



Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Brunei, Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and the People's Democratic Republic.

2. At the outset, allow me to congratulate Mr. N. Manongion on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee and express our confidence in your able leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The rule of law is an important basis for international cooperation among nations. ASEAN is of the view that the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for the realization of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, peace and security, equality and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. The rule of law is important for ensuring universal respect for the principle of justice in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and is highly relevant to all the three pillars within the Charter, namely, peace and security; development and human rights. The rule of law is also important to the fulfilment of, in particular, the purposes and fundamental principles of the UN Charter and international law, which are indispensable foundations for the sovereign equality of states, peaceful settlement of disputes and territorial integrity.

Mr. Chairman,

5. ASEAN is a rule-based intergovernmental regional organisation and therefore, attaches great importance to enhancing the rule of law as ASEAN move forward to realise the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015.

6. ASEAN is also in the midst of developing and strengthening the relevant national institutions and legal frameworks to fulfil ASEAN obligations and commitments under the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr Chairman,

7. It is worth noting that many regional states have acceded and are keen to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), as a code of conduct governing the relations between states, to promote friendly relations among the participating countries, the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles) was adopted in 2001 in Bali, Indonesia. Furthermore, the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) was adopted in 2002. Currently, ASEAN Member States are expeditiously working towards the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

8. On human rights there are two issues that needs to be mentioned, firstly, ASEAN established the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR),