

LANGKAWI DECLARATION ON THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF MODERATES

Written by **AMNS 2015**

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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, on the occasion of the 26th ASEAN Summit in Langkawi, Malaysia on 27 April 2015,

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the aims and purposes of ASEAN as set forth in the Bangkok Declaration of 8th August 1967 and contributing towards peace, progress and prosperity,

REAFFIRMING the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter,

RECALLING that during the 18th ASEAN Summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 8 May 2011, Leaders welcomed the initiative to establish the Global Movement of Moderates as one of ASEAN's positive contributions in shaping global developments and to global peace and security, and subsequently adopted the ASEAN Concept Paper on Global Movement of Moderates at the 20th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia,

NOTING that the Global Movement of Moderates is an initiative which promotes a culture of peace and complements other initiatives, including the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations,

APPRECIATING efforts at the community, national, regional and international levels in promoting cohesion of the multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural ASEAN community whose diversity is a source of strength to promote moderation,

ACKNOWLEDGING that moderation, as a means to promote tolerance and mutual understanding, includes the importance of engaging in dialogues on political, economic and socio-cultural issues,

RECOGNISING that moderation guides action which emphasises tolerance, understanding, dialogue, mutual respect and inclusiveness and is a tool to bridge differences and resolve disputes,

FURTHER RECOGNISING that moderation is an all-encompassing approach not only in resolving differences and conflicts peacefully but also for ensuring sustainable and inclusive development and equitable growth as well as

promoting social harmony and mutual understanding within the country and region,

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that a commitment to democratic values, good governance, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, equitable and inclusive economic growth, tolerance and mutual respect and adherence to social justice are vital to countering terrorism, violent extremism and radicalism, which pose a challenge to ASEAN, and address their root causes,

RECOGNISING that moderation is a core value in the pursuit of long-lasting peace and a tool to diffuse tensions, negate radicalism and counter extremism in all its forms and manifestations,

MINDFUL that violent extremism should not be associated with any culture, civilisation or religion,

EMPHASISING that terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations should not be tolerated or condoned,

COMMENDING efforts and initiatives towards the sharing of best practices on counter-radicalisation and tackling the root causes of extremism,

ENCOURAGED that the Global Movement of Moderates has received widespread support from the international community, academic institutions and civil society organisations,

DO HEREBY AGREE TO:

Strengthen ASEAN unity and solidarity and its central role in maintaining and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region;

Enhance ASEAN's common agenda for peace and prosperity, which promotes political and social stability, inclusive political processes; sustainable growth which provides opportunities for all and upholds dignity; and social justice with emphasis on mutual respect, balance and moderation;

Promote moderation as an ASEAN value that promotes peace, security and development;

Further promote the approach of moderation and uphold the rule of law in the conduct of relations among states, including in the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law;

Enhance cooperation within various ASEAN-led mechanisms aiming to drown out the voices of extremism;

Conduct activities which further promote moderation, including but not limited to the following:

- Organise outreach programmes, interfaith and cross-cultural dialogues in various formats at the national, regional and international levels, including through the convening of the Second International Conference on the Global Movement of Moderates, to be hosted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2015, and the Bali Democracy Forum in Indonesia;

- Continue to build on initiatives to share best practices on counter-radicalisation and tackle the roots of extremism such as the East Asia Summit Symposium on Religious Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration held in Singapore in April 2015;

- Encourage more enhanced information-sharing on best practices on moderation among ASEAN Member States, including through the ASEAN Secretariat;

- Provide the space, support and mechanisms to cultivate emerging leadership from various stakeholders, including women and youth that can help enhance ASEAN innovativeness and vitality to effectively address emerging global challenges including the rise of violent extremism;

- Encourage the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and the ASEAN Foundation to conduct seminars, workshops and training programmes in collaboration with the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation, among others in promoting the voices of moderation;

- Promote education as an effective means of instilling respect for life, for diversity and the values of moderation, tolerance, non-violence and mutual understanding towards preventing the spread of violent extremism and addressing its root causes;

- Encourage academic discourse and exchanges to amplify voices of moderates;

- Collaborate with dialogue partners, international organisations and other relevant stakeholders to conduct seminars and workshops for the sharing of best practices and successful case studies of engagement and integration policies that support the promotion of moderation; and

- Promote the observance of a Year of Moderation at the United Nations to underscore the importance of moderation.

Adopted in Langkawi, Malaysia on the 27th Day of April in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen.
