Mr. Chairperson,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Members of the Association of South East Asian Nations or ASEAN.

2. ASEAN congratulates Ambassador Akan Rakhmetullin of Kazakhstan on being elected as Chair of the 2nd Session of the NPT Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference. We assure your team of our support in advancing the important work of this Committee. We also wish to recognize the Under-Secretary General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for their tireless and consistent efforts in advancing the nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy agenda at the United Nations, particularly in this challenging geopolitical landscape where the global peace and security architecture continues to be under pressure from heightened tensions between major powers, modernization of nuclear arsenals, an accelerating arms race, and ongoing conflicts in different parts of the world.

Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation
3. We express concern over the declining commitment and cooperation in global disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control mechanisms, and call on countries, especially Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), to maintain and fully implement their obligations and commitments under these mechanisms, including in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

4. ASEAN also remains concerned about the dire consequences of any use of nuclear weapons on people’s health, socioeconomic livelihood, environment and sustainable development.

5. While welcoming the convening of the 10th NPT Review Conference, ASEAN regrets that it concluded without a consensus outcome document that could have provided much-needed additional momentum towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. ASEAN continues to call on all States Parties to the NPT to renew their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Treaty, particularly Article VI, and to pursue best efforts to protect the credibility and integrity of the NPT and to rally towards a much-desired meaningful consensual outcome document at the 11th NPT Review Conference in 2026.

6. We call on the NWS to fulfill their obligations in advancing nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and to recognise the need to completely eliminate nuclear weapons, which remains the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances.
7. ASEAN calls on all NWS to fulfill all of their nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments, and emphasizes the need for them to adhere to transparency and accountability through benchmarks, and concrete, measurable, time-bound actions on nuclear disarmament with established deadlines, and to report the implementation of their obligations until the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons is achieved, in a structured manner that allows Non-Nuclear Weapon States to engage constructively on their reports.

8. We would like to stress that it is necessary for the Nuclear Weapon States to provide unconditional legally binding negative security assurances and adopt a no-first-use policy regarding nuclear weapons, as well as to reduce and eliminate the risk of unintentional and accidental use of such weapons, pending the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Additionally, the NWS must make an unequivocal commitment not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) and within nuclear-weapon-free zones.

9. ASEAN reaffirms its collective position against nuclear tests and continues to stress the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) without delay. All ASEAN Member States have ratified the CTBT, and we join others in urging the remaining Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible so that the Treaty’s entry into force may finally be realized.

SEANWFZ

10. We reiterate our commitment to preserving the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the SEANWFZ
Treaty/Bangkok Treaty, and stress the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Treaty.

11. ASEAN welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of the resolution on the Bangkok Treaty on 4 December 2023 by consensus. We thank Member States for supporting this important resolution which underscores the priority and importance attached to nuclear disarmament by the region. We are committed to further enhance and strengthen the implementation of the Bangkok Treaty by implementing the Plan of Action for the period 2023-2027 as adopted in Phnom Penh in 2022, with a renewed commitment and a stronger emphasis on concrete actions, including to continue efforts among State Parties and between States Parties and the NWS to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty, and in line with ASEAN’s position as outlined in the Joint Communique of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting.

*TPNW*

12. ASEAN reiterates that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which held its First Meeting of State Parties in June 2022 and Second Meeting of States Parties at the end of 2023, is a historic agreement that contributes towards global nuclear disarmament and complements other existing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation instrument. It is hoped that the Treaty would contribute to furthering the agreed global objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. States Parties and signatories to the TPNW are fully committed to its implementation and are engaging constructively in preparation for the Third Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.
13. We reiterate the importance of strengthening efforts to address common regional challenges in a strategic and holistic manner in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

**ARF ISM on NPD**

14. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and its 27 members have continued to engage in dialogue and exchange of views on non-proliferation and disarmament issues through the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD). The 15th ARF ISM on NPD was successfully held in Honolulu, Hawaii on 29 April to 1 May 2024 co-chaired by Thailand, Sri Lanka, and United States, and we look forward to the 16th ARF ISM on NPD which is expected to convene within the first quarter of 2025 in Manila, to be co-chaired by the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand.

**PUNE**

15. ASEAN reiterates that every State has the right to the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology, in particular for its economic and social development. Commending the efforts by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in its technical cooperation programmes with states toward these ends, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthening our cooperation with the IAEA. ASEAN is pleased with the progress of the implementation of the 2019 Practical Arrangements (PA) and is committed to strengthening its cooperation with the IAEA, including through renewal of the PA. In this regard, we commend the progress made and the annual meetings held by the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) with the assistance of the IAEA. We highlight the leading role played by ASEAN Member States in developing, utilizing and scaling up the peaceful
applications of atomic energy in agriculture, health, food safety and security, education, and the environment. These applications not only benefit our region but assist in collectively advancing progress to meet the sustainable development goals.

16. ASEAN supports the full and effective implementation of other relevant efforts, including Security Council Resolution 1540 and the United Nations Secretary General’s Agenda for Disarmament to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in a concrete, holistic, and integrated manner. ASEAN takes note of the Secretary General’s New Agenda for Peace which outlines his vision for multilateral efforts for peace and security, based on international law, for a world in transition. The Secretary General can count on ASEAN to remain engaged and active in the discussion in this regard.

Mr. Chairperson,

17. ASEAN expresses its readiness to engage with other States Parties and all concerned stakeholders, as we embark on the important work of the 2nd NPT Preparatory Committee Session.

18. In closing, ASEAN reaffirms its commitment to global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts amid escalating tensions and nuclear-weapon modernization. Emphasizing unity and cooperation, ASEAN urges enhanced international collaboration for a world free of nuclear weapons. Through multilateralism and respect for international law, ASEAN aims to foster a safer, more peaceful global order.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.