



**Statement on behalf of the Association of
Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
by H.E. Mr. Cherdchai Chaivaivid, Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations
Agenda Item 88: United Nations Conference of
Plenipotentiaries on Protection of Persons
in the Event of Disasters (PPED)
13 October 2026, Trusteeship Council Chamber**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the eleven Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, and my own country, Thailand.
2. ASEAN is one of the fastest growing regions in the world. However, its progress is often at risk due to its vulnerability to various forms of disasters which are increasing in intensity and frequency. To address these concerns, ASEAN Member States concluded the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), a legally binding instrument which entered into force in 2009 and to which all eleven ASEAN Member States are parties.
3. AADMER has guided the experience of our region, including the principles that "each affected Party shall have the primary responsibility to respond to disasters occurring within its territory and external assistance or offers of assistance shall only be provided upon the request or with the consent of the affected Party", and that Parties shall strengthen cooperation and coordination "in accordance with their respective needs, capabilities, and situations". Since its entry into force, AADMER has provided the legal framework for disaster management and cooperation, galvanizing ASEAN to take concrete action towards building a safe and resilient ASEAN Community.

Its implementation includes the five priority programmes of (1) Risk Assessment, Monitoring and Early Warning; (2) Prevention and Mitigation; (3) Preparedness and Response; (4) Resilient Recovery; and (5) Global Leadership. The Agreement expressly encourages the development of regional early warning systems, which help Member States prepare for and respond to natural disasters more effectively. Furthermore, these efforts are supported by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), a regional mechanism which facilitates cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States in disaster preparedness and response.

Madam Chair,

4. In this regard, ASEAN welcomes the progress made by the Sixth Committee and the decision of the General Assembly, in resolution 79/128, to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument on the protection of persons in the event of disasters, without prejudice to the legal effects of any particular provisions contained therein, by the end of 2027 at the latest. ASEAN also welcomes the modalities for this process established by resolution 80/169, as well as decision 80/551, by which the General Assembly decided that the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters shall meet in Bangkok from 25 January to 12 February 2027.
5. ASEAN also welcomes the successful completion of the work of the Preparatory Committee, which are the referral of the consolidated text, including the draft articles and the proposals for amendments submitted by Governments; arrangements for stakeholder participation; and recommendation on the organization of the Conference, including the programme of work, provisional agenda, rules of procedure, methods of work, and final act. These outcomes, which were adopted by consensus, provide a solid foundation for the Conference. ASEAN encourages all delegations to build on this foundation,

so that the Conference can commence substantive negotiations on the instrument from the outset and make full use of the three weeks in Bangkok.

6. ASEAN underscores that such a new instrument should draw upon the good practices of existing frameworks, including from our region, further enhance the coordination of efforts to protect persons in disaster situations, and ensure that such coordination is nationally owned and complements national systems, with full respect for the sovereignty of affected States.
7. ASEAN looks forward to engaging constructively with all delegations in a spirit of cooperation and consensus, and working towards the successful conclusion of the Conference. We hope that this important convention will foster international cooperation in protecting persons in disasters and help build a resilient international community.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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