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STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SOVANN KE
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OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

SIXTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 8 5
THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER 2021

Thank you, Madam Chair ,

I have the honor to address the Sixth Committee today on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

ASEAN would like to thank the Secretary General for his coordinating United Nations rule of law activities,

Strengthening and
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democratic institutions, and hampers progress for future generations. Corruption affects each and every country around the world, and thus must not be associated with any culture or people specifically.

All ten ASEAN Member States have ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which provides a strong basis for anti-corruption action. ASEAN has been actively engaged in anti-corruption efforts with partners in the region, and these joint actions have resulted in the establishment of the South East Asia Parties against Corruption (SEA-PAC) in 2004, with the 15th SEA-PAC meeting taking place in October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Our experience shows that successful anti-corruption efforts require strengthening of cooperation and sharing of information among partners, particularly enhanced law enforcement cooperation. This necessitates close compliance with UNCAC obligations, including extradition, mutual legal assistance, and the recovery of assets and proceeds of corruption. Moreover, sharing of experiences, best practices, and exchange of views regarding effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts must be promoted.

Looking into the future, with a view to promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels, ASEAN urges enhancing coordination under existing bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, including UNCAC. Such efforts must be in full respect of the United Nations Charter, including principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs of States.

We strongly support the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this regard, and actively engaged in the special session of the General Assembly on the challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, which took place in June 2021.

Madam Chair ,

ASEAN takes note of the Secretary-General's report on the rule of law at the national and international levels as the topic for discussion at the 76th session of the General Assembly.

In line with this, ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025 seeks to promote a rules-

Sustainable Development, particularly its goal 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions.

good governance, accessible institutions, and transparency and accountability. We strongly believe that this approach will further promote respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels, which will contribute to greater socio-economic development, peace, justice, and prosperity for all.

Thank you , Madam Chair .