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STATEMENT BY

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OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

SIXTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 84
THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

71ST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 5 OCTOBER 2016

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

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

ASEAN associates itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, allow me to warmly congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee. We assure you of our full cooperation, and are certain that under your able guidance this Committee will come to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

The rule of law at the national and international levels is the cornerstone of friendly relations among nations, and the central basis of international cooperation and development. ASEAN, as a rules-based inter-governmental organization, strongly believes that rule of law is of utmost importance to the realization of globally-sustained economic growth, promotion of international peace, justice, and security, as well as protection of human rights.

As a regional organization, ASEAN promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic integration among its members. As such, rule of law at the national and international levels is very important to us, as it is the glue that binds us together. In this context, ASEAN welcomes this year's Sixth Committee debate on the topic with an outlook on "sharing national practices of States in the implementation of multilateral treaties," and we are delighted to share our experience with fellow delegations. We also look forward to the exchange of views on the other topic for this year's debate, "Practical measures to facilitate access to justice for all, including for the poorest and most vulnerable".

Mr. Chairman,

The ASEAN Charter and other of ASEAN's basic political documents embodyies the fundamental principles and purposes of the rule of law, stipulating including respect for the peaceful settlement of disputes, democracy, good governance, as well as promotion and protection of human rightsrights . ASEAN's respect for the rule of law is further reflected in the landmark ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, which emphasizes that rule of law and human rights are inextricably linked and are mutually reinforcing.

Since its inception in 1967, ASEAN has continuously strived to build an inclusive, rules-based community governed by the rule of law. In this light, and with great respect for

multilateral treaty processes, ASEAN set a major milestone in its regional economic integration, of forming the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in December of 2015, which comprises of the three community pillars, (1) Political-Security Community; (2) Economic Community; and (3) Socio-Cultural Community, with the Blueprints 2025 serving as the guiding documents.

Shaped and guided by national and international rule of law, AEC offers access to an immense market of \$2.6 trillion US dollars with a population base of over 620 million people. This makes the ASEAN Economic Community the third largest economy in Asia and the seventh largest in the world.

The AEC framework is supported by the three community pillars, reflected in the functioning of (1) Political-Security Community; (2) Economic Community; and (3) Socio-Cultural Community, with the AEC Blueprint 2025 serving as the guiding document. The AEC Blueprint 2025 provides direction through strategic measures for the ASEAN Economic Community from 2016 to 2025. It consists of five interrelated and mutually reinforcing characteristics, namely (1) A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy; (2) A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN; (3) Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation; (4) Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centered ASEAN; and (5) A Global ASEAN, which is fully integrated within the global economy.

Guided by the rule of law, the AEC Blueprint 2025, consists of five interrelated and mutually reinforcing characteristics, namely (1) A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy; (2) A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN; (3) Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation; (4) Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centered ASEAN; and (5) A Global ASEAN, which is fully integrated within the global economy.

These characteristics support the foundation of the AEC as envisaged in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The new Blueprint will ensure that the ten ASEAN Member States are sustainably and gainfully integrated in the global economy, thus contributing to an ASEAN community that is politically cohesive, culturally harmonious, and socially responsible.

Mr. Chairman,

The rule of law at the national and international levels is the driving force behind global socio-economic development, peace, justice, and security. Such law is essential in ensuring universal respect for the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, including sovereign equality of states, territorial integrity, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. This is of great importance to the three pillars of the United Nations as it promotes peaceful and inclusive societies, supported by effective and accountable institutions.

As a rules-based inter-governmental organisation, committed to stability and security in the region, ASEAN notes the growing interests of other countries to accede to ASEAN's key legal documents such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) of 1976 and the Treaty on Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) of 1995. ASEAN promotes peace, stability, mutual trust and confidence in the region by adhering to the commitments defined in the Declarations of East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles) and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) between ASEAN and other participating countries. In the meantime, ASEAN Member States continue to work with China towards the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

ASEAN strongly believes that in order to ensure respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels, national capacities must be strengthened. In this respect, we would like to emphasize the importance of providing technical assistance, knowledge and skills-based training, as well as development support to Member States, for the national implementation of multilateral treaties. We would like to welcome the work of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit in this regard.

Moreover, ASEAN would like to underscore the importance of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which contributes to greater respect for the rule of law globally, and improves the participation of Member States in multilateral treaty processes. We call for continuous provision of financial support for the Programme of Assistance so as to engage as broad a reach of the Programme as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN is of the view that strengthening and promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels is a globally-shared objective. These efforts require consistency, predictability, and foresight; as such, it is important to avoid selectivity and double standards in the application of international law. In the same light, monitoring mechanisms for multilateral treaties should be supported so as to promote accountability and transparency in the implementation of international obligations.

As the United Nations is the central platform for continued deliberations on this agenda item, ASEAN will continue working together with the UN and its agencies, as well as with all United Nations Member States and other partners in strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels so as to promote universal respect for the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the international law.

Thank you.