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## The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting

16 - 17 September 2021

### BANGKOK STATEMENT

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**We**, the Leaders of the Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, including Presidents and Secretaries General of: Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, Cambodian Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent Society, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Philippine Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society, Timor-Leste Red Cross, and Viet Nam Red Cross Society, attending the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting, held virtually on 16 - 17 September 2021;

**Expressing appreciation** to the Thai Red Cross Society for hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting;

**Welcoming** the attendance of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and noting with appreciation the key-note speeches of the IFRC President and Secretary General and the ICRC Director General;

**Reinforcing** the spirit of mutual cooperation and solidarity within our Southeast Asia National Society network and with our International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) partners;

**Acknowledging** the complex and inter-connected challenges that our sub- region is facing in relation to COVID- 19, disasters, climate change and complex crises, including migration and displacement, which exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and the crucial role that National Societies play in preparing for and responding to their humanitarian impacts;

**Recalling** the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting particularly in relation to COVID- 19 Response and Cooperation, the Manila call for Action progress, and collaborating as a Southeast Asia Network;

**Emphasising** the importance of shared learning, collaboration and capitalising on opportunities in relation to COVID- 19 response and recovery in Southeast Asia, including pandemic preparedness, leadership, advocating for and supporting equitable access to vaccines for all, preventing a resurgence of COVID- 19 throughout our sub- region, and building back better from the pandemic;



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**Expressing solidarity** with Myanmar Red Cross Society as they respond to complex humanitarian situation;

**Reaffirming** our National Societies' focus on integrity and accountability, volunteering, and women in leadership within our National Societies;

**Underlining** the important role that Southeast Asia National Societies can play in inter-agency, whole-government, and whole-of-society coordination, including working closely with inter-governmental organisations like ASEAN, and closely coordinating with civil society and promoting localization;

**Welcoming** the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society as Chair of the Southeast Asia Leaders' group and host to the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting in 2022 followed by Cambodian Red Cross in 2023.

**We**, the Leaders of the Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Societies will:

#### **Responding to and Recovering from COVID-19:**

**Commit** to sharing knowledge and applying lessons learned from responding to COVID-19 to strengthen community surveillance and pandemic preparedness in our region and within our National Societies with the support from the Centre of Excellence for Pandemic Preparedness (CoEPP) and Movement partners.

**Build** on National Society strengths and achievements in Southeast Asia during the COVID-19 response including the considerable efforts of its volunteers, reaching the most vulnerable in our communities, providing mental health and psychosocial support, intensive and broad testing, support for vaccination rollout and innovative use of digitalisation.

**Commit** to developing our own COVID-19 resilient recovery plans, with support from Movement partners to address long-term health and social impacts and restore normal health and social functions.

**Commit** to reaching all vulnerable people including those displaced, with COVID-19 vaccines, as a key to ending the pandemic and leave no-one behind as well as encourage the efforts of Thai Red Cross Society with the development of the ChulaCOV-19 vaccine as a future potential for the region.



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**Work** with Movement partners to scale up advocacy and engagement with potential partners including governments, pharmaceuticals and relevant international organisations in equitable access to and sharing vaccines with National Societies and the transfer of vaccines production technology to other countries and firms, especially in the developing countries.

**Prepare** our communities to be more resilient to recover from COVID- 19 on top of other vulnerabilities and withstand multiple shocks from health, climate and disaster related events.

**Work** with each other and Movement partners, to strengthen National Society capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, remain agile in our ways of working, scale up regional cooperation and partnership, focus on our “value added” and capitalise on this crisis to demonstrate the critical role that our National Societies and Movement play, at all levels, as we build back better from COVID-19.

### **National Society Sustainability**

**Invest** in transformative action on financial sustainability through diversifying domestic partnerships, innovative financing mechanisms, strengthening our core capacities and services, increasing use of digital modalities as well as strengthening financial accountability.

**Learn** from shared knowledge and build on innovative techniques used by some Southeast Asia National Societies during COVID- 19, such as fundraising through social media, online crowdfunding platforms and hybrid events.

**Scale up** regional peer-to-peer support and cooperation with Movement partners, for financial sustainability, mindful that reputation and accountability across the network is vital and further strengthen collaboration among Southeast Asia National Societies including building strong network of partners and donors in the region.

**Acknowledge** the reports from the Asia Pacific Fundraising Network and Southeast Asia fundraising network.

### **Mobilising youth and volunteers**

**Prioritise** youth leadership and engagement in National Societies activities and facilitate the dynamic and inspiring work of the Southeast Asia Youth Network particularly in the areas of youth leadership, youth engagement, communication and knowledge sharing.

