



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HAMIDON ALI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA AND
CHAIRMAN OF ASEAN NEW YORK COMMITTEE
AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL
ORGANISATIONS IN MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
NEW YORK, 17 OCTOBER 2005**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and my own country, Malaysia.

ASEAN joins others in congratulating you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for this month.

Mr. President,

ASEAN is pleased to note that the cooperation with the United Nations have been pursued in many areas of common interest and concern. ASEAN fully supports multilateralism and the central role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. In this connection and with the view to promoting peace and stability in the region the 5th ASEAN Summit held in Bangkok in 1995 had agreed that ASEAN explore ways and means of enhancing cooperation with the United Nations.

In pursuing this commitment we recall the successful and fruitful meeting held between the ASEAN Leaders and the UN Secretary-General at their First ASEAN-UN Summit held on 12 February 2000 in Bangkok. The Summit called for a closer cooperation between ASEAN and the UN in activities such as exchanging information, organizing conferences and seminars on issues relating to regional security and with the financial support from the UN. Subsequent to the Summit, ASEAN Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat have worked closely with the relevant UN agencies in particular the UN/DPA and UNDP, in organizing a series of annual regional seminars. The 4th UN-ASEAN Conference on Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution & Peace Building in Southeast Asia: ASEAN Security Community and the UN held in Jakarta on 24-25 February 2004 was a product of such cooperation. The 5th UN-ASEAN is scheduled to be held in the first half of 2006.

To further strengthen the foundation of the ASEAN-UN cooperation, the Second ASEAN-UN Summit was held on 13 September 2005 at the peripheral of the World Summit 2005. In addition to the ASEAN Leaders, the UN Secretary-General and the ASEAN Secretary-General, WHO,

UNDP, UNCTAD, UNAIDS were invited to participate at the Summit. The ASEAN Leaders and the UN Secretary-General took the opportunity to review and discuss a broad area of cooperation, which include energy security, debt relief, health, disaster management, trade and investment, and peace and security. The Summit also discussed the High-Level Plenary Meeting and the UN reform.

On peace and security, the ASEAN Leaders and the UN Secretary-General recognised the linkages between development, security and human rights, and committed to enhance cooperative efforts to combat international terrorism at national, regional and international levels. The UN also welcomed the possibility of ASEAN seeking an observer status in the United Nations. The ASEAN-UN Summit affirmed its support for multilateralism with the United Nations at its core. The Summit also expressed support to the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations and the multilateral system it represents to meet the challenges of the millennium. ASEAN looks forward to future summit meetings with the United Nations to maintain and promote closer cooperation between the two organizations.

Mr. President,

The adoption of UNGA's Resolution 57/35 in 2002 has further generated additional impetus to the cooperation as it encourages both the ASEAN and the United Nations to increase contacts and to further identify areas of cooperation, as appropriate. In this regard, ASEAN and the UN as well as its specialized agencies, must explore ways and means of promoting further ASEAN-UN cooperation.

We wish to emphasize that ASEAN will continue to support efforts towards making the UN a representative, effective, and relevant body for promoting global and regional peace and prosperity. We will also give particular attention to the efforts of the United Nations in peace-making, peace-keeping, peace-building and preventive diplomacy as well as to the strengthening of the work of the UN in the social and economic fields.

ASEAN, as a driving force for the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), has maintained contacts with various international and regional organisations, including the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), with the aim at exchanging experiences and best practices in promoting peace and security. As an established regional multilateral security forum, the ARF is the principal regional process initiated by ASEAN to engage its Dialogue Partners and other interested countries in the Asia-Pacific region to come together for confidence-building dialogues and cooperation activities.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers also hold regular consultations with their counterparts from other regional organizations in the margins of the annual United Nations General Assembly in New York. Under this arrangement, ASEAN Foreign Ministers have met their counterparts from Rio Group, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Economic Cooperation Organization, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. These meetings serve a very useful purpose in promoting mutual understanding and cooperation on a myriad of issues of common interest.

Mr. President,

We thank you for convening this meeting that enable ASEAN to interface with the Security Council and hence expand further the scope of cooperation between our regional organization and the United Nations system.

Last but not least, we wish Romania's Presidency a great success.

I thank you, Mr. President.