



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR RAMLAN IBRAHIM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
(ASEAN)**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 120:
REVITALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 3 NOVEMBER 2015

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprising of ten (10) Member States namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and my own country, Malaysia. ASEAN also aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

2. At the outset, let me congratulate His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Drobnyak, PR of Croatia and His Excellency Mr. Wilfred I. Emvula, PR of Namibia on their re-appointment as the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the 70th General Assembly session.

3. We would also like to express our appreciation for their stewardship in facilitating the Ad Hoc Working Group during the previous session.

4. ASEAN is pleased with the progress made during their co-chairmanship, particularly the resolution 69/321 that was adopted on 11 September 2015. Let me also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, President of the 69th General Assembly session for his commitment to move the process forward on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

5. The recent 70th Anniversary of the United Nations should provide us with the opportunity to further reinvigorate and revitalize the United Nations. A revitalized United Nations will make the organization more effective, transparent and inclusive. Hence, the United Nations will be better equipped to respond to the needs of Member States.

6. We should all work together in ensuring that the General Assembly plays its role as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. Allow me to highlight some of the key issues which should be given special consideration in the 70th session.

7. Firstly, we welcome the reaffirmation in the General Assembly's resolution 69/321 on the importance and benefits of continuing interaction

between the United Nations and regional forums, particularly the Political Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation between the United Nations with Regional and Sub-regional Organizations on 5 May 2015.

Mr. President,

8. ASEAN has made great strides as a regional organization. This year is particularly significant as the ASEAN Economic Community will be established at the end of the year. ASEAN looks forward to enhancing its interaction and cooperation with the United Nations to address the issues of common interest and concern. We hope that concrete measures or actions will continue to be taken to follow up on this important direction accorded by the General Assembly.

9. Secondly, ASEAN welcomes the decision of the General Assembly to conduct the elections of the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of the ECOSOC, about six (6) months before elected members assume their responsibilities, beginning of the 70th session.

10. We support the current practice of the Security Council of inviting its elected members to observe some of its meetings and activities prior to the assumption of their responsibilities. This will certainly provide the appropriate opportunities for elected non-permanent members to prepare for their tenure in the Council.

11. Third, on the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, ASEAN is of the view that we should implement the agreement reached in resolution 69/321 faithfully, to ensure a transparent and inclusive selection process.

Mr. President,

12. In this regard, we join other Member States in requesting both the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council to start the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Secretary-General, through a joint letter addressed to all Member States and invite candidates to be presented in a timely manner.

13. As we work towards the election and appointment of the next Secretary-General in 2016, ASEAN looks forward to receiving a clear description of the entire process, including a clear timeline of the selection process, and the schedule for informal dialogues between Member States and the candidates.

14. We request the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council to jointly circulate the names of individuals that have been submitted for consideration as candidate for the position of Secretary-General, on an ongoing basis to all Member States.

15. To further enhance accountability and transparency, we also encourage open Security Council meetings, including the 'Arria-formula' type meetings with shortlisted candidates, and regular briefings by the Security Council on the progress of the nomination process.

Mr. President,

16. Last but not least, we look forward to strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. We are pleased that resolution 69/321 has emphasized the need to ensure, from within agreed resources, that the Office of the President of the General Assembly is allocated with dedicated Secretariat staff.

17. These staff will be responsible for coordinating the transition between Presidents, managing interaction between the President and the Secretary-General and preserving the institutional memory in a timely manner.

18. We also welcome Member States that have seconded their staff from their respective Mission to assist and strengthen the Office of the PGA in discharging its mandates.

19. ASEAN joins other Member States in encouraging the frequent engagement between the President-elect of the General Assembly and the Council of Presidents. This may benefit the Presidents-elect from the experiences of former Presidents in terms of best practices and lessons learned.

Mr. President,

20. In further strengthening of the institutional memory, we encourage the outgoing Presidents of the General Assembly to transmit a summary of their work during their terms of office to their successors. We also encourage the holding of a structured and constructive exchange of experiences between them in the three-month transition period.

21. In conclusion, I wish to reiterate ASEAN's continued commitment to engage constructively with other Member States in the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the 70th UN General Assembly.

22. We are confident that with the political will of all Member States, we will be able to reach consensus and a concrete outcome.

I thank you.