Contact Group on
Countering Criminal Online Scams and Scam Centers
in Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

1. **Proactive Enforcement Measures:** Online scams are serious and complex transnational crimes that threaten regional and international peace and security. These criminal networks have attached themselves to Southeast Asia and many other regions of the world and are expanding rapidly, causing devastating social and economic losses to our people. In response, we are committed to, where appropriate and consistent with domestic law and international legal obligations, considering targeted economic sanctions and other measures, including denial of entry, to disrupt criminal activities stemming from criminal online scams and the related transnational criminal organizations (TCOs). Through these measures, we seek to bring to justice and deny safe haven to the transnational criminals, and those persons who through acts of money laundering and corruption or through other means, knowingly or materially facilitate fraud to target our people, and deprive them of the proceeds or benefits from their crimes. We intend to publicize the effectiveness of our close collaboration in combatting scam operations as decided between relevant authorities after all legal processes are completed.-

2. **Prioritize Criminal Leadership:** To most effectively disrupt the TCOs responsible, we seek to locate and identify their financial, physical, operational, and logistical infrastructure and assets, subject to each country's domestic legal frameworks. We seek to prioritize investigating, prosecuting, and lawfully arresting or detaining persons suspected of directing, controlling, or materially facilitating scam operations. We also seek to prioritize gathering law enforcement intelligence, information, and evidence related to TCOs and their suspected activities and, whenever possible, sharing such information with Contact Group partners, with the ultimate goal of dismantling entire criminal networks and preventing the spreading of scam operations to other regions.

3. **Evidence Gathering:** Subject to our respective domestic and international legal obligations, we intend to gather evidence and investigate operations, including from evidence and information lawfully obtained from persons suspected of directing, controlling, or materially facilitating scam operations, in order to advance broader efforts to apprehend, prosecute, and disrupt TCOs and their enablers' use of online scams to harm Contact Group country citizens. We are committed to preserving evidence lawfully and maintaining chain of custody to enable successful criminal justice proceedings**.** We are also committed to sharing such evidence, including electronic and digital evidence, or intelligence with Contact Group partners where appropriate, using mutual legal assistance, intelligence and law enforcement channels, as well as other authorized information sharing mechanisms, applying safeguards and confidentiality controls subject to respective domestic laws and applicable international legal obligations.

4. **Countering Corruption:** We intend to intensify cooperation to combat corruption and to hold accountable public officials who collude with foreign TCOs committing online scams to harm Contact Group country citizens. We intend to support one another in pursuing anti-

corruption efforts, including investigations and prosecutions wherever possible, as well as sanctions as appropriate and subject to our respective domestic laws and applicable international legal obligations. We also plan to publicize these outcomes, as appropriate.

5. **Advance Notification of Operations:** Whenever operationally feasible and appropriate, and subject to our respective domestic laws, we intend to notify and obtain prior consent of relevant Contact Group members in advance of planned law enforcement operations against scam center TCOs suspected of targeting their nationals, through designated competent authorities or established points of contacts, provided that such notification would not prejudice ongoing investigations or operational security.

6. **Operational Coordination**: We intend to deliver sustained, evidence-led disruptions of organized fraud networks and scam centers, including through coordination with recognized global networks, competent authorities, and established legal cooperation mechanisms, including INTERPOL'S Global Fraud Taskforce (Operation Shadowstorm). Such mechanisms may provide a means to share information and law enforcement intelligence, as well as deconflict and align planned operational activity, consistent with applicable law and operational security requirements. Where appropriate, we intend to facilitate the return of recovered funds or assets to victims consistent with respective domestic frameworks. We also support the development of appropriate and effective training and technical collaboration activities to strengthen investigative capabilities and the use of relevant technologies to detect and counter scam operations based on mutual priorities of Contact Group countries and their agencies and organizations.

7. **Information Sharing**: Whenever operationally feasible, appropriate, and subject to our respective domestic laws, we intend to promptly share relevant law enforcement intelligence, information, and evidence gathered from victims, detained persons suspected of directing or managing scam operations, and seized devices with Contact Group members through law enforcement channels and Financial Intelligence Units, and/or as appropriate, through mutual legal assistance or other authorized information-sharing mechanisms where there is clear indication that their citizens have been victimized. Data and information are subject to appropriate safeguards, confidentiality, and data security, and only for the permitted use and onward disclosure of shared information.

8. **Non-punishment Principle and Protection of Victims and Survivors:** We encourage members to take appropriate measures, whenever operationally feasible, appropriate, and subject to our respective domestic laws, to promptly identify, protect, assist, and support persons who have been trafficked, coerced, or compelled to participate in online scams, including through appropriate individual assessments and efforts to mitigate risks of re-trafficking and to ensure victims of trafficking are not inappropriately penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct consequence of their exploitation or for reporting fraud or abuse related to scam operations.

9. **Private Sector Engagement:** We are committed to strengthening cooperation with virtual asset service providers, financial institutions, cryptocurrency platforms, digital platforms, and telecommunications service providers to prevent online scams and identify, track, and disrupt

scam leaders and their operations. Priority areas for cooperation include, whenever operationally feasible and appropriate, accelerating information exchange among law enforcement, other relevant domestic authorities, and private sector entities regarding financial flows, digital infrastructure, communications networks, and online accounts used by scam leadership; and promoting private sector efforts to prevent and reduce criminal misuse of private company platforms and services, including through the use of relevant tools to detect and prevent fraudulent activities such as the timely blocking or removal of websites, applications, and accounts used for scam activities, subject to our relevant domestic and international legal obligations.

10. **Sovereignty and Jurisdiction:** In the course of pursuing the TCOs responsible for online scams, we are committed to respecting and upholding the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and jurisdictions of Contact Group members and all other countries consistent with international legal obligations.