Statement by

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to the United Nations
On behalf of
the Association of the South East Asian Nations

General Debate of the Second Committee
New York, 9 October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Speaking on behalf of ASEAN - Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam – I would like to first of all, congratulate you on assuming the Chairmanship of the Second Committee, and to also congratulate other members of the bureau.

Allow me to reiterate ASEAN's full support and cooperation in the coming months. Let me also take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Secretariat for organizing the Committee's work, and for preparing the relevant documentation.

ASEAN associates with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

Last year's second committee debate began in the common spirit to ensure that the Rio+20 Conference would yield further strategic momentum to advance the global sustainable development agenda.

Rio+20 became the launching pad of a new era to sustain a healthy interdependence between people and the planet. Leaders agreed on a vision of development that merges prosperity, social inclusion of all people with the planet.
Several important milestones were reached in realizing that vision:

First, was the launch of the High Level Political Forum during the General Debate Segment of the UNGA-68. It is a new institutional tool in the multilateral governance architecture to respond better to the new challenges of sustainable development.

The forum is the product of our collective endeavors. Therefore it is our utmost responsibility to ensure that the Forum would live up to our collective expectations.

Second, was the launch of the intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, last August. The work of the Committee is pivotal in recommending options to mobilize resources from a variety of sources to support developing countries’ efforts in promoting sustainable development.

Third, is the Open Working Group of SDGs, which has conducted four stocktaking sessions, since its inception in March.

Mr. Chairman,

The on-going work on sustainable development is part and parcel of the on-going discussion on the post-2015 development agenda.

In that context, the theme designated by the PGA for this session – “Post 2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage” - comes at a timely juncture.

At this opportunity, ASEAN would like to welcome the “Outcome Document of the Special Event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the MDGs”, which was adopted this morning. The Outcome Document underscored the importance of accelerated commitments and actions to ensure timely implementation of all MDGs. It also established inter-governmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

It is a prompt time to set the stage for what comes next after the MDGs. ASEAN is of the view that this task will belong to the United Nations, in the spirit of multilateralism, mutual understanding and cooperation.

The post-2015 development agenda should bring transformative change. The agenda should be universal, shared with common but differentiated responsibilities. It must be able to address new and emerging challenges and also reflect the aspirations of our societies.

Yet, the change we seek depends on how much we can complete on the MDGs. The next two years will be a crucial time for member states and all stakeholders to devote their efforts on development issues.
Allow me to therefore focus on two urgent matters with regard to the work of the Second committee this year.

First of all, there is the acceleration of the achievement of the MDGs. There is a tremendous task to accelerate global efforts for the timely achievement of the “off track” MDGs.

ASEAN Member States have made significant progress towards the full achievement of the MDGs in 2015. Some ASEAN Member States have adopted additional goals and targets specific to their own particular circumstances.

However, there are still significant challenges that need to be overcome in achieving the MDGs in a timely and integrative manner. A particular challenge for ASEAN is narrowing the development gaps within the region.

In ASEAN’s perspective, to successfully narrow the gaps in development, addressing poverty issues is a must. Our response is by accelerating concerted efforts through the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for the attainment of the MDGs. The Roadmap focuses specially on achievable goals, possible scenarios and priorities beyond 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

The MDGs report this year indicates that some MDG targets have been achieved and some are “on track” to be achieved by 2015. However, some targets do not show much progress.

Global attention and support should be directed to the regions that lag behind in MDGs achievement. More resources and other forms of support should be provided in the framework of MDG 8. This should involve all stakeholders in the international community.

I believe that the work of the Second Committee this year should largely contribute to how progress can be accelerated on the MDGs. We need to ensure that MDG 8 contributes to accelerating progress in the remaining time leading up to 2015.

Second is the post-2015 development agenda.

Now is the right time to prepare a vision of development beyond 2015.

In this regard, ASEAN is of the view that the post-2015 development agenda needs to reflect some of these concerns:

First, the new development agenda should reflect the best practices and lessons learned from MDGs. The success stories should be replicated, while the persistent challenges should be addressed vigorously.

Second, the new development agenda should aim to end poverty in all its forms, which is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
It will need to reinvigorate and reiterate the importance of renewing the global partnership for sustainable development. All stakeholders must move in concert to end poverty.

Third, on the way forward, we should be mindful of the importance of an open, transparent and inclusive approach to in extensive discussions and outreach efforts, particularly in the inter-governmental process.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN is of the view that relentless efforts must be pursued on what is manifestly in the common interest of all: the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development, as well as overcoming the challenge of climate change.

For we have in ourselves the wherewithal to address the development challenges of our time. For example, to work for an early conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda, and a new climate change regime by 2015. In this context, we look forward for a successful conclusion of the WTO Ministerial Meeting to be held on December 2013 in Bali.

ASEAN reiterates the importance of honoring the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities in our pursuit for a new climate regime in 2015.

While the developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions, we in the developing world will try our utmost. In this connection, cooperation and partnership plays a major factor in the success of this effort.

For ASEAN, 2015 is a pivotal year, with the establishment of the ASEAN Community, consisting of three pillars; political-security, economic, and socio-cultural. Through a process of sharing lessons learnt derived from our respective successes and setbacks, we provide mutual encouragement and support in our promotion of the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, respect for and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms as inscribed in the ASEAN Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN is committed to making the United Nations a more effective organization that will continue to underpin the multilateral system. Here, in the Second Committee, ASEAN is committed to working with other Member States to implement the economic vision of the United Nations Charter.

Thank you.