STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS BY AMBASSADOR MS. HMWAY HMWAY KHYNE, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 25 ON "AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION", SECOND COMMITTEE, 16 OCTOBER 2017

Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the ten Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

ASEAN aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We thank the Secretary-General for his reports pertaining to agenda item under discussion today.

Mr. Chair,

Food and agriculture are keys to achieving sustainable development, eradicating hunger and extreme poverty by 2030. Two years have passed since the watershed 2030 Agenda was adopted. Poverty, hunger and malnutrition still remain major obstacles to sustainable development. Climate change, widespread environmental degradation and deepening scarcity of land and water resources also have serious impacts on agriculture and food production systems. Growing population and volatile food prices due to decline in domestic output and currency depreciation made the magnitude of food insecurity even greater. Without accelerated efforts, some parts of

the world might be struggling against poverty and malnutrition several decades beyond 2030.

Mr. Chair,

Eradicating hunger and malnutrition is closely linked with agriculture, food systems and the empowerment of the rural people. Agriculture employs 40% of today's global population. As such, rapid and sustained growth in the agricultural and rural economies is essential for breaking the vicious cycle of extreme poverty, undernourishment and malnutrition. Private and public sector investments in infrastructure, climate-smart technologies, enabling policy and institutional environments accompanied by social protection and public services to the rural poor must be ensured towards that end.

Mr. Chair,

The **ASEAN Community Vision 2025** underscores the crucial role of agriculture development, food security and nutrition for the sustained development of the region.

ASEAN has adopted a **Strategic Plan for cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry (2016-2025)** with an aim to contribute to food and nutrition security, and eventually to the prosperity of the ASEAN community as a whole. Achievements have been made in harmonizing agricultural standards to facilitate ASEAN trade of the agricultural products, improving quality assurance, enhancing quality of products, and minimizing hazards in food safety and environmental impacts.

Moreover, **ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS) (2015-2020)** has been put in place to provide a strong regional network to forecast, plan and monitor food security and

nutrition, and to enhance the cross-sectoral coordination in ensuring supply of sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food.

In addition, the **2016-2020 Strategic Plans of Action for Cooperation on Livestock, Fisheries and Crops** are being implemented to strengthen food security arrangements in the region.

At the 39th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry held last month, we endorsed the **Regional Guidelines on Food Security and Nutrition Policy** as a general framework with a view to building a stronger food security and nutrition cooperation and integration in the region.

Recognizing the importance of soil in agriculture sector, ASEAN has developed **Guidelines on Soil and Nutrition Management** which will provide policy guidelines and recommendations on soil and nutrient management in particular.

Mr. Chair,

The inextricable link between climate change and food security should not be overlooked. Having been aware of the threat of climate change to food security in the region, ASEAN adopted a **Multi-sectoral Framework on Climate Change and Food Security (AFCC).** We have further developed and implemented coordinated policies and strategies based on the Framework to address climate change in the agriculture and forestry sector.

Nutrition is a powerful driver of sustainable development. The global prevalence of stunting, wasting and overweight among children in 2016 is a cause of concern for the success of SDGs. Despite impressive economic growth, ASEAN is still burdened with cases of malnutrition. To address this issue, ASEAN held a **Multi-sectoral Collaborative Workshop on Nutrition Security** in Manila, the Philippines in March

this year. The workshop served to initiate high level advocacies on ending all forms of malnutrition as well as to develop an **ASEAN Nutrition Surveillance System.** The System includes initiatives on assessment, capacity building and advocacy on nutrition security which are of great importance to achieve optimal nutritional well-being and the overall development of ASEAN.

Mr. Chair,

In concluding, ASEAN reiterates its strong commitments to promoting agriculture development, achieving food security and improving nutrition. ASEAN believes that developing more integrated policies and programmes, inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms and partnerships will play a great part in translating our rhetoric into realities. In this regard, ASEAN looks forward to continuing working with the United Nations with the aim of achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development towards a world free of poverty and hunger leaving no one behind.

I thank you.

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