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**Statement  
of**

**His Excellency Dr. SEA Kosal  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of the Kingdom of Cambodia  
to the United Nations**

**4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Canada Dialogue  
Agenda Item: Human Trafficking**

**Ottawa, Canada  
10-11 May 2007**

**Mr. Co-Chairmen,**

Thank you for leading the discussion on this important issue.

For many decades, the world is facing increasing vital challenges such as organized crimes, drug and human trafficking. These challenges have gone beyond the scope of national commitments alone, and require region and international community as a whole to address them. The issue of Human Trafficking is one of the most pressing problems in a quite number of regions, including in most of ASEAN countries as well as in Canada.

For its parts, ASEAN has taken the issue of Trafficking in Persons seriously as shown in its political commitment on elaborating measures for combating trafficking in persons in the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) as well as adopting the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons in Vientiane in December 2004.

Senior Official Meeting on Transnational Crime, in this regard, has activated an ad-hoc Working Group to discuss on the ways and measures to implement the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons. The Working Group produces a 12-points recommendation for the implementation of the Declaration, which was subsequently endorsed by the 6<sup>th</sup> Senior Official Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) on 7-8 2006 in Bali. The issue of Human Trafficking has been under interactive and constructive deliberations.

**Mr. Co-Chairmen,**

For the effective implementation of the above mentioned measures, ASEAN can not stand alone in taking important measures to suppress the trafficking of persons; it has been cooperating with a number of regions and countries. It is recognized that the current issue of Human Trafficking is not a regional but an international one thus it requires a global response.

We would like to highly value our dialogue partners-both individual country and regions for sparing no efforts in helping us to fight this problem. ASEAN is encouraged by the significant contribution and implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Canada Work Plan which will end this year. We encourage Canada to look into the second work plan, of which I believe that we would include the area of Trafficking in Persons in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Canada Work Plan starting from this year onward. The support from Canada will, I believe, help accelerate to realize the objective of the VAP, which also envisage the fight against Human Trafficking as one of its priority areas.

In this regard, ASEAN and Canada should strengthen their cooperation in a more practical and sustainable manner.

**Mr. Co-Chairmen,**

I hold the view that Governments, International Organizations and civil society need to carefully understand the depth, breadth and the scope of the Issue so that we are able to design policy to fight it. The problem of Human Trafficking is testing our ability, and it will continue to destroy human dignity. The value of respect for human rights could not be up-lifted if we do not put this problem under control.

Thus to be successful in the fight of it, allow me to underpin a few concrete points which could contribute to enrich our deliberations.

- Raise more public awareness to vulnerable people through educating and provide information to them through local community, campaigns or media;
- Make further efforts to eradicate poverty, which is one of the main sources leading the vulnerability to trafficking;
- Protect the trafficking victims, and work to prevent them from being re-trafficked through working closely with the legislators and enforcement officials;

In this regard, ASEAN and Canada should look into the 12 recommendations on Trafficking in Person particularly women and children, having been adopted by ASEAN SOMTC in 2006 in Bali, especially point 11 which called for cooperation with Dialogue partners of ASEAN such as in the fields of training of trainers, establishing shelter, providing technical assistance, intelligence cooperation, hotline system, identifying root causes and formulating plans of action to overcome trafficking in persons.

**Thank you**