Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"I welcome the formal adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration as an important step towards strengthening the protection of human rights in Asia.

I emphasise the need to ensure that implementation addresses adequately any problems of compatibility with international standards, notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant United Nations human rights treaties.

I welcome the accompanying Phnom Penh Statement of Heads of States and Governments on adoption of the Declaration, which reaffirms their commitment to the universality of Human Rights.

I will continue to work with ASEAN and its Member States as well as civil society organisations to promote human rights nationally, regionally and globally on the basis of internationally-agreed human rights standards."

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Brussels, 22 November 2012

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