

UN Chief Urges ASEAN Leaders To Support SDGs

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon has called on ASEAN leaders to play a major role in supporting the global sustainable development agenda spearheaded by the world organisation.

Addressing Southeast Asian leaders at the 7th ASEAN-UN Summit here, Ban said the UN and its partners including ASEAN would need to work together towards achieving the sustainable development goal (SDG) to end poverty by 2030, among others.

He said other areas of cooperation that the UN and ASEAN could embark on were climate change and human rights.

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on Sept 25, 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 17 new SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, build strong institutions and partnerships, and more.

Ban said the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 unveiled today by the regional bloc should be carried out in tandem with the SDG with a view to transforming the lives of millions of underprivileged people.

In his remarks, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said ties between ASEAN and the UN had grown significantly over the past years, and had contributed towards ASEAN's integration and community building process.

"2015 is an important year for both ASEAN and the UN. The signing of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on 'ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together', and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development demonstrate our mutual obligation and desire to provide a better and promising future for our people," he said.

He said ASEAN looked forward to further enhancing ties with the UN through various collaborative programmes and activities in areas of mutual interest.

"We're confident that the United Nations will continue to be an important partner of ASEAN as we embark on a journey to realise the ASEAN Community Vision 2025," Najib said.

The leaders of 10 Southeast Asian countries Sunday inked a historic declaration on the formation of the ASEAN Community by Dec 31, 2015, that entails greater integration of this region of over 600 million people.

The Vision 2025 is part of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, a document that charts the path for community building over the next 10 years.

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