



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Le Hoai Trung
Permanent Representative of Vietnam to the United Nations
On behalf of ASEAN at the 6th Committee of the UNGA 67 Session
on Agenda Item 83 “The rule of law at international and
national levels”
(October 10, 2012)**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to address the Committee on behalf of the ten Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Mr. Chairman,

Adherence to the rule of law constitutes firm legal foundations for the collective responses and solutions needed to deal with many challenges that the international community is now facing. Aligned with principles of the Charter of the United Nations, full implementation of the rule of law at national and international levels is fundamental to achieving a durable peace, dispute settlement by peaceful means and effective protection of human rights and sustainable economic development.

In the past year, with the coordination of the United Nations, many concrete progress and endeavour have been made to realize the central role that the rule of law is taking on the national and international stages. In this regard, ASEAN highly appreciates the High-level Meeting on the rule of law under the auspice of the United Nations on September 24, 2012 as well as the outcome of the Meeting which indicates very strong and solemn

commitments of all nations in the world to uphold and implement the rule of law and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

ASEAN would like also to thank the Secretary-General for his report, namely *Delivering justice: programme of action to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels*, which provides a comprehensive reference for the High-level Meeting on the rule of law. The Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and supported by the Rule of Law Unit, has tirelessly contributed to the progress of the rule of law as a whole.

On this occasion, ASEAN wishes to renew its commitments to promote and implement the rule of law at the national and international levels in accordance with fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations. ASEAN also believes that during this session of the Sixth Committee we will focus on discussing the ways to realize the commitments made at the High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at national and international level. To this end, ASEAN would like to emphasize that any efforts of the international community in implementing the rule of law must be based on principles of national ownership, sovereign equality of States, peaceful settlement of disputes, adherence to a rules-based regime and respect for territorial integrity.

Mr. Chairman,

Towards the year 2015 when an ASEAN Community is established and under this year's theme of "ASEAN: One Community, One Destiny", ASEAN is intensifying efforts aimed at building a rules-based, people-centred, and fully integrated organization through the implementation of the ASEAN Charter. The ASEAN's Leaders at the 20th ASEAN Summit Meeting in Cambodia in April this year emphasized that ASEAN has come a long way in overcoming many challenges and has achieved much based on

ASEAN's fundamental principles, such as mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of all nations. The Leaders also expressed satisfaction with the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN's Charter, particularly on the development and adoption of various rules and procedures for its operationalization, such as the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of ASEAN, the Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanism, Rules of Authorization for Legal Transactions under Domestic Laws, Rules of Procedure for the Conclusion of International Agreements by ASEAN and Rules of Procedure for the Interpretation for the ASEAN Charter.

Being a people-centred Community, in the past year, ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Women and Children (ACWC), have stepped up their efforts to promote the work of ASEAN in the field of Human Rights, including drafting an important document on the human rights, namely the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) which would be adopted at the 21st ASEAN Summit in November 2012. The AHRD is to be a political document that reflects the aspirations and commitments of ASEAN to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

In the ASEAN's view, rule of law is also an effective tool to promote sustainable economic development. With this in mind, the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), which entered into force recently, contains comprehensive and improved provisions at par with international best practices on investment liberalization, protection, facilitation and promotion. Through ACIA, ASEAN aims to create a free

and open investment environment for ASEAN and to promote further cooperation in this field with other partners.

Committed to pursue greater stability and security in the region, in addition to effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) signed between ASEAN and China, recently ASEAN Senior Officials have made another step forward to agree on the basic elements of a Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), which would be an important document aimed at promoting peaceful settlement of international disputes, mutual trust and lasting peace and stability in the region. In this regard, ASEAN noted the growing interests of other countries to accede ASEAN's key legal documents such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and to respect the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ).

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN wishes to take this occasion to reiterate its commitment to the building of a community of Southeast Asian nations that is firmly grounded upon the rule of law at national, regional and international levels. A rules-based, people-centred and more integrated Community would enable us to play a greater role in the advancement of the rule of law, and to promote prosperity and security in the region as well as to be an effective partner of the United Nations and other countries.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.