



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN
NATIONS (ASEAN)**

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NATIONS**

**AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DEBATE
ON REGIONAL DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY**

24 OCTOBER 2016

Mr. Chairman,

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, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, Malaysia.

Mr. Chairman,

2. We must remain steadfast in our collective efforts in the disarmament process to maintain international peace and security, in the light of increasingly complex security challenges facing us today.

3. Hence, ASEAN has strived to strengthen its own ability to address regional security challenges in accordance with its Charter and through promotion of ASEAN Centrality in the regional security architecture. The establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015 is a testament of our efforts to build a regional architecture that is conducive to peace, stability and prosperity.

Mr. Chairman,

4. ASEAN views transparency and confidence-building measures, as well as progress on global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as indispensable in improving the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region.

5. We underscore the importance of strengthening international cooperative efforts in nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy that meets norms of safety, security and non-proliferation must continue to be upheld.

6. As such, we reaffirm our commitment to the NPT and value the platform of regional dialogues to facilitate implementation of NPT commitments in a balanced manner. We remain firmly wedded to the universality and full and effective implementation of the NPT and view this as incumbent in achieving regional disarmament and security. Thus, we call on all State Parties to take concrete measures to fulfil their obligations under the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

7. We believe that the establishment of the Treaty of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANFWZ) Treaty contributes to strengthening the security of States in the region and to international peace and security. We remain encouraged by the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free zones (NWFZs) including the establishment of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Pelindaba, Central Asia and Mongolia's Nuclear-Weapon-Free- Status. In this vein, we continue to urge others to conclude agreements to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones in areas where they do not exist, including in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Our contribution to regional disarmament this year, among others, includes the official inauguration of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre Headquarters (ARMAC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in May 2016. Once the Centre is fully operationalized, the Centre would serve as a regional centre of excellence in addressing the humanitarian aspects of explosive remnants of war.

9. Secondly, the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) continues to undertake various activities on nuclear safety, security, safeguards, as well as, emergency preparedness and response. These activities are conducted through exchange of information and complement the work of existing mechanisms at various levels, including the IAEA. In effort to strengthen cooperation, ASEAN Senior Officials have been tasked to explore ways to formalise relations between ASEAN and IAEA to promote collaboration and capacity building to benefit all Member States.

10. The 8th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-sessional Meeting (ISM) on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament co-chaired by Canada, New Zealand and Malaysia was held in Putrajaya in April this year to deepen cooperation under various inter-governmental frameworks to further meet commitments and obligations made on disarmament and non-proliferation through the proposed ARF Work Plan.

Mr. Chairman,

11. We believe that regional frameworks have a valuable role in developing concrete initiatives, building capacity and ensuring continuity, in meeting the priority of the three central pillars of the global non-proliferation regime namely – preventing proliferation of WMD, promoting peaceful use of nuclear technology and advancing global disarmament efforts. ASEAN remains committed to work together with the international community towards this endeavour.

With this, I thank you.