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Statement by
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Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York
On behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
At the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
To introduce the draft resolution entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations”

New York, 10 December 2014
Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country Myanmar to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/69/L.31, entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations” under agenda item 123 (c).

The draft resolution is sponsored by the Member States of ASEAN together with a large number of UN Member States from the Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe.

Mr. President,

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which was established in 1967, has become a dynamic and outward-looking regional organization. We will realize the establishment of an ASEAN Community by the end of next year.

ASEAN has a long history of forging friendly ties with other countries, as well as regional and international organizations. ASEAN was founded on the same principles as those guiding the United Nations. This is clearly reflected in the ASEAN Charter which includes a specific provision, as one of its principles, to uphold the United Nations Charter and international law.

Mr. President,

ASEAN believes that the United Nations and regional organizations have unique and complementary capacities, and great potential to help Member States address global issues of common interest as well as in striving for peace, security and sustainable development at the regional and global levels. Both ASEAN and the United Nations have had a long history of engagement based on the common desire to promote cooperation in political and security, economic and socio-economic pillars. Over the past decade, ASEAN has further broadened not only the
cooperation with the United Nations, but also its interactions with Member States of the United Nations and many other regional and international organizations to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation.

ASEAN established dialogue partner relations with the United Nations in 2006 and a Memorandum of Understanding on ASEAN-UN Cooperation was signed in New York on 27 September 2007 to forge the partnership between the two organizations. Following the adoption of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN in 2011, relations between the two organizations have progressed significantly with new achievements in all key areas of cooperation. This has strengthened the ASEAN-UN Partnership's fulfillment of common goals while also contributing to ASEAN's community building efforts.

We are happy to note that the frequent convening of ASEAN-UN Summits, regular ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meetings and Secretariat-to-Secretariat coordination meetings has further advanced ASEAN-UN interactions and cooperation. ASEAN also welcomes the United Nations' recent decision to appoint a UN Liaison Officer in Jakarta to strengthen joint activities and implement the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership.

At the Sixth ASEAN-United Nations Summit recently concluded in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2014 under Myanmar's chairmanship, the Leaders of ASEAN and the Secretary-General of the United Nations expressed their commitment to further deepen and broaden cooperation between the two organizations and welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-United Nations Work Plan for 2015. It set out priority areas for the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the two organizations. This Work Plan is of critical importance in the context of ASEAN Community building in 2015, ASEAN’s deliberation on the ASEAN Community’s post-2015 Vision and the global discussion on the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. President,
The draft resolution entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations" was first introduced by ASEAN at the General Assembly in 2002. The draft resolution welcomed the cooperation of the two organizations and encouraged both organizations to increase contacts and to further identify areas of cooperation as appropriate. Since then, ASEAN has been tabling this draft resolution at the General Assembly biennially with the broad support of Member States of the UN to underscore and encourage cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations. The draft resolution being introduced today is based on the General Assembly's resolution 67/110 of 17 December 2012 with updates, reflecting some of the important developments that have taken place in ASEAN as well as in ASEAN-United Nations cooperation over the past two years. The draft resolution once again welcomes the progress made in the on-going activities of cooperation between the two organizations and encourages the United Nations to work together with ASEAN to further intensify the level of and framework for their cooperation.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, our sincere thanks to all the cosponsors of the draft and to all Member States for their continued support for the draft resolution which has enjoyed wide sponsorship and been adopted by consensus at the General Assembly since 2002. In view of this, I would like to request all Member States to lend their continued support to this year's draft resolution by adopting it by consensus as in the previous years.

I thank you Mr. President.