



Statement delivered by

ARIEL RODELAS PENARANDA

Minister of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines
to the United Nations in New York

On behalf of the

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines,
Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

During the 2018 Session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission

Conference Room 3, United Nations Headquarters, New York

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Madam Chair,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, the Philippines.
2. ASEAN Member States congratulate you, Madam Chair, on your election to preside over the 2018 Session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. We are confident your leadership would facilitate the best possible outcome. You can be assured of our support and constructive participation.
3. ASEAN stresses the importance of preserving and strengthening the role and purpose of the disarmament machinery, namely the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC), and the First Committee. In this regard, we welcome the successful adoption of the consensus recommendations on the "Practical Confidence-Building Measures in the Field of Conventional Weapons adopted in 2017. We strongly believe that the UNDC, with a universal membership, continues to have a unique role in building trust and confidence among Member States on various issues in the disarmament sphere.

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556 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10036 • TEL. (212) 764-1300 • FAX (212) 840-8602

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

1. On recommendations on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. ASEAN believes that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues can be best addressed through multilateralism, and all countries carrying out their obligations responsibly.
2. We also affirm the importance of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones to the existing global non-proliferation regime and continue to support the ongoing efforts toward the establishment of such zones, especially in the Middle East. We reiterate our commitment to preserve our region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty).
3. Along with the SEANWFZ Treaty, the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on July 7, 2017 constitutes a vital step towards global nuclear disarmament and complements the existing non-proliferation and global nuclear weapon related instruments. It would also make significant contributions towards the shared goal of making our region and the world free of nuclear weapons
4. At the same time, ASEAN continues to recognize the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and call on all States parties to the NPT to renew their commitment to the urgent and full implementation of existing obligations, particularly those under Article VI.
5. Bearing in mind the significance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), we join others in urging the Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible to realize its entry into force
6. ASEAN welcomes the announcement of plans for the Inter-Korean Summit and the meeting between the U.S. and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the near future, as well as efforts by the Republic of Korea and all concerned parties to reduce tensions and work towards a peaceful resolution of the situation on the Korean Peninsula. ASEAN also notes the DPRK's reported commitment to denuclearization and its pledge to refrain from further nuclear and missile tests during this period.
7. We reiterate ASEAN's support for the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and express hope for a peaceful and amicable resolution to the issue.
8. ASEAN also emphasizes the importance of full and effective implementation of the non-proliferation regime, including Security Council Resolution 1540. Here, greater coherence and cooperation is needed between States on intelligence sharing, capacity-building and assistance. Furthermore, the industries, academia and civil

society have an important contribution to make to realizing an effective non-proliferation regime.

9. ASEAN looks ahead with optimism to the upcoming 2nd Preparatory Committee of the NPT to be held later this month in Geneva. It is the hope of ASEAN that the outcome of the UNDC would contribute to laying the necessary groundwork for the 3rd Preparatory Committee of the NPT in 2019, which will be chaired by Malaysia, as well as the 2020 NPT Review Conference.
10. We also look forward to the upcoming UN International High-level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in May 2018, as a practical contribution to the goal of a nuclear weapons free world.
11. ASEAN reiterates its strong commitment to move the global non-proliferation and disarmament agenda forward, and call on all Member States, particularly the Nuclear Weapon States, to demonstrate good faith, promote mutual understanding, enhance trustworthy cooperation and ensure responsible collective actions in striving for a world without nuclear weapons.

Practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

Madam Chair,

12. ASEAN is convinced that space technology and its applications provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for many of the development challenges, as well as contributing to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
13. On recommendations on practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, ASEAN would like to put forward the following points.
14. First, ASEAN recognizes that exploration and use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes is for the benefit of all humanity. The prevention of an arms race in outer space is of vital importance. In this regard, we should build consensus on norms that encourage the peaceful use of space as a global commons for the benefit of all States. Deeper international collaboration is required, and ASEAN supports the efforts to strengthen the governance framework of outer space. A possible avenue for addressing this issue is through an appropriate multilateral framework on rules of behavior in outer space. ASEAN notes with appreciation the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures (TCBMs) in Outer Space Activities, and reaffirms the importance of TCBMs in fostering mutual trust and reducing the risks of miscommunication.
15. Second, ASEAN welcomes activities and dialogue to deepen understanding on issues pertaining to space security. In particular, ASEAN would like to highlight the contributions made by the series of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Space Security Workshops, which

have contributed to deliberations on critical issues including space security threats and hazards, transparency and confidence-building measures for enhancing space security and areas for practical international cooperation in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

16. Third, ASEAN recognizes that the steadily increasing interest in space brings along a series of challenges that have to be tackled expeditiously. In particular, ASEAN reiterates our concern regarding the issue of space debris. These space objects pose a serious risk for communications and all nations, peoples, and industries that rely heavily on their use. ASEAN encourages States which have not yet done so to consider voluntary implementation of the Space Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. ASEAN also urges the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue discussion on measures to mitigate space debris.
17. Fourth, ASEAN welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly on December 04, 2017 of Resolution 72/76 on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and Resolution 72/27 on the no first placement of weapons in outer space. ASEAN notes that a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) that will be established this year, pursuant to Resolution 72/250, to make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We call on the GGE to fulfil its mandate in an open and inclusive manner.
18. Fifth, and lastly, pragmatic cooperation among all parties is required to ensure that space remains secure and sustainable. ASEAN welcomes the Report of the First Committee on November 08, 2017 on the “Joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability” under the item entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.”
19. ASEAN stands ready to play its part, and to further contribute to the discussion on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and issues on outer space to prevent an arms race, issues that have significant impact on the future of all humanity.
20. I thank you, Madam Chair.