and border interdiction to tackle drug syndicates and activities. The Ministers welcomed the hosting of the ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF) in Indonesia in 2016.

11. The Ministers called on all Member States to continue their efforts to improve treatment and rehabilitation programmes, with consideration for scientific and evidence-based practices. The involvement of families, communities and NGOs in such programmes is highly recommended.
12. The Ministers agreed and endorsed the ASEAN Position, appended at the Annex of this Chairman's Statement, to be reflected in a Statement to be delivered at the 59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in March 2016, and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem in April 2016. This ASEAN Statement will reaffirm ASEAN's commitment to a zero-tolerance approach in realising its aspiration for a Drug-Free ASEAN, and to the three international drug control conventions, which should continue to serve as the basis for the world drug policy.
13. The Ministers requested the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015 to endorse the proposal for ASEAN to submit a Joint Statement at the 59th Session of the CND in March 2016 and the UNGASS 2016.

14. The Ministers welcomed the offer by Singapore to host the 5th AMMD in 2016.

15. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality, in keeping with ASEAN's journey towards a region of "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".

Langkawi, Malaysia
29 October 2015