

objectives in the years ahead. I personally will leave here with a vision of hope and promise — that of a regional community capable of dealing effectively with a wide range of priority issues revolving around poverty alleviation and sustainable development, democratic development and human rights, security, and trade and economic integration. A community which is dedicated to reducing the threat of regional insecurity and enhancing regional prosperity for all. A community which is mutually supportive and promotes equality of opportunity for all its members.

I very much look forward to meeting you all again in the coming months.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.