

ASEAN DECLARATION ON ENHANCING COOPERATION IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely 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, met at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on [9 or] 10 October 2013;

RECALLING the Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention on the Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004, adopted at the Special ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting on the Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 6 January 2005;

AFFIRMING that the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its Work Programme 2010-2015 serve as a catalyst for achieving the ASEAN vision of disaster resilient nations and safer communities by 2015;

RECALLING ALSO the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations “Bali Concord III” and ASEAN Leaders’ Statement on Cooperation in Flood Prevention, Mitigation, Relief, Recovery and Rehabilitation, adopted at the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia on 17 November 2011, which emphasise the need to promote partnership, strengthen efforts to address climate change adaptation, enhance civil-military coordination in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and facilitate regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction;

MINDFUL OF the growing numbers of HADR initiatives under ASEAN-related mechanisms, in particular the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM), ADMM-Plus, East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF);

REITERATING our decisions at the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia on 17 November 2011, the 21st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18 November 2012, and the 22nd ASEAN Summit on 24-25 April 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam that AADMER, with a view to maintaining ASEAN’s Centrality, will serve as the main regional policy backbone and common platform for disaster management in the region;

ENCOURAGED by the significant progress on the operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA

Centre), which was launched on 17 November 2011 at the sidelines of the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia, and its important role as the operational engine of AADMER to enhance regional cooperation in disaster management and ensure ASEAN's collective response to disasters in the region;

COMMENDING the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the AADMER and the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) for the progress in implementing AADMER Work Programme Phase 1 (2010-2012);

REAFFIRMING the commitment of ASEAN in pursuing effective cooperation in disaster risk reduction to reduce the vulnerabilities and enhance the capacities of ASEAN peoples to be more resilient and self-reliant in mitigating the impact of disasters; as stated in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint element B7.

DO HEREBY:

1. Fully support the launch of AADMER Work Programme Phase 2 (2013-2015) in the upcoming AADMER Partnership Conference in November 2013 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, which will provide an enhanced planning framework and deepening stakeholder participation in mobilising and targeting resources for the implementation of the Work Programme;
2. Call on relevant ASEAN bodies to undertake necessary steps to ensure effective and timely implementation of the AADMER Work Programme Phase 2,
3. Encourage ASEAN Dialogue Partners and relevant regional and international organisations to help to develop a supportive environment that optimises the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme;
4. Agree to further spur and reinforce ASEAN's commitment to the operationalisation and sustainability of the AHA Centre, and expand and nurture co-operation and co-ordination among the ASEAN Member States, and with relevant and international organisations in promoting regional collaboration in disaster management and emergency response;
5. Urge ASEAN Member States and relevant ASEAN bodies in disaster management, with the support of Dialogue Partners and relevant regional and international organisations, to take necessary steps to strengthen the effective utilisation and quick deployment of the ASEAN Standby Arrangements for Disaster Relief and Emergency Response, including the ASEAN-Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT), on a real-time basis;

6. Welcome the convening of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) as the ASEAN ministerial body in charge of promoting ASEAN cooperation in disaster management;

7. Encourage a joint effort and more integrated coordination and synergy in HADR among the various ASEAN-related mechanisms, wherever possible, in particular the AMMDM, ADMM, ADMM-Plus, ARF, and EAS, in particular further implementation of the Indonesia-Australia (EAS) Joint Paper on “A Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response” adopted by the EAS Leaders at the 6th EAS in Bali, Indonesia on 19 November 2011, using AADMER as the main common platform for disaster management in ASEAN with the ACDM as the driver in the process to maintain ASEAN’s Centrality in these efforts;

8. Promote regular dialogues among relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies to accelerate well-coordinated and concerted efforts to realise the building of disaster resilient and safer communities, reduce disaster losses and jointly respond to disaster emergencies by using AADMER as the common platform and maintaining ASEAN’s Centrality, and in this regard task the relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies to work on the proposed formation of a Joint Task Force and allocate an additional joint session in the respective ministerial meetings to promote dialogues among the relevant ASEAN ministerial bodies; and

9. Task the AMMDM, COP, ACDM and AHA Centre to work closely with other relevant ASEAN bodies and ASEAN-related mechanisms to chart a longer-term vision of ASEAN cooperation in disaster management beyond 2015 that promotes ASEAN’s leadership and shared vision in the area of disaster management in relevant multilateral fora.

Adopted in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on the [Ninth or] Tenth of October in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.