



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement
by
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Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United
Nations on behalf of
the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
at
the Sixth Committee of the
70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on
"The rule of law at national and international level"
(Agenda item: 85)

New York, 14 October 2015

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
2. At the outset, allow me to sincerely congratulate H.E. Ambassador Eden Charles on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee. My congratulations also go to the members of your Bureau. I am confident that under your able leadership, the work of the Sixth Committee will be successfully concluded.
3. ASEAN associates itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

4. ASEAN, like other countries and regional groupings, recognises the significance of 2015 as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. The three pillars within the Charter of the United Nations are international peace and security, development and human rights. To this end, ASEAN attaches great importance to the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion of sustainable development and the promotion and protection of human rights which are among the principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and other basic political documents.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The rule of law is an important basis for the conduct of international relations and cooperation among nations. ASEAN is of the view that the rule of law at the national and international level is essential as it contributes to the promotion and maintenance of peace and security as well as stability which are a prerequisite for development of all countries.
6. In the same vein, ASEAN recognises that the rule of law is an important foundation for universal respect for the principles of justice in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and it is relevant to all the three pillars of the United Nations which are peace and security, development and human rights.

7. Furthermore, the rule of law is also important for the fulfilment of the purposes and fundamental principles of the UN Charter and universally recognised principles of international law which are indispensable foundations for the sovereign equality of states, peaceful settlement of disputes and territorial integrity.

Mr. Chairman,

8. ASEAN as a rules-based inter-governmental organisation and with a legal status attaches importance to the promotion of the rule of law as it strides to establish an ASEAN Community at the end of this year. Such example are: The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) of 1976, as a code of conduct governing relations between states, with 32 states as its high contracting parties and more states are keen to accede to it; the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration of 2012 and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD; the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) of 1995; the Declaration on Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) of 2002; and the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations of 2011. In the meantime, ASEAN Member States are working with China towards the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

9. It is also worth noting that this year in April, during the ASEAN Summit in Malaysia, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on a People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN where the leaders, among other aspirations, committed to further enhance judicial systems and legal infrastructure in order to maintain a peaceful and harmonious environment. Further, the Post-2015 ASEAN Vision will be adopted in Malaysia by the ASEAN Leaders at the end of this year.

10. At the same time, ASEAN Member States have continued to develop and strengthen the relevant national institutions and legal frameworks to fulfil their obligations and commitments under the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr Chairman,

11. On human rights, ASEAN reaffirms the role of the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) as the overarching human rights institution in ASEAN to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people in the region. We welcome the progress

of the work of the AICHR in the promotion and protection of human rights, and encouraged AICHR to engage more in current human right challenges in the region, in accordance with the principles of the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD as well as the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the AICHR. We commended the AICHR's efforts in finalising its Five-year Work Plan (2016-2020) which is the continuation of the AICHR Work Plan (2010-2015).

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.