



JOINT STATEMENT

SIXTEENTH ASEAN PLUS THREE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME CONSULTATION

Makati City, the Philippines and via videoconference, 21 October 2026

1. The Sixteenth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (16th AMMTC + 3) Consultation was convened in Makati City, the Philippines and via videoconference, on 21 October 2026 and chaired by the Philippines under the theme "Navigating Our Future, Together".
2. We noted the outcomes of meetings and progress under the AMMTC + 3 Consultation mechanism, including the 23rd ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (23rd SOMTC + 3) Consultation held via videoconference, on 16 June 2026, the 5th ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting Plus Three (5th DGICM + 3) Consultation, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 25 June 2026, and the Preparatory SOMTC + 3 for the 11th AMMTC + 3 Consultation held on 19 October 2026, in Makati City, the Philippines and via videoconference.
3. We exchanged views on the evolving landscape of transnational crime and reaffirmed the importance of strengthened ASEAN Plus Three cooperation in addressing emerging and increasingly technology-enabled threats. We recognised that cybercrime and online scams, including telecommunication fraud, are shared priority areas and that scam centers, in particular, pose a serious threat to regional and global peace and security. We noted the growing misuse of artificial intelligence, blockchain, cryptocurrencies and other digital technologies by criminal syndicates to facilitate online scams, fraud and the laundering of illicit proceeds. We also welcomed ongoing cooperation in intelligence and information sharing, coordinated investigations and law enforcement operations, Public-private partnership engagement, capacity building, and the exchange of expertise in combating cybercrime, trafficking in persons, illicit drug trafficking and other forms of transnational crime.

4. We encouraged the effective implementation of the SOMTC + 3 Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2024-2027) and the DGICM + 3 Work Programme (2023-2027) to advance practical cooperation initiatives to address transnational crime, as well as in border management and immigration issues.
5. We welcomed the kind offer of the Republic of Singapore to host the 17th AMMTC + 3 Consultation in 2027.
6. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for the warm hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations, as well as for the arrangements made for this Consultation. The Consultation was held in the traditional ASEAN spirit of solidarity and cordiality.
