



Statement by Mr. Gerry Indradi  
Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia  
to the United Nations in Geneva  
on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations  
(ASEAN)

“Disarmament Machinery”  
First Committee, 71<sup>st</sup> UNGA

26 October 2016

Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), comprising Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, Indonesia.
2. Global disarmament and non-proliferation issues can be best addressed through multilateralism, and all countries carrying out their obligations responsibly. Indeed based on its existing rules of procedure and methods of work, the UN disarmament machinery has produced important treaties and guidelines. ASEAN believes that enhancing the effectiveness of the UN disarmament machinery must be a shared objective.
3. It is a regrettable reality that disarmament within the UN framework has been moving at a frustratingly slow pace. But it is evident to ASEAN and others that the main problem lies in the lack of political will by some States to achieve progress, particularly on nuclear disarmament.
4. ASEAN stresses on preserving and strengthening the nature, role and purpose of each part of the disarmament machinery, namely the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC), and the First Committee.
5. ASEAN is concerned at the deadlock in the CD on agreeing on a program of work. We encourage the Member States in the CD to demonstrate the necessary political will so that the CD fulfils its negotiating mandate.
6. We are also concerned that the UNDC has been unable to agree on substantive recommendations on its agenda items since 2000. ASEAN urges the UN Member States to display the needed political will and flexibility to enable the Commission to agree on substantive outcomes.
7. ASEAN welcomes the conclusion of the Open-Ended Working Group on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in August 2016 in Geneva, and expresses appreciation to Ambassador Thani of Thailand for chairing the OEWG in a balanced manner.

8. The OEWG, open to all Member States, produced substantive recommendations, representing an unprecedented opportunity to advance multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. In this context, ASEAN echoes the Working Group's recommendation to the General Assembly to convene a conference in 2017, open to all States, with participation and contribution of international organizations and civil society, to negotiate a legally-binding instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

Mr. Chairman,

9. We remain at the crossroads as far as the disarmament machinery is concerned. We have the choice of either moving the machinery forward collectively for the greater good of mankind, or we could remain deadlocked in the absence of political will, which may put mankind in harm's way. The choice is ours to make.
10. As long as countries continue to possess nuclear weapons, instability, insecurity and the possibility of proliferation will be present. Continued possession of nuclear weapons also calls into question the commitments by nuclear-weapon States, and undermines the multilateral framework for strengthening international peace and security. ASEAN urges all countries to uphold their commitments and come together to reinvigorate the disarmament machinery with their positive and concrete actions.

Thank you.