



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

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OF THE PERMANENT MISSION 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

72ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 4 OCTOBER 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. 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.
2. ASEAN would like 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 convinced that under your able guidance this Committee will come to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The Rule of Law at the national and international levels plays an integral part in the promotion of friendly relations among nations. It is indispensable for the conduct of international relations as it supports cooperation among states, thereby contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security while promoting respect for human rights worldwide.
4. Since its founding in 1967, ASEAN has continuously been building an inclusive, rules-based Community governed by the rule of law. On this fiftieth anniversary of the founding of ASEAN, we would like to emphasize the importance of international action based on the rule of law, which is of utmost importance to the realization of globally-shared commitments on sustainable development, nuclear disarmament and climate change, among other priorities.
5. As a rules-based, people-oriented and people-centered Community, ASEAN attaches great importance to the promotion of rule of law at the national and international levels. In line with this year's topic on the "Ways and means to further disseminate international law to strengthen the rule of law," we would like to share our observations in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Respect for the rule of law is the driving force behind global peace and security, justice and socio-economic development of states. As such, it is paramount that multilateral action is carried out in full accordance with the principles and purpose of the United Nations Charter. Equally-shared respect for principles of sovereign equality of states, territorial integrity, and non-interference in domestic affairs, will further strengthen international commitment to the rule of law. It will provide certainty in action and enhance confidence in expectations for all the partners involved.

7. 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.
8. In this context, ASEAN would like to commend the United Nations Codification Division and the Treaty Section for contributing to the rule of law through their efforts to encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification, and by maintaining a well-organised register of treaties respectively. We appreciate the Secretary-General's review of the regulations giving effect to Article 102 of the UN Charter, contained in document A/72/86. This report represents an important step in enhancing the United Nations treaty practice.
9. In his report, the Secretary-General acknowledged that "technological developments have profoundly transformed the registration and publication of treaties, rendering some provisions of the regulations out of date." As it currently stands, the Treaty Section operates under outdated regulations, which do not account for current technological advancements, which in turn causes inefficiencies and eats up limited budgetary and human resources.
10. ASEAN fully supports cutting waste and reducing inefficiencies, all the while improving the working methods of the UN generally and the Treaty Section in particular. We welcome constructive work to update all relevant regulations related to the role of the Secretary-General as depositary of multilateral treaties. Proper publication of treaties provides for transparency, trust, and public awareness of commitments; thereby strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels.
11. Furthermore, ASEAN strongly believes that in order to enhance 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.
12. ASEAN also strongly supports the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. The Programme serves an important purpose of promoting international law worldwide,

contributing to friendly relations among states and so improving the participation of Member States in multilateral treaty processes. As such, it is important to ensure adequate financing for the Programme into the future, which in turn will further strengthen respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels.

Mr. Chairman,

13. The ASEAN Charter, together with the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and other ASEAN basic political documents, embody the fundamental principles and purposes of the rule of law, including democracy, good governance, respect for the peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as promotion and protection of human rights.
14. As a rules-based inter-governmental organization, ASEAN has long been committed to stability and security in the region. Important treaties have paved the way for our success, including the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia of 1976, the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone of 1995, the Declaration on Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea of 2002, the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations of 2011, and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration of 2012 together with the Phnom Penh Statement on its adoption. Moreover, ASEAN Member States continue to work with China towards the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.
15. These multilateral actions have guided ASEAN towards ever-closer economic integration, resulting in the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015. Based on the rule of law and guided by the AEC Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Economic Community provides access to an immense market of \$2.6 trillion US dollars with a population of over 620 million people. This makes the ASEAN Economic Community the third largest economy in Asia and seventh largest in the world.
16. The AEC Blueprint, which provides direction through strategic measures for the ASEAN Economic Community from 2016 to 2025, consists of five interrelated and mutually reinforcing characteristics. Rooted in the rule of law, these characteristics include (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.

17. These characteristics support the foundation of the AEC as envisaged in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ensuring that the ten ASEAN Member States are sustainably and gainfully integrated into the global economy; thus promoting a rules-based community that is politically cohesive, culturally harmonious, and socially responsible.

Mr. Chairman,

18. The rule of law at the national and international levels is the driving force behind global socio-economic development, peace, justice and security. ASEAN will continue working together with the UN and its agencies, as well as with all United Nations Member States and other partners to promote and strengthen respect for the rule of law worldwide.