Statement by

H.E. U Kyaw Tin
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations

On behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

At the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item:
Report of the Secretary General on the Work of the Organization

7 October 2014
Statement by H.E. U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) under the agenda item of “Report of the Secretary General on the Work of the Organization”

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the ten 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. At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary General for his annual report on the work of the organization contained in document “A/69/1”. The report provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of activities, achievements and challenges of the Organization on wide spectrum of issues of common interest and concern to all human kinds.

Mr. President,

3. The ASEAN Charter provides a provision expressing its commitment to upholding the UN Charter and international law. As such, ASEAN attaches great importance to the work of the United Nations and greatly values its cooperation with the United Nations. The Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN, adopted in 2011, is a clear reflection of our commitment to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations. In this context, we welcome the successful conclusion of the annual meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers with the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly on 26th September 2014 on the sideline of the General Assembly.

4. Moreover, ASEAN will be submitting the biennial resolution entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and ASEAN” at this current session of the General Assembly to identify areas of cooperation as well as to help address challenges faced by UN Member States such as sustainable development, climate change, peace and security, human rights, rule of law, disarmament and terrorism. We, therefore, count on the continued support of all Member States.
5. ASEAN looks forward to welcoming the UN Secretary General at the upcoming 6th ASEAN-UN Summit to be held on 12 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar to further strengthen ASEAN-UN relations and to explore more areas of cooperation. We view the Summit as an effective policy tool and another opportunity to give policy guidance to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations.

Mr. President,

6. In his report, the Secretary General highlighted the substantial progress in overall achievement of the MDGs, while stressing the need to move forward to adopt the universal post-2015 development agenda in 2015 as well as the urgent need to take timely action on climate change.

7. The 68th session of the General Assembly has indeed set a good stage for the emergence of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In this regard, ASEAN highly appreciates the dedicated efforts of the Secretary-General and your predecessor Mr. John Ashe for the important progress made in crafting a new transformative Post 2015 development agenda. ASEAN also commends the efforts of Open Working Group on SDGs and welcome the adoption of the Report of the OWG on SDGs as the main basis for integrating the SDGs into the Post-2015 Development Agenda by the UN General Assembly last month. ASEAN shares the view that as the actionable core, the SDGs will be the centre-piece of the Post-2015 Development Agenda with the overarching objective of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

8. There is no doubt that climate change, as pointed out by the Secretary General, is one of the greatest threats to a sustainable future. In this regard, we would like to congratulate the Secretary General for successful convening of the Climate Summit on 23 September which has attracted the attention of a large crowd of world leaders on this issue of survival.

9. ASEAN is also working closely to address this challenge, including strengthening resilience of its Community by effectively implementing the ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (ACCI) and the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC). ASEAN
reaffirms the importance of adopting at COP-21 a new global agreement applicable to all Parties under the UNFCCC in 2015.

Mr. President,

10. In the area of human rights, ASEAN has made rapid progress in its institutional developments, since the entry into force of its Charter. Some highlights include a milestone adoption of ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in 2012 and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN in 2013, following the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

11. The AICHR has conducted various programs and activities in consultation and cooperation with ASEAN sectoral bodies and with relevant institutions and external partners concerned. Some of the results include the completion of its thematic study on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Human Rights in ASEAN and successful conclusion of a Workshop on Human Rights, Climate Change and the Environment in Myanmar last month.

12. On humanitarian assistance efforts, ASEAN takes note of the record high amount of $474 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in the year 2013. As Southeast Asian nations are also prone to natural disasters, we welcome the disaster risk reduction frameworks and the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction.

13. With a view to improving prevention, preparedness, response, relief and recovery on disasters, ASEAN is in the process of implementing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) as the main common platform for disaster management in ASEAN and is enhancing the capability of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).
14. For peace and stability, ASEAN is also striving to maintain and promote the Association as a flag-bearer for regional norms of good conduct, particularly through the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The Treaty is regarded as the key code of conduct governing inter-state relations in Southeast Asia and provided a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. We welcome the growing interest of other non-ASEAN Member States to accede to the TAC.

15. Furthermore, ASEAN attaches great importance to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime to maintain peace, security and prosperity in the region. We are committed to preserve Southeast Asia as a nuclear weapon-free zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter.

16. In this regard, ASEAN is committed to work closely with the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) on the early signing and ratification of the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty without reservations by NWS. To that end, ASEAN is exerting its efforts to resume negotiations with NWS on the sideline of this session of the General Assembly.

17. On countering terrorism, ASEAN shares the deep concern over the rise of violence and brutality committed by terrorist/extremist organizations and radical groups in Iraq and Syria. ASEAN denounces all acts of destruction, violence and terror in all its forms and manifestations. To that end, ASEAN is implementing the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, with an aim to preventing and suppressing terrorism by addressing its root causes, disrupting terror networks and financing channels.

18. In this regard, ASEAN Foreign Ministers recently issued a Statement on 26th September here in New York reiterating its support to the UNSC Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014).
Mr. President,

19. ASEAN is also striving for inclusive and sustainable growth. Comprised of countries with different levels of development, ASEAN has been making efforts to narrow development gap among its members through the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II. We would therefore welcome the continued support by ASEAN Dialogue Partners, the United Nations and other external partners in its efforts towards a full regional integration.

20. This year, under Myanmar’s chair, ASEAN is speeding up the community building process, with the theme “Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community”. The Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the Realization of the ASEAN Community by 2015 has provided policy guidance to ensure the successful establishment of ASEAN Community.

21. ASEAN is now at the threshold of realizing the dream of a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, people-entered Community by 2015 and beyond.

22. Therefore, 2015 would be a milestone year not only for the United Nations but also for ASEAN member States. ASEAN is now setting its sights beyond 2015 and working on formulating the ASEAN community’s post-2015 vision.

23. We believe that ASEAN’s collective efforts at the regional level will contribute to the work of the United Nations in promoting peace, security and stability, as well as in contributing to inclusive and sustainable growth for all. I wish to conclude by reiterating ASEAN’s resolve to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations in areas of mutual interests.

24. I thank you, Mr. President.

**********************************************************