



Media Release

ASEAN-UN Workshop: Regional Dialogue on Conflict Prevention and Maintenance of Peace and Stability in Multi-cultural and Pluralistic Societies

Kuala Lumpur: 24 June 2014.

The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Dato' Hamzah Zainudin and UN Assistant-Secretary-General Oscar Fernandez-Taranco opened the ASEAN-UN Regional Dialogue on "Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Conflict Prevention and Maintenance of Peace and Stability in Multicultural and Pluralistic Societies" on 24 June in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"A prosperous, consolidated and stable ASEAN is a security deposit for Southeast Asia and Asia at large", said the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Dato' Hamzah Zainudin in his opening remarks. He added "We believe that moderation, which ASEAN has already adopted as a key value, has an important role in promoting peace and stability in the region. It is a plea for the silent majority to stand up to extremism and radicalism, and to support non-violence in conflict resolution."

Government officials from ASEAN countries, regional conflict experts and senior officials from the United Nations will discuss regional and international cases of preventing conflict or the escalation of conflict through inclusive dialogue and promoting tolerance and social cohesion to enhance peace and stability.

"There is a worrying trend in the region, as in other regions of the world, in the rise of extremism and radicalism in various forms that include religious intolerance and ultra-nationalism", stated UN Assistant-Secretary-General Oscar Fernandez-Taranco. He asked participants in his opening remarks how such a trend which can easily spread beyond national borders can be addressed, how ASEAN can respond as a region and to what extent the UN could provide support. The UN Assistant-Secretary-General said that ASEAN and the United Nations can learn many lessons from each other and that the United Nations stands ready to support ASEAN's efforts to promote peace and stability for the benefit of the people of ASEAN.

The ASEAN-UN Regional Dialogue is co-organised by the Malaysian Government, the United Nations and ISIS Malaysia as a follow-up to the ASEAN-UN Workshop on Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy in April last year in Jakarta. The events took place within the framework of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership which was agreed in

2011 to strengthen ASEAN-UN relations through collaborative activities in the areas of political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation as well as cooperation between the ASEAN Secretariat and the United Nations.

The ASEAN-UN Regional Dialogue will be held over two days in Kuala Lumpur.