

**UNODC Briefing: Transnational Crime and Non-Traditional Security Challenges in Southeast Asia:
responding with improved regional border management and cooperation
Co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Thailand and UNODC**

3 October 2022 (11.00 am – 12.30 pm) at Conference Room 11, UNHQ

Transnational organized crime in Southeast Asia continues to increase in scale, complexity and reach. According to a 2019 estimate of a limited number of crime types, including illicit trafficking of drugs, people, wildlife, timber and falsified medicines, the transnational organized crime economy in Southeast Asia is valued at over US\$ 130 billion per year—more than the combined GDP of several ASEAN Member States. This dynamic has continued to evolve, and has done so against a backdrop of expanding economies, in-part related to increased connectivity and movements of goods and people across ASEAN borders, in-line with the ASEAN integration agenda within the ASEAN Community.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been actively monitoring the transnational crime and related illicit economy situation in the region, and working with countries of the ASEAN region to respond, including with improved knowledge, policies and capacities. An important part of this effort in recent years has involved a comprehensive partnership with Thailand to develop an ASEAN-wide Border Management Roadmap (land, maritime, air) that identifies policy and practical measures ASEAN Member States can take to improve border security, in order to enhance protection of the region from non-traditional security threats including various transnational crime threats. The development of the Roadmap was discussed at the 2019 ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, and endorsed by ASEAN Member States at the 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime 2021 as part of the region's response to addressing transnational crime and safeguarding the region from potential negative impacts of enhanced connectivity.

The UNODC Regional Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Jeremy Douglas, will offer a briefing on several significant transnational crime and illicit economies active in the region and how they have evolved through the COVID-19 pandemic, and with introduction by H.E. Dr. Suriya Chindawongse, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand. The UNODC Chief of the Border Management Branch, Alan Cole, will discuss UNODC's effort to assist Member States with various border security related challenges in other regions.

* * * * *