STATEMENT
of the ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)
at the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria
09 December 2014

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) composed of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, strongly supports the ongoing discourse on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

While associating itself with the statement circulated by the Non-Aligned Movement, ASEAN recalls the Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on Actions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference which states:

“The Conference expresses its deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and reaffirms the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.”

ASEAN welcomes the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo, Norway and Nayarit, Mexico, and expresses its gratitude to the Austrian Government for hosting the third international conference from 08 to 09 December 2014.

While welcoming the outcomes of the two previous Conferences in Oslo and Nayarit, ASEAN looks forward to a more substantive outcome from the Vienna Conference that would complement discussions and negotiations towards the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament, especially at the upcoming 2015 NPT Review Conference.

These discussions, while academic and fact-based, may eventually lead to the establishment of a legal framework to effectively abolish these deadly weapons, as envisioned, inter-alia, in the resolution entitled “Follow-up to the 2013 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament”.

ASEAN welcomes the participation of the United Kingdom and the United States in the Vienna Conference and calls on the remaining Nuclear Weapons States to be engaged in these discussions.