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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Abdul Ghafar Ismail
Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the UN

on behalf of

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

at

the adoption of draft resolution A/67/L.75 entitled

“Sanitation for All”

New York
24 July 2013

Please check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President.

I have the honour to make some brief remarks on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which consists of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

ASEAN is committed to enhancing the well-being and livelihood of its peoples and, therefore, welcomes the adoption of draft resolution A/67/L.75. Its adoption by consensus and the large number of sponsors underscore the widespread recognition that the lack of sanitation is a major concern for the global community and the importance of providing access to basic sanitation services.

As such, it is a timely initiative for the UN to designate 19 November as World Toilet Day in the context of Sanitation for All. We hope that World Toilet Day will contribute to promoting even greater awareness of the need for clean water and sanitation as well as to accelerating the progress on the MDG's sanitation target. Through observing this international day, the global community can focus its efforts on hygiene promotion, provision of basic sanitation services, sewerage and wastewater treatment and re double efforts to improve the plight of the 2.5 billion people in the developing countries who still lack access to improved sanitation facilities.

ASEAN is committed to ensuring that its cities/urban areas are environmentally sustainable, while meeting the social and economic needs of the people. This includes intensifying individual and collective efforts to improve the availability and quality of sanitation within ASEAN as well as sharing experiences, expertise and technology on waste and water management.

While recognising that clean water, hygiene, sanitation and waste management have implications on infectious diseases, ASEAN continues to emphasise the need to strengthen regional capacities to monitor and address the potential of the spread of the communicable and infectious diseases in the region.

In this regard, we appreciate the on-going work of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organisations to provide basic sanitation to millions around the world and we hope that the sanitation gap would be narrowed to realize the "Sustainable Sanitation: the five-year drive to 2015".

Thank you.
