

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE

workforce should embody the diversity that the Organization represents. While we acknowledge the efforts made by the Office of Human Resources in bridging current gaps, there remains room for improvement.

5 ASEAN is particularly concerned about the continued lack of equitable gender and geographical representation in the Secretariat, especially at the senior levels. The Secretary-General's commitment to gender parity is admirable. But gender parity should not come at the cost of geographical representation. Both principles must advance together. The report on staff demographics (A/72/123) indicates an increase in staff from the Asia-Pacific Group (APG), from 19.1% in 2015 to 19.6% in 2016.¹ However, if one considers the APG's 55 member states which comprise 28.5% of total UN membership, the APG clearly remains underrepresented in the Secretariat.

and policies aligned with their respective mandates, goals and objectives. This complements our common goal of a more coordinated and integrated UN system.

8 Third, ASEAN notes that the Secretary-General's report (A/72/209) outlines 123 cases of staff misconduct. These include cases of abuse of authority, sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as theft and misappropriation. We urge the Secretary-General to ensure that these cases are dealt with timely, and that the appropriate action be taken on those proven guilty. We also encourage the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote high standards of integrity and personal accountability. This will ensure a strong culture of ethics and professionalism within the UN, and that senior managers lead by example.

Mr Chairman,

9 Human resources management remains a priority for ASEAN, and we will pay close attention to the discussion on all HRM issues in this Session. We look forward to a constructive debate.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.