**Support** youth-led action in climate change, health including COVID- 19, disaster resilience and fundraising and strengthen volunteer safety mechanisms and mental health support to volunteers.

**Engage** youth across Southeast Asia National Societies in proposing innovative ideas and strategies in responding to pressing humanitarian challenges in the region and globally.



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**Commit** to strengthening our policies and frameworks to include youth and volunteering.

**Acknowledge** the Southeast Asia Youth Network COVID-19 Report.

### **Progress on the Outcome of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting, the Hanoi Statement, and Follow up on Movement's regional and global commitments**

**Acknowledge** the progress on commitments made in the Hanoi Statement despite the compounding effects of COVID-19, particularly in areas of leveraging the auxiliary role to work with governments in COVID-19 prevention, response, and vaccinations, business continuity plan for continued operations, protection of staff and volunteers, securing PPE supplies, and use of technology for COVID-19 interventions.

**Note** the Southeast Asia mid-term review of the Manila Call for Action and acknowledge notable Southeast Asia progress and achievements in volunteer insurance, active participation in national and local resilience coalitions and digitalisation.

**Look forward**, as a follow up to the Movement regional and global commitments the National Societies, to working together with ICRC, IFRC and the Joint Statutes Commission in strengthening the Statutory and constitutional base, including policies and procedures pertaining to integrity and accountability.

**Commit** to scaling up action, including through policy development and implementation on women in leadership, compliance, youth and volunteering and protection, gender and inclusion.

**Acknowledge** notable achievements of Malaysian Red Crescent, compliance procedures and strengthening volunteer procedures.

### **Southeast Asia National Society Networks**

**Acknowledge** the reports, progress, lessons learned and 2022 plans of the relevant National Society networks in the region, including the Asia Pacific Fundraising Network (APFN), Southeast Asia fundraising localisation initiative, the Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN), the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN), the Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent HIV/AIDS Network (ART), the Southeast Asia Community Safety and Resilience Forum and the Southeast Asia Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI) Network.

**Acknowledge** the presentation on the Revival Southeast Asia Disaster Response Network and Regional Network of Responders and note that further information will be circulated to be discussed during the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting.



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**Commit** to revitalise certain networks and to nominate and facilitate National Society focal points particularly in the PGI and CSR networks, noting that Malaysian Red Crescent Society and Viet Nam Red Cross Society will move the CSR network activities into online format.

## **2022 Statutory meetings**

**Commit to** collaborating in preparation, including through online meetings in the lead up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IFRC General Assembly and the Council of Delegates in 2022.

**Take note** of the new gender equity requirement for IFRC Governing Board Nominations.

**Request** IFRC to provide further information to the Southeast Asia National Societies on the Governing Board positions and nomination process.

## **Cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre)**

**Reinforce** the importance of engagement with ASEAN and expect the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ASEAN Secretariat and the IFRC this year covering disaster management, disaster risk reduction, disaster law, health in emergencies, disaster relief and emergency response, gender, youth and climate change.

**Note** the COVID-19 operational support from the AHA Centre to RCRC and resolve to engage more with ASEAN on health-disaster-climate change nexus in support of vulnerable people in the region.



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## Bangkok Statement

endorsed by the following signatories from Southeast Asia National Societies

17 September 2021

Mr. Haji Muhammad Suhaimi Haji Ibrahim  
President  
Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society

Ms. Chantinie Pum  
Secretary General  
Cambodian Red Cross

Mr. Sudirman Said  
Secretary General  
Indonesian Red Cross

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phouthone Muongpak  
President  
Lao Red Cross

Her Highness Dato' Seri DiRaja Tan Sri Tunku  
Puteri Intan Safinaz Binti Almarhum Sultan  
Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, Tunku Temenggong Kedah  
National Chairperson  
Malaysian Red Crescent Society

Prof. Dr. Htin Zaw Soe  
Secretary General  
Myanmar Red Cross Society

Mr. Richard J. Gordon  
Chairman and CEO  
Philippine Red Cross

Mr. Benjamin William  
Secretary General/CEO  
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Mr. Tej Bunnag  
Secretary General  
Thai Red Cross Society

Mr. Estanislau Vicente de Jesus Guterres  
Secretary General  
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Mr. Nguyen Hai Anh  
Vice President cum Secretary General  
Viet Nam Red Cross Society