



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMB. RAMLAN IBRAHIM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE HIGH LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE ON
STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL
AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
(ASEAN)
AT THE 69th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
4 MAY 2015**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the ten (10) Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country Malaysia at this High Level Thematic Debate on Strengthening Cooperation Between the United Nations and Regional and Sub-regional Organisations.

2. I wish to commend the President of General Assembly for his initiative to convene this timely debate especially with the unique and complementary roles played by the United Nations and regional organisations in helping Member States to address global issues of common interest.

Mr. President,

3. ASEAN is of the view that to further strengthen the cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organisations, we need to explore innovative and new areas of cooperation. ASEAN believes that we would be able to make substantial contributions by sharing its best practices and experiences on conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacebuilding efforts and cooperative engagement with the United Nations and all Member States. We believe that the ASEAN way of adopting tolerance, mutual understanding and respect can also serve as a model for the international community, particularly, other regional and sub-regional organisations in building and nurturing progressive and forward looking organisations.

4. Both ASEAN and the United Nations have had long history of engagement based on a common desire to promote cooperation in political and security, economic and socio-cultural pillars. This cooperation has been strengthened at the last ASEAN-United Nations summit in Nay Pyi Taw November last year, when Leaders of ASEAN and the Secretary-General of the United Nations adopted the ASEAN-United Nations Work Plan for 2015. It sets out priority areas for the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the two organisations. This Work Plan is of critical importance in the context of ASEAN Community Building in 2015, ASEAN's deliberation on the ASEAN Community's post-2015 Vision and the global discussion on the post-2015 development agenda.

5. Cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations also reached a new milestone last year with the adoption, by consensus, of the United Nations resolution titled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations" at the General Assembly. This biennial resolution continues to receive wider support from the United Nations Member States with co-sponsorship by countries from all regions of the world. The resolution highlighted key updates and important developments that have taken place in ASEAN and as well as in ASEAN-United Nations cooperation over the past two years. It also welcomes the progress made in the ongoing

activities with the emphasis to further intensifying the level of cooperation between the two organisations.

Mr. President,

6. Since its establishment in 1967, ASEAN has become a dynamic and outward-looking regional organisation. Malaysia is privileged to serve as the Chair of ASEAN for the fourth time this year. 2015 will be a milestone for ASEAN in our vision to create the ASEAN Community by the end of December. ASEAN stands united to achieve good governance, higher standards of living, sustainable development, empowerment of women and youth, and greater opportunity for all people. Under Malaysia's chairmanship it has resolved to make the organisation more people-centred in line with the theme "Our People, Our Community, Our Vision". The recently concluded 26th ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi has demonstrated these elements through the adoption of the "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN" and the "Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and Its Communities and Peoples to Disaster and Climate Change". These two outcome documents will set the framework for the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, and underscore the importance of building an ASEAN Community that is resilient to disaster and climate change.

Mr. President,

7. Another important document adopted by ASEAN leaders at the 26th ASEAN Summit was the "Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates", which comprehensively outlines the philosophy of moderation as an established ASEAN value, in all its dimensions. We recognize that moderation is an all-encompassing approach not only in resolving differences and conflicts peacefully but also for ensuring sustainable, inclusive development and equitable growth, as well as promoting social harmony, counter radicalization and tackle the roots of extremism towards achieving global peace and security. As such embracing moderation is one of many ASEAN's contributions to the world.

Mr. President,

8. A strong cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations can greatly contribute to international peace and security, to sustainable development and equitable economic growth, and to human rights protection and creating a people-oriented society. Only by strengthening such cooperation, can we take full advantage of current and future opportunities, and effectively respond to regional and global challenges.

I thank you.