

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR MUHAMMAD SHAHRUL IKRAM YAAKOB
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)**

**AT THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK, 16 MAY 2018**

Madame President,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the ten (10) Member States of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country Malaysia on the International Day of Living Together in Peace.

2. ASEAN aligns itself with the statements delivered earlier by Samoa on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) and Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) before us.

3. At the outset, please allow me to extend ASEAN's utmost gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency Miroslav Lajcak, the President of the General Assembly for convening today's event. ASEAN would also like to thank Algeria for introducing this resolution last year.

Madame President,

4. We are here today to celebrate the International Day of Living Together in Peace, which the UN General Assembly endorsed through its resolution 72/130 dated 8 December 2017.

5. Today's event provides Member States with the opportunities to celebrate the efforts of the international community in promoting tolerance, inclusion, reconciliation, mutual understanding, respect and solidarity. In addition, it reinforces our common desire to live and act together in peace, remain united, and ultimately towards achieving a world of peace, solidarity and harmony.

6. ASEAN, which has a population of over 634 million people, is a multicultural and multireligious region where people practice different faiths, beliefs and religions. There will always be differences – minor differences, among us. However, we celebrate our multiplicity of ethnicities, cultures and religions. And we believe the best way to deal with any differences of opinion is through tolerance, mutual understanding and respect that define the identity of our ASEAN Community.

7. Furthermore, the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2015 aimed at building a community of peace and prosperity among the community of countries amid diversity and differences. Hence, ASEAN Member States share the belief that living together involves accepting differences and having the ability to listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as living in a peaceful and united way.

Madame President,

8. We firmly believe that moderation, tolerance and respect for our diversity contributes not only to addressing differences and disputes amicably but also in promoting sustainable and inclusive development, equitable growth, social harmony and mutual understanding.

9. We also find the compelling need to promote a culture of sustaining peace for a peaceful, inclusive, resilient, healthy and harmonious society by inculcating

shared values such as peace, harmony, intercultural understanding , the rule of law, good governance, respect, trust, tolerance, inclusiveness, moderation, social responsibility and diversity, as contained in the ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society adopted at the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila, Philippines in 2017.

10. To this end, ASEAN has taken various efforts and initiatives to remain cohesive, responsive and relevant in addressing challenges to regional peace and security as well as playing a central role in shaping the evolving regional architecture, while deepening our engagement with various partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Thus, we view that this Day commemorates and compliments those efforts.

Madame President,

11. Let me conclude by assuring all Member States, all stakeholders and all our partners, of ASEAN's full commitment to our common goals of achieving a sustainable and peaceful world. We are confident that this annual celebration would remind all of us of the importance of promoting understanding among people of different cultures, religions and civilizations.

Thank you, Madame President.

(7.8 minutes)