

STATEMENT
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THE 20TH ASEAN SENIOR LAW OFFICIALS MEETING
25-26 October 2021
via video conference

Madame Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Heads of Delegation,
ASEAN Secretariat,
Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

To the Government of Malaysia, particularly, the Attorney General's Chamber, the ASEAN Secretariat, Treaties Division, Legal Services and Agreement Directorate, on behalf of the Philippine delegation, we are grateful for the excellent arrangements made for this Meeting amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic.

We find the agenda items to be discussed of great importance to us, especially the progress of the ASLOM Working Group on the ASEAN Extradition Treaty. There are many items to review and report to the 11th ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting, which only reflect the progress that ASLOM has made since its inception. We are confident that, as in previous meetings, we will have a

fruitful discussion of the topics and issues before us to achieve our goals and complete our tasks.

During the recently concluded 10th Meeting of the ASLOM Working Group on Examining the Modalities for the Harmonization of Trade Laws of ASEAN Member States, the Philippines reported on two important issues: first, an update on the Developments pertaining to the International Sale of Goods; and second, an update on the developments of the laws on e-commerce.

Distinguished Heads of delegation, the Philippines expresses its satisfaction with the success of the first meeting of the ASLOM Working Group on the ASEAN Extradition Treaty (ASLOM WG on AET) held last 06-07 April of this year. The Working Group was able to agree on its terms of reference on the drafting of the AET and has started discussions on the working document. We are hopeful that the Working Group will successfully come up with an "agreed final draft AET within two (2) years from the date of endorsement of this Terms of Reference by ASLOM." We look forward to a lively discussion on the final outcome of this important document as we share a common danger from international crime syndicates. This will also complement the ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters (MLAT). To this end, we are happy to announce that the Philippines is very much willing to host a meeting of the ASLOM WG on AET.

Equally important to the Philippines is the proposal to develop an ASEAN-wide Treaty on Transfer of Sentenced Persons. Since its proposal at the 15th ASLOM, there have been two successful ASEAN Law Forum (ALF) conducted in line with the proposed TSP.

While the ALF on TSP helps AMS to gain better understanding of TSP and its benefits, it is due for this Meeting to take this matter into the next level and propose for a technical working group that will serve as an avenue for, at least, like-minded AMS, the development of an ASEAN-wide TSP. We could tap the assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat on how we can come up with a TWG on TSP, utilizing as a guide the modalities of the creation of the ASEAN-MLAT. The elevation into an ASEAN Treaty of the ASEAN-MLAT gives us encouragement on the possibility of having an ASEAN-wide convention on TSP in the future. The proposed convention, after all, manifests the ideal that, hand in hand with serving justice, is giving humanitarian consideration to the sentenced person.

In the light of the new normal developments in our respective countries due to the pandemic, we should look ahead with great optimism that all of us can respond positively to the opportunities that lie before us and successfully overcome the challenges and obstacles that confront us. We must not lose sight of the fact that ASLOM remains a key forum for the development of greater interaction, understanding and friendship among the

law officials of the Governments of the ASEAN Member States. We reiterate that ASLOM is a key forum for the development of greater understanding among ASEAN Member States. The unbridled friendship forged between and among the law officials of ASEAN Member States is undoubtedly essential in building a more revitalized and rules-based ASEAN.

With the competent leadership of our dear Chairperson and all the AMS' active participation in this Meeting, the Philippine delegation is confident that the 20th ASLOM will not only be memorable for us, esteemed colleagues, but will also be fruitful and productive.

Before I end my statement, although we are just starting our Meeting, the Philippines is pleased to inform the delegations that it is excited to host the next ASLOM, and, this early, the Philippines extends its warm welcome to the delegations to the 21st ASLOM.

Mabuhay at Maraming Salamat po!