1. **Name:**

ASEAN Ministers/Attorneys-General Meeting of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

1. **Short description:**

The AMAG-MLAT is the body in charge of implementing the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

1. **Formality:**

Is a sectoral body of ASEAN.

1. **Regional coverage:**

Southeast Asia

1. **Members (including states and non-states):**

Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam,

1. **Includes non-state actors?**

No.

1. **Date created:**

2019

1. **Date visibly started to engage with maritime security (e.g. first document that refers to it):**

Unclear

1. **Brief History and Description:**

The work towards a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT) was initially explored by Malaysia at the 8th ASLOM held on 15 – 16 June 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand. The proposal aimed to support and strengthen ASEAN Member States’ effort and capacity to combat transnational crimes and other transnational challenges by enhancing cooperation in law enforcement and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

Following the MLAT’s entry into force, further discussions and considerations to upgrade the MLAT were initiated. It was successfully completed as an ASEAN Treaty and was endorsed during the 6th Meeting of the Attorneys-General/Ministers of Justice and Minister of Law on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (6th AG MLAT) on 25 April 2019 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The 6th AG MLAT also endorsed the “Senior Officials’ Meeting of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters” (“SOM-MLAT”) and AMAG-MLAT. Both the AMAG-MLAT and its SOM-MLAT have now been included as ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Body, and are responsible for implementing MLAT.

MLAT states ‘The Parties shall, in accordance with this Treaty and subject to their respective domestic laws, render to one another the widest possible measure of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, namely investigations, prosecutions and resulting proceedings”.

1. **Maritime Security Issues Covered:**

Unclear

1. **Noteworthy documents and strategies:**

Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT)

1. **Intensity:**
2. **Ongoing projects and activities:**
3. **Funding structure:**
4. **Challenges:**
5. **Cooperation or link with other arrangements:**
6. **Institutional contacts:**
7. **Noteworthy literature**:
8. **Knowledge gaps to follow up on:**

Where will AMAG-MLAT fit in – a new thing, relatively distinct. 2019 added to ASEAN charter.