



Statement

By

His Excellency Mr. Sun Suon

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia
to the United States Office, the World Trade Organization
and other International Organizations at Geneva

At

The 20th Session of the Human Right Council
Agenda Item 3 : Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur
On Violence against Women

(25 June 2012, Geneva)

Madam President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

On behalf of ASEAN, I would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for her informative and comprehensive report. The report proposed a holistic approach of issue at the global context that require the urgent need for consideration and adoption of further steps and measures of cooperation , globally, regionally and nationally toward addressing the gender inequality, systematic discrimination and marginalization of women.

Madam President,

All fellow members of our regional group (ASEAN) are parties to CEDAW. ASEAN therefore attaches high importance to the issue of the rights of women and children and, in particular, with regard to the attention drawn to the urgent need for its continued efforts in combating violence against women.

Since the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 2004, the Governments reaffirmed their commitment to adopt an integrated and holistic approach to eliminating violence against women from their societies. Many ASEAN countries, formally linked to tradition and structured on patriarchy, have made significant progress in adopting an official policy of zero tolerance to domestic violence.

The establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and particularly the ASEAN Commission on the Protection and Promotion of the rights of women and children (ACWC) were significant steps forward toward that end. Both Commissions will serve to promote the well-being, development, empowerment and participation of women in the ASEAN Community building process.

A Consultative Meeting between the ASEAN Commission of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the Special Representative of UN SG and CEDAW Committee experts on violence against Women was held in Manila, the Philippines on 16-17 January 2012. This Consultation helped to highlight good practices and experiences on the implementation of laws, policies and actions aimed at overcoming the invisibility of violence, promoting an integrated agenda for violence prevention and elimination, and improving the availability and quality of data and research on the magnitude and incidence of violence against women.

Madam President,

It is acknowledged that ASEAN remains to be confronted by the growing challenges of trafficking in persons and people smuggling. Therefore ASEAN Leaders at its Summit held in April this year in Phnom Penh has tasked relevant ASEAN Ministerial Sectorial Bodies to undertake concerted efforts to address this issue and looked forward to an ASEAN instrument to prevent trafficking in persons.

ASEAN reiterates its commitment towards gender equality and women's advancement in ASEAN and looks forward to the convening of the First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW) in October 2012, in Vientiane, Lao PDR, to serve as a platform for the development of strategies to mainstream gender perspectives across all sectors of ASEAN cooperation.

ASEAN had made progress through its ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) in finalizing its first five-year Work Plan (2012-2016) as well as in enhancing civil society participation in the ASEAN community-building process.

Finally we acknowledge that much work remain to be done, in spite of considerable progress that has been achieved, in particular in terms of enacting and enforcing national legislation and in raising awareness among women themselves.

As a regional grouping, ASEAN is striving to advance the protection and promotion of the rights of every woman as a key priority of our Organization, in line with national efforts. The promotion of well-being, empowerment and participation of women remains one of our core regional grouping objectives that aim at contributing to the building process of the ASEAN Community as a whole.

Thank you,