

STATEMENT BY

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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 THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 74TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 68: RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER 2019

Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, Myanmar.

ASEAN welcomes the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) this year. All ASEAN Member States have ratified the CRC and adopted national and regional frameworks to promote and protect the rights of the children. Since adoption of CRC, ASEAN has made significant progress to improve the lives of millions of children across the region, providing an enabling environment towards a happy and healthier childhood, with more opportunities for realizing their potentials.

In order to safeguard the wellbeing and safety of children, ASEAN is focusing in four priority areas.

First, we are increasing social investments to lift children out of poverty, to address the persistent challenge of multiple deprivations experienced by children, and to support continued and future economic growth and progress toward implementation of the CRC and achievement of SDG targets and ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

Second, we are strengthening legal frameworks on child rights across relevant sectors, including preventing all forms of violence against children and protecting children's rights to education, health and other basic services.

Third, we are strengthening data systems across all child rights sectors to strengthen monitoring of SDGs including on prevalence of violence against children, climate change and environmental impacts, and ensuring availability of sex-disaggregated data.

Fourth, we are enhancing close cooperation with UN agencies and intergovernmental bodies to reinforce regional systems, cross-border collaboration and national and regional policies that promote implementation of international child rights commitments, We are taking measures to ensure relevant ASEAN bodies to work together to support the full implementation of the CRC in the ASEAN region.

Mr. Chair,

The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) has been established to promote and protect children's rights and wellbeing, such as establishing regional guidelines to eliminate trafficking in children, child labour, child marriage, children online exploitation and school bullying. We also prioritize our effort in providing national identification and birth registration for children, especially for those who are in vulnerable situations.

ASEAN has been cooperating with UN agencies and their mechanisms for the protection of violence against children. Dialogue between the Special Representative of Secretary General on Violence against Children and the ACWC has been held annually. Progress has been made in the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children (RPA/EVAC) which serves as a 10-year-regional framework and roadmap for prevention and monitoring and evaluation on the elimination of violence against children across ASEAN nations.

In the area of children and armed conflict, ASEAN has been engaging both at national and regional levels. In 2018, the ASEAN Dialogue on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Its Related Instruments was held.

At the 18th ACWC meeting held in March this year, ASEAN agreed to continue to work toward the development of the "Declaration on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN". The Declaration intends to set the policy framework for regional cooperation to intensify action on eliminating crimes of online child sexual exploitation.

Mr. Chair,

ASEAN remains committed to close cooperation with the UN and other regional organizations in our common efforts to protect and promote the rights of children under the frameworks of ASEAN Vision 2025, ASEAN-UN Plan of Action (2016-2020) and UN 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.

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