



**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR
AHMAD FAISAL MUHAMAD,
PERMANET REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)
AT THE 2025 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION**

NEW YORK, 7 APRIL 2025

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). ASEAN associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. We warmly congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on taking up your role as Chair of the 2025 Substantive Session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). ASEAN remains fully committed to supporting and actively engaging in this second year of the present 3-year cycle.
3. ASEAN reaffirms that the UNDC, with its universal membership, plays a vital and unique role in fostering trust and confidence among Member States on a wide range of disarmament issues.
4. ASEAN remains committed to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. We firmly believe that strengthening multilateralism and cooperation is key to advancing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, with all countries, especially Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS), fulfilling their obligations and commitments under the relevant mechanisms responsibly.
5. Additionally, we call on all countries, especially NWS, to promote mutual understanding, enhance cooperation in good faith and ensure responsible and collective actions to realize a world without nuclear weapons.
6. ASEAN calls on NWS to fulfill all of their nuclear disarmament obligations and we emphasize the need for them to demonstrate transparency and accountability through benchmarks and concrete, measurable, timebound actions on nuclear disarmament with established deadlines, and reporting on 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.
7. In this connection, ASEAN reaffirms its recognition that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, non-

proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy. We look forward to the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT and its potential to yield substantive outcomes, sustain momentum for the Review Conference, and advance general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

8. ASEAN also reaffirms its collective position against nuclear tests and reiterates the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) without delay. All ASEAN Member States have ratified the CTBT, reflecting our strong commitment to the international norm against nuclear testing. ASEAN continues to call upon the remaining States listed in Annex 2 of the CTBT, to sign and ratify the CTBT as soon as possible for its entry into force.
9. Furthermore, ASEAN maintains that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a historic agreement which contributes towards global nuclear disarmament and complements other existing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. We acknowledge the convening of the 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW held last month as well as ASEAN Member States' role in advancing the intersessional work.

Mr. Chair,

10. ASEAN supports every effort to create and enhance the role of nuclear-weapon-free zones and their contribution to the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including in the Middle East.
11. ASEAN is committed to preserving the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) or the Bangkok Treaty. We stress the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Treaty, including through its Plan of Action for 2023 - 2027.
12. Further, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and its 27 members continue to engage in dialogue and exchange of views on disarmament and non-proliferation issues through the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD). The 16th ARF ISM on NPD was successfully held in the Philippines in March 2025.
13. ASEAN reaffirms the inalienable right of States to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in particular for their economic and social development. In this regard, the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM), which convened its 11th Annual Meeting in August 2024, continues its efforts to enhance cooperation among the nuclear regulatory bodies and further strengthen nuclear safety, security, and safeguards in the region. We are pleased to share that ASEAN and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have renewed their Practical Arrangements on Cooperation in the Areas of Nuclear Science and Technology and Applications, Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards for 2024 - 2029.
14. ASEAN acknowledges the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, particularly the Pact

for the Future, which reaffirms our collective commitment to upholding disarmament obligations and strengthening international norms. We support sustained efforts to revitalize the United Nations' role in disarmament, including promoting preparations for a potential fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in line with ASEAN's resolute stance against the existence, proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chair,

15. ASEAN acknowledges discussions held during the 2024 UNDC session on the topic of emerging technologies in the context of international security, recognizing the importance of addressing this issue in terms of both opportunities and challenges for global stability and international cooperation.
16. We look forward to further discussions on this topic throughout this UNDC cycle, with the goal of fostering shared understandings on this critical issue. These efforts should complement ongoing initiatives within the United Nations, contributing to a cohesive and coordinated approach to international security.
17. To conclude, ASEAN stands ready to engage in and contribute to the work of the two Working Groups, towards a successful outcome of the current UNDC cycle through active participation and collaboration.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.