

ASEAN Joint Statement at the  
High-level Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty Expert Preparatory Group Informal  
Consultative Meeting  
2-3 March 2017

Chair,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), comprising Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Viet Nam and my own country, Thailand.
2. ASEAN shares the desire and aspiration of a world free of nuclear weapons. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of accidental, mistaken, unauthorised, or intentional nuclear weapon detonations remains, exposing humanity and the environment to their catastrophic effects. Therefore, we are convinced that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use.
3. We also work hard to ensure that Southeast Asia and its surroundings remain peaceful, stable and secure as reflected in our commitment to preserve Southeast Asian region as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction which has been enshrined in the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and the ASEAN Charter.
4. Although, there is nothing short of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, ASEAN is of the view that progress towards a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons can provide a practical contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. This is why all ASEAN Member States have voted in favour of L.65/Rev.1 last fall.
5. We hope that that the work of the high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group will be guided by transparency and inclusivity. Implementing operative paragraph 3 of the UNGA resolution 71/259 by hosting an informal consultative meeting with the general membership of the United Nations is a step in the right direction. ASEAN stands ready to continue to work with you in this endeavour.

I thank you.

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