



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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**STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF ASEAN**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 109: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
AT THE 70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 14 OCTOBER 2015

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the ten Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) namely; Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and my own country, Malaysia.
2. At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary General for his annual report of the work of the organization contained in document "A/70/1". The report provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of activities, achievements and challenges of the Organization on wide spectrum of issues of common interests and concern to all humankind.

Mr. President,

3. The ASEAN Charter provides a provision expressing its commitment to upholding the UN Charter and international law. As such, ASEAN attaches great importance to the work of the United Nations and greatly values its cooperation with the United Nations. The Joint Declaration on comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN, adopted in 2011, is a clear reflection of our commitment to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations. In this context, we welcome the successful conclusion of the annual meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers with the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly on 29 September 2015 on the sideline of the General Assembly.
4. ASEAN looks forward to welcoming the UN Secretary General at the upcoming 7th ASEAN-UN Summit to be held on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

to further strengthen ASEAN-UN relations and to explore other areas of cooperation. We view the Summit as an effective policy tool and another opportunity to give policy guidance to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations.

5. In his report, the Secretary General highlighted the substantial progress in overall achievement of the MDGs, while stressing the need to move forward to implement the universal 2030 Agenda for sustainable development as well as the urgent need to take timely action on climate change.
6. The beginning of 70th UNGA session is the precursor to a more challenging process-ASEAN is encouraged that the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly held on 29 September 2015, recognized the importance of the implementation of the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision alongside the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ASEAN shares the view that both agenda would complement one another, particularly in reducing poverty and hunger, tackling inequalities and promoting women empowerment, fostering sustainable economic growth and equitable social development, protecting the environment, ensuring peoples' access to clean water and clean air, minimizing adverse impact of climate change and building effective institutions to achieve sustainable and inclusive development as well as in enhancing the collaboration between the UN and its specialized agencies with various ASEAN's mechanisms and institutions.
7. There is no doubt that climate change, as pointed out by the Secretary General, is one of the greatest threats to a sustainable future. ASEAN is also working closely to address this challenge, including strengthening resilience of its Community by effectively implementing the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (ACCI) and the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC). ASEAN hopes that the upcoming Climate Change Conference in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015 could produce a comprehensive and universal agreement on climate change under the UNFCCC Convention.

Mr. President,

8. In the area of human rights, ASEAN has made rapid progress in its institutional developments, since the entry into force of its Charter. Some highlights include a milestone adoption of ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in 2012 and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN 2013, following the establishment of the

ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

9. The AICHR conducts various programs and activities in consultation and cooperation with ASEAN sectoral bodies together with relevant institutions and external partners concerned. The AICHR has various initiatives to promote awareness of human rights in 2015, such as the AICHR Human Rights Training the Trainers Programme for Journalists in Thailand, the AICHR Youth Debates on Human Rights in Singapore, the Regional Workshop on the Role of Youth in Malaysia, the AICHR Workshop on the Implementation of Human Rights Obligations relating to the Environment and Climate Change to be held in Myanmar, and the AICHR Workshop on the Development of ASEAN Legal Instruments on Human Rights in the Philippines.
10. For peace and stability, ASEAN is also striving to maintain and promote the Association as a flag-bearer for regional norms of good conduct particularly through the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The Treaty is regarded as the key code of conduct governing inter-state relations in Southeast Asia and provided foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. We welcome the growing interests of other non-ASEAN Member States to accede to the TAC.
11. Furthermore, ASEAN attaches great importance to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime to maintain peace, security and prosperity in the region. We are committed to preserve Southeast Asia as a nuclear weapon-free zone for all other weapon of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter.

Mr. President,

12. In this regard, ASEAN is committed to work closely with the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) on the early signing and ratification of the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty without reservations by NWS. To that end, ASEAN encourages full support of UN Member States particularly the NWS for the ASEAN sponsored biennial resolution on SEANWFZ Treaty during the 70th Session of the General Assembly.
13. On countering terrorism, ASEAN shares the deep concern over the rising violence and brutality committed by terrorist/extremist organizations and radical groups in Yemen, Iraq and Syria. ASEAN denounces all acts of destruction, violence and terror in all its forms and manifestations. In line with these efforts, ASEAN has

adopted the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates at the 26th ASEAN Summit in April 2015, which outlines measures to promote moderation and curb extremism throughout the region.

14. This year, under Malaysia's chairmanship with the theme "Our People, Our Community, Our Vision", we strive to make ASEAN "People Centred". This means good governance, higher standards of living, sustainable development, empowerment of women, and greater opportunity for all people in line with the spirit of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.
15. We believe that ASEAN's collective efforts at the regional level will contribute to the work of the United Nations in promoting peace, security and stability, as well as in contributing to inclusive and sustainable growth for all. I wish to conclude by reiterating ASEAN's resolve to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations in areas of mutual interests.

I thank you.