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REMARKS

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**1ST MEETING OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE
TRANSFORMATION OF AIPACODD FOR ENHANCED
COOPERATION ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES**

AIPA

**Wednesday, 28 January 2026 | 09.15 - 09.45 GMT+7
ASEAN Hall | ASEAN Headquarters
Jakarta, Indonesia**

*Honourable **Jonathan Keith Flores**, Chair of Study Committee on the Transformation of AIPACODD for Enhanced Cooperation on Transnational Crimes,*

Honourable Parliamentarians,

Representatives from the ASEAN Bodies and invited regional and international organisations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my distinct privilege to welcome you today at the ASEAN Headquarters for the 1st Meeting of the Study Committee on the Transformation of the AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) for Enhanced Cooperation on Transnational Crimes. I wish to convey my highest appreciation to all AIPA Member Parliaments, ASEAN sectoral bodies, and our regional and international partners for your presence and continued partnership, which reflects our shared commitment to advancing this important study process.
2. This meeting also holds particular meaning for me, as it marks my first official AIPA engagement with AIPA Member Parliaments since I assumed office as the Seventh Secretary-General of AIPA. I am truly honoured to begin my tenure with a process that embodies AIPA's forward-looking spirit and our shared commitment to relevance and responsiveness.
3. Since its establishment in 1977, AIPA has consistently supported ASEAN's efforts to safeguard regional peace, security, and stability, guided by the conviction that meaningful parliamentary engagement is indispensable to effective and sustainable regional cooperation. Within this context, AIPACODD has, since its establishment in 2017, provided a useful platform for dialogue, information exchange, and legislative perspectives on drug-related issues among Member Parliaments.

4. However, the nature of threats confronting our region has evolved. Transnational crimes today are increasingly interconnected, technologically enabled, and transboundary in impact, ranging from trafficking in persons and cybercrime to terrorism, arms smuggling, online scamming, and money laundering. These developments call for a careful reflection on whether existing parliamentary mechanisms remain fit for purpose and responsive to address those crimes.

*Honourable Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

5. ASEAN has responded with a robust and steadily strengthening regional architecture, including mechanisms such as the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime, and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drugs, supported by key regional instruments and action plans. In this context, AIPA Member Parliaments have appropriately called for an assessment of how parliamentary cooperation can best complement and reinforce ASEAN's collective efforts.
6. It is precisely for this reason that the Study Committee has been established. As set out in its Terms of Reference of the Study Committee, your mandate is not to pre-empt decisions, but to undertake a careful, inclusive, and evidence-based assessment of the necessity, feasibility, and strategic value of transforming AIPACODD into a mechanism capable of engaging a broader spectrum of transnational crime issues, while remaining mindful of national capacities, resource implications, and institutional sustainability.
7. This first meeting therefore marks the beginning of a structured consultation process. It is intended to build a shared understanding of the institutional pathway, clarify the scope of

issues under consideration, and surface the perspectives and concerns of Member Parliaments.

8. Over the next one and half days, your discussions will be enriched by exchanges among parliamentarians, briefings from ASEAN sectoral bodies, and insights from international partners. These engagements are designed to help us collectively assess where parliamentary cooperation can add the most value and how AIPA's mechanisms can remain both effective and relevant.
9. The AIPA Secretariat stands ready to provide technical support, facilitate discussions, consolidate inputs, and where appropriate, offer perspectives drawn from AIPA's institutional experience. Ultimately, however, the direction and outcome of this process rest with the Member Parliaments of AIPA.

*Honourable Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

10. The transformation under consideration is guided by purpose, and by the imperative of keeping AIPA's mechanisms credible, relevant, and effective, in alignment with ASEAN's vision for a peaceful, secure, and resilient region. It should be pursued through consensus, grounded in practicality, and guided by our shared commitment to enhance strengthening parliamentary contributions to regional cooperation.
11. I wish the 1st Meeting of the Study Committee of the Transformation of AIPACODD will have fruitful and constructive deliberations over the coming sessions, while looking forward to receive your guidance and recommendations to help move this important process moves forward.

Thank you!