



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

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**Statement
by
H.E. Dr. Khiane PHANSOURIVONG,
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
69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on
"The rule of law at national and international level"
(Agenda item: 82)**

New York, 9 October 2014

(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 the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

2. At the outset, allow me to congratulate Mr Tuvako N. Manongi on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee and express our confidence in your able leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The rule of law is an important basis for international cooperation among nations. ASEAN is of the view that the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for the realization of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, peace and security, equality and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. The rule of law is important for ensuring universal respect for the principle of justice in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and is highly relevant to all the three pillars within the Charter, namely, peace and security; development and human rights. The rule of law is also important to the fulfilment of, in particular, the purposes and fundamental principles of the UN Charter and; international law, which are indispensable foundations for the sovereign equality of states, peaceful settlement of disputes and territorial integrity.

Mr. Chairman,

5. ASEAN is a rule-based inter-governmental regional organisation and therefore, attaches great importance to enhancing the rule of law as ASEAN move forward to realise the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015.

6. ASEAN is also in the midst of developing and strengthening the relevant national institutions and legal frameworks to fulfil ASEAN obligations and commitments under the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr Chairman,

7. It is worth noting that many non-regional states have acceded and are keen to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), as a code of conduct governing the relations between states. Further, to promote friendly relations among the participating countries, the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles) was adopted in 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. Furthermore, the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) was adopted in 2002. Currently, ASEAN Member States are expeditiously working towards the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

8. On human right, there are two issues that needs to be mentioned, firstly, ASEAN established the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), an overarching human rights institution, with the overall responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN and; secondly, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) which was adopted by ASEAN leaders in 2012, a landmark document, that establishes a framework for human rights cooperation in the region and contribute to the ASEAN community building process.

With that I thank you, Mr. Chairman.