

BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Ioan Voicu

Assumption University of Thailand

Abstract

On the basis of the most significant joint United Nations-ASEAN documents and other related political and legal instruments, the article analyzes from a diplomatic perspective, the origin of the initiative of building a comprehensive partnership between the two institutions, the progress achieved in this complex process, and its prospects in the years to come. Special attention is paid to the permanent dialogue, cooperation, coordination and consultation between the two organizations, in conformity with the consensus mandates approved by the United Nations General Assembly.

Relevant positions and proposals advanced by ASEAN are evoked with particular emphasis on the role of ASEAN Summits in the elaboration of a 'roadmap on the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership for 2014-2015'.

Keywords: ASEAN, United Nations, cooperation, partnership, meeting

1. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

Cooperation between the United Nations (UN) and regional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) is a vital and permanent component of the current globalization process. A comprehensive partnership between ASEAN and the UN is expected to be a long-term commitment responsive to the needs and priorities of the two organizations, taking into account the changing dynamics of the regional and the global environment. Such partnership is meant to

facilitate closer collaboration between a universal and a regional institution in collectively addressing the emerging global challenges.¹

Assessing this issue in practical terms, on August 6, 2013, while speaking in the UN Security Council on the topic "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security", the representative of Indonesia, -the biggest member of ASEAN, -said: "In our view, the challenge before the United Nations is not to be everywhere or to attempt to do everything. On the contrary, the

*Doctor in Political Science (International Law) of Geneva University (1968); Doctor Honoris Causa in International Law of Assumption University of Thailand (1998); alternate representative of Romania to the United Nations Security Council (1990-1991); Ambassador of Romania to the Kingdom of Thailand and permanent representative to International Organizations based in Bangkok (1994-1999); visiting professor in Assumption University of Thailand since February 2000.