



**Statement by
His Excellency Chhea Keo**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations

**On behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
(ASEAN) For the 80th Session of the General Assembly,
First Committee Thematic Debate on Cluster Four:
Conventional Weapon**

New York, 23 October 2025

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). ASEAN aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. The international community continues to face an increasingly precarious security environment as the devastating impact of conventional weapons on civilians persists. ASEAN remains deeply concerned about the illicit trade, diversion, and misuse of these weapons, which fuel conflict, violence, and instability. This impedes socio-economic development and undermines the well-being of communities worldwide and places immense strain on national authorities and neighboring regions.

Mr. Chair,

3. ASEAN firmly believes that effective regulation and control of conventional weapons are essential in order to preserve peace, stability, and sustainable development. ASEAN reiterates that the implementation of relevant international agreements on conventional weapons should align with the core principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, with States bearing the primary role. Simultaneously, ASEAN also acknowledges that States have sovereign rights to acquire and manage their conventional inventory for self-defense as well as for protecting national security.

4. ASEAN believes that consistent international action is a crucial step toward achieving disarmament. ASEAN remains interested in the continued developments of various frameworks and international legally binding instruments. ASEAN takes note of the Eleventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.
5. ASEAN welcomes the consensus adoption of the final report of the Fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as its International Tracing Instrument, which constitutes meaningful progress in promoting international cooperation and efforts to address the illicit trafficking of such weapons. In this regard, ASEAN looks forward to the Ninth Biennial Meeting of States, to be held from 1 to 5 June 2026 in New York.

Mr. Chair,

6. ASEAN has been diligently working to strengthen disarmament efforts both within the region and globally. ASEAN is committed to further strengthening cooperation among ASEAN Member States in the collective effort to prevent, counter, and combat transnational crime, particularly those identified as priority areas under the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), and other emerging threats. ASEAN welcomes the adoption of ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap by the 19th ASEAN AMMTC, which serves as a regional framework in strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in addressing cross-border challenges. These determinations have been mandated by the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combatting Transnational Crime (2026-2035) and remain aligned with the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects.
7. ASEAN commends the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) as a centre of excellence and recognized its essential role in addressing the humanitarian and socio-economic challenges posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). ASEAN also welcomes ARMAC's close collaboration with ASEAN Member States' mine action authorities, relevant sectoral bodies, and international partners, which has enhanced technical cooperation, joint training, research, and knowledge-sharing,

benefitting affected States and contributing to regional stability. ASEAN also looks forward to the convening of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention to be held in Geneva in December this year.

8. ASEAN expresses concern about the possible negative consequences and impacts of autonomous weapon systems on global security, as well as regional and international stability, including the risk of an emerging arms race, lowering the threshold for conflict and proliferation, including to non-state actors. We underscore the importance of continued inclusive dialogue to address these challenges, including the development of a robust, future-proof, and legally-binding instrument to address these challenges.
9. In conclusion, ASEAN reaffirms its steadfast commitment to promoting responsible conventional weapons management and strengthening regional and international cooperation in regulating the flow of these weapons and preventing their illicit trade. This cooperation is essential to ensure our safety and the uninterrupted continuation of our developmental efforts.

I, Thank you