Statement by

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to the United Nations
on behalf of
The Association of the South East Asian Nations

Agenda Item 18:
"Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development
and the 2008 Review Conference"

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to address the General Assembly today, on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)
i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

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

Mr. Chairman,

ASEAN welcomes the efforts by the United Nations in giving agenda item 18 on financing for development its deserved prominence. ASEAN stresses the importance of continuing our joint effort to reaffirm the global commitment on financing for development and its implementation.

As developing countries, we are deeply concerned with the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis. Development efforts are in jeopardy of slowing considerably if resources to spur growth cannot be sustained.

In this context, the hefty load of mobilizing resources for development should not be left to developing countries to carry on their own. ASEAN reaffirms the importance of staying fully engaged, regionally and internationally. The full implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and follow-up efforts are vital to creating a stable, resilient, and vibrant global economy. ASEAN remains focused on addressing essential elements to promote and bolster sustainable development. We call for improved resource allocation with new funding modalities and sources.

ASEAN therefore agrees with the General Assembly’s resolution of 3rd October to seek a more interactive, dynamic and substantive discussion on key issues related to the framework on financing for development. ASEAN further supports the need to hold consultations in an open, transparent and integrated manner. Taking into account the Secretary-General’s recommendations in his Report on Modalities of the Financing for Development and the follow-up process, ASEAN looks forward to a final decision taken by the General Assembly about the need for a follow-up financing for development conference by 2013.
Mr. Chairman,

The development of the post-2015 development agenda requires a comprehensive approach. We welcome the UN-led process to define a new development agenda in an open and inclusive manner. The legitimacy of the post-2015 development agenda lies with the voices we have listened to, including the findings of the Panel of Eminent Persons commissioned by the UN Secretary-General.

The overarching objective of the new global development agenda should be poverty eradication with sustainable development at its core. Our priorities should include, among others, the quality education, better healthcare, better job opportunities, access to clean water and sanitation, affordable and nutritious food, political freedoms, freedom from discrimination and persecution, protection against crime and violence, support for the disabled, support for environmental disasters and climate change, better transport and roads safety, support for better technology, support to improve infrastructures, fair trade, better market access, support for strengthening industrial and manufacturing more quality products, and support to strengthen new commitments to gender equality.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to share with you some key progress on development in ASEAN. With the advancement of the ASEAN Economic Community, we are implementing new and improved methods to promote and strengthen trade facilitation, capital market development, food security, intellectual property and advancing infrastructure development. Regional projects, such as the ESCAP project to support MDGs, have also been developed to strengthen national capacities to formulate, implement and monitor development strategies.

With just fourteen months to reach the deadline, the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community is progressing considerably toward achieving its goal in people-to-people connectivity under the theme "Our People, Our Future Together". The 23rd ASEAN Summit, which took place in Brunei Darussalam this month, reaffirmed that its member-states will remain focused in expediting the implementation of the remaining 2015 targets. We want to ensure greater cooperation for peace, stability and development, and in economic and socio-cultural areas.

Strengthening and making progress in peace, stability and development are issues of great importance in the agenda of ASEAN member states. Our aim is to sustain the existing momentum. We have also laid the foundation for concerted progress in a more challenging environment, with enhanced external interest and engagement in the region, and in the much larger East Asian and Asia Pacific context.

ASEAN's connectivity for trade and investment aims at enhancing private sector integration and competitiveness among its member states by improving standards and systems, boosting the capacity of small and medium-size enterprises, accelerating the use of clean energy technologies and expanding connectivity.

In addition, collaborative ASEAN-APEC activities are being explored in priority areas, including: food safety and food security, green buildings and green energy systems.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize that ASEAN recognizes the importance of the global commitment on financing of development. The principal concern is the status of implementation and tasks ahead in relation to the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration, including the ODA commitments. We underline the need to address systemic issues to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in supporting development. ASEAN, therefore, calls upon a Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to be convened before the end of 2013.

I thank you.

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