



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia**  
*to the United Nations*

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**STATEMENT BY MR. SHAZRYLL ZAHIRAN  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA**

**ON BEHALF OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)**

**COMPRISING BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, THE REPUBLIC  
OF INDONESIA, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, MALAYSIA, THE UNION OF  
MYANMAR, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE,  
THAILAND AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

**ON  
AGENDA ITEM 67: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN  
AT  
THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNGA  
NEW YORK, 18TH OCTOBER 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

1. My Delegation has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Member States of the Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), comprising Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and Malaysia.

2. ASEAN attaches great importance in the promotion and protection of children and their well-being and places the issue of children in the forefront of our cooperation through economic and social development in addressing the issue of promotion and protection of children. To achieve the goal of providing a world fit for children, it is our obligation to ensure that all children get the best possible start in life. It is also our shared responsibility to provide a safe, supportive and conducive environment for children to develop their individual capacity. In this respect, ASEAN reiterates its commitment to the outcome document of the Special Session on Children.

Mr. Chairman,

3. ASEAN underscores the importance of exerting efforts to attain social development focused on children and the family, in tandem with economic growth. Given the importance that ASEAN attaches to child survival, protection and development, we have undertaken several joint and cooperative actions among the ASEAN member countries.

4. In the series of plans of action to implement ASEAN Vision 2020 for an ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian Nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies, the Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA) was adopted in December 1998. Following-up to the HPA, ASEAN adopted the Vientiane Action Programme at its 10th Summit in Vientiane in November last year as a successor plan or program to guide further progress towards this vision. Towards building a community of caring societies, the VAP identified areas where regional interventions can complement national actions and these include reducing the social risks faced by children, women, elderly and persons with disabilities, by supporting programmes consistent with international conventions and promoting services such as aged care, health care and education.

5. Affirming ASEAN's continued commitment on children, ASEAN adopted a Declaration on Children at the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare in August 2001 and presented to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children in May 2002. In pursuance to ASEAN's commitment for a safer, gentler and more caring environment for children, ASEAN adopted the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II or the Bali Concord II with a particular emphasis to create a community of caring society.

6. The survival of children is constrained by poverty and the lack of access to basic needs and services such as food and nutrition, clothing, shelter, health and education. One individual country will not be able to shoulder these burdens alone. With this realization, ASEAN had established cooperation in programmes to address the issues. ASEAN has also established cooperation in programmes in the area of child protection, particularly child prostitution, child labor and child trafficking. In addition to intra-ASEAN cooperation and programmes, ASEAN as a whole is also actively engaged with the relevant international bodies to address the issues of child abuse, children with special needs and juvenile offenders.

7. In this challenging era, it is very important for the world to be dynamic and pragmatic in addressing issues on children and child development. At its regional level, ASEAN has identified the targets relating to child development that include the need to create awareness of the roles of various elements of society pertaining to child development, instilling moral and ethical value formation through education, ensuring total development of the child, providing recreational facilities, catering to the special needs for the gifted and children with disabilities, promoting training for parenting skills and providing care services for children. In order to achieve these targets, ASEAN has formulated certain strategies on each area of concern.

8. To ensure the survival of the child and child development, ASEAN continues to promote advocacy and community mobilization strategies to heighten awareness on the developmental

needs of children and the role of parents. In the area of child protection, ASEAN promotes networking with and among its law enforcement agencies and is also cooperating on training programmes in improving the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programmes on child protection. ASEAN also recognizes the positive role civil society plays in the promotion and protection of the rights of children and encourages their continued participation and contribution towards the goal of a world fit for children.

9. ASEAN is also actively engaged in cooperation with UNICEF and had formulated a work plan on the welfare of children and young persons as a guide for long-term cooperation. The work plan addresses priorities identified in the Declaration of Commitments on Children in ASEAN adopted by the 4th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare (AMRSW) in August 2001, "A World Fit for Children" adopted by the UNGA Special Session on Children, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Two ASEAN member countries, Indonesia and Cambodia, in close collaboration with UNICEF, hosted the sixth and seventh East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation on Children in 2003 and 2005 respectively. The consultations focused on the implementation of the MDGs and the outcome document of the 2002 UN General Assembly special session on Children.

Mr. Chairman,

10. As the children are our future, we must, as our solemn duty, ensure that we leave behind a world fit for them.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.