



Statement by

On behalf of

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
For the 80th Session of the General Assembly, First Committee
Thematic Debate on Cluster Two:
Other Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
New York, 22 October 2025

Mr. Chair,

1. I deliver this statement on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). ASEAN aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. ASEAN reaffirms its unequivocal commitment to upholding the international norms against the existence and use of chemical, biological, and radiological weapons and reiterates its support for the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, including its emphasis on "ensuring respect for norms against chemical and biological weapons, which concerns the interests of all humanity." We strongly condemn the use of such weapons by any party, under any circumstances, as this constitutes a serious violation of international law.
3. ASEAN remains fully committed to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and welcomes the ongoing efforts of the Working Group on Strengthening the BWC in strengthening the Convention in a comprehensive and balanced manner. We recognize the necessity of multilateral negotiations and note the absence of a verification mechanism, which poses a challenge to the effectiveness of the BWC. We also place great importance on enhancing international cooperation, assistance, and exchanges in toxins, biological agents, equipment, and technology for peaceful purposes.
4. ASEAN likewise reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), a landmark multilateral agreement that has verifiably eliminated all declared chemical weapons stockpiles under strict international supervision. We recognize the importance of strengthening efforts to address current and emerging global challenges related to chemical security and chemical disarmament. ASEAN strongly believes that the international community should strengthen international cooperation and assistance in chemical safety and security, including through enhanced engagement with industry players as well as with the Network of ASEAN Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) Defence Experts. ASEAN also commends and reaffirms its full support to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to carry out its mandated work as the implementing body of CWC in a comprehensive, objective, and impartial manner, in complementarity with the work of the United Nations. We urge the few remaining States not yet party to the Convention to accede without delay to achieve its universality. As non-possessor

States, we condemn the use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals as a weapon, anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances.

Mr. Chair,

5. At the regional level, cooperation among the ASEAN CBR Network continues to deepen. Since its launch in 2019, the Network has grown from a network of 35 experts representing seven (7) ASEAN Member States (AMS) to 51 nominated experts across all three CBR domains from all ten Member States in 2025. Supported by its dedicated secure web portal, the Network facilitates information-sharing, technical workshops and table-top exercises on harmonized sampling and analysis, interpretation of mass spectra, and investigation of CBR incidents. These efforts significantly enhance regional preparedness, cooperation and coordination in response to CBR threats.

Mr. Chair,

6. Recognizing the threats and dangers of the existence and use of chemical, biological, and radiological weapons, ASEAN continues to call for universal adherence to applicable international legal instruments prohibiting these weapons. We remain committed to addressing existing and emerging challenges in this field through strengthened international cooperation and ensuring that scientific and technological progress serves the security and well-being of all peoples.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.