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STATEMENT BY

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REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
(ASEAN)

ON AGENDA ITEM 62:
NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS IN
IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

AND AGENDA ITEM 12:
2001 – 2010: DECADE TO ROLL BACK MALARIA IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY AFRICA

NEW YORK, 17 OCTOBER 2014
Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 10 Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, Myanmar.

2. ASEAN aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Bolivia on behalf of Group of 77 and China under the agenda item nos. 62 and 12.

Mr. President,

3. First and foremost, we would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports which have provided us with valuable updates along with practical recommendations, and most of all, the way forward for the development of Africa.

4. ASEAN attaches great importance to its long-standing relations with Africa. Our friendship has been forged since the Bandung Conference between the Asian and African states in Indonesia six decades ago, where we shared the same aspiration for the development and future of our regions. The foundation of our relations was formed on the basis of mutual respect and trust and has been further enhanced through regular dialogues at the regional and international fora.

5. With this traditional solidarity and friendship, ASEAN voices its support for the full and effective implementation of the NEPAD, which is a collective vision and strategic framework for Africa's development for the 21st century.

6. We, in ASEAN, are pleased to learn that Africa has witnessed remarkable economic growth in recent years with an average growth rate of 4 percent in 2013. This achievement could be substantially attributed to the implementation of the NEPAD. We also commend the progress that many of our African friends have made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the same time, we are also fully aware of the challenges faced by some of the African countries in attaining these goals by 2015. ASEAN therefore wishes to join the call for the Continent's development partners to make every effort to deliver their pledges to those African countries, which have yet to meet most of the goals, by means of increased ODA or foreign direct investments.

7. It is of great importance to come up with a common position on the post-2015 development agenda that can address the mutual concerns of both Africa and Asia regions. Therefore it is imperative for us to ensure that our efforts towards that end are
sustainable, inclusive and people-centered. ASEAN, therefore, is prepared to work side-by-side with our African partners in this endeavour. In this regard, it is important that the priorities identified by the African Common Position on the Post-2015 development agenda adopted by the African Union are given special attention and fully reflected in the formulation of the development agenda.

Mr. President,

8. Peace and security are at the centre of all development. Without it, progress will be impossible. In this regard, ASEAN notes that some areas in the African region are still affected by instability and armed conflicts. In addition, the recent outbreak of the Ebola virus has presented an additional hurdle towards development. Thus, we encourage and commend the work of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) since its formation in 2001 in addressing these concerns.

9. ASEAN is also gratified to learn of the progress made by the African countries in implementing the NEPAD which is highlighted in the Secretary-General's report. It is also encouraging that the ODA to Africa has increased despite its downward trend in the past two years and that FDI inflows has kept their upward trend.

10. The progress made in the implementation of the NEPAD and the success of Africa’s Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has demonstrated the able leadership and capability of African leaders to bring peace and development to their continent. At the same time, a strengthened and sustained global partnership still plays a significant role in bringing about peace, stability and development to the African continent.

Mr. President,

11. We also welcome the recent NEPAD Week and the outcome of the Review of the NEPAD Agency’s Partnership for the 2014 – 2017 Strategy which gives priority to environment issues and human resource development; and emphasis on a Results-Based Management Approach. In addition, ASEAN welcomes the formulation of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the aspiration of a conflict-free Africa. We hope that international community and the United Nations system will lend their full support to the implementation of Africa’s Agenda 2063 as it is a development vision driven by Africa’s own citizens.

12. In this light, we hope that our cooperation under bilateral, South-South and triangular cooperation frameworks through capacity building programmes and scholarships can contribute to the work of the NEPAD in bringing about practical benefits to the African countries in their development agenda.
Mr. President,

13. Malaria is a common disease imposing a very high burden on both ASEAN and Africa regions. The malaria situation for ASEAN countries is mixed and varied, but we are still facing common challenges to find a solution together. ASEAN therefore welcomes the recent adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution A/68/308, "Consolidating Gains and Accelerating Efforts to Control and Eliminate Malaria in Developing Countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015". The resolution urged governments - together with UN agencies, private organizations and foundations- to work together to overcome challenges and speed up efforts toward the targets set out in Roll Back Malaria Partnership's Global Malaria Action Plan (GMAP) and the MDGs.

14. In this regard, we welcome the successful conclusion of a regional forum on Opportunities for Corporate Sector Engagement in Malaria Control in Asia-Pacific region in Yangon, Myanmar on 29 September 2014. This one day forum organized by Roll Back Malaria Partnership and its other partners sought to identify tangible opportunities for strengthened public-private partnership to support regional malaria control strategies.

15. ASEAN also welcomes the valuable assistance of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria towards developing countries in their efforts to eradicate these diseases.

16. We also appreciate the quick response of the Secretary-General in establishing the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) in Accra, Ghana. We all must unite to fight against the Ebola epidemic since it has become a threat to development and human security beyond Africa. ASEAN Member States will extend their full support to Africa's efforts to combat these pandemic diseases and is ready to share and exchange information and experiences in addressing them.

17. Last but not least, Mr. President, ASEAN joins the Secretary-General's call to continue the international community's support to help accelerate efforts towards achieving the MDGs and sustainable growth in Africa and to align their assistance to the priorities of NEPAD.

18. In concluding, ASEAN would like to reiterate its solidarity and support to the endeavours of our African friends and the international community to achieve greater progress in implementing NEPAD agenda for the benefits of the people in Africa.

Thank you.