



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

**OPENING STATEMENT BY
THE HONOURABLE DATO' SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI,
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA
AT THE 2ND ASEAN-UN SUMMIT
NEW YORK, U.S.A.
13TH SEPTEMBER 2005**

Your Royal Highness,
His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary General of the United Nations,

Fellow ASEAN Colleagues,
President of the 59th UNGA,
Vice-President of the 60th UNGA,
Heads of UN agencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Before I begin, I would like to recognise the good work done by His Excellency Kofi Annan as Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is not an easy task given the challenges facing the multilateral system today.

Mr. Co-Chairman and Colleagues,

2. This is the second time an ASEAN-UN Summit is being held. The first ASEAN-UN Summit was held in Bangkok in October 2000. At that time we were preoccupied with the challenges of globalisation and the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis.

3. Today, we meet against the backdrop of different circumstances. ASEAN is strengthening itself through closer integration. We are moving towards becoming an ASEAN Community. We are also looking towards strengthening the Organisation itself. This would involve various aspects.

4. Among others, we are thinking of an ASEAN Charter, as we believe that ASEAN would need a stronger and better institutional structure to be able to cope and indeed meet the challenges of community building.

5. We are also optimistically moving ahead with implementing the various Action Plans of the three pillars that would make up the ASEAN Community namely the ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

6. I mention these developments to emphasise that in ASEAN there is an unwavering belief in the value of a cooperative and multilateral approach. Unfortunately, there is much, much more that the United Nations need to do in this regard.

7. Malaysia places great importance on multilateralism. The United Nations in particular must be made more relevant to the changes in the international environment. We also need to ensure that it is able to meet the aspirations of the people of the world.

8. Chief among these is poverty eradication. It is essential therefore to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved and development continues to be at the top of the UN's agenda.

9. In noting the stalemate on the issue of the UN Security Council expansion, Malaysia nevertheless continues to believe that its working methods must be changed, so as to make it more transparent and accountable to the whole membership of the United Nations.

10. As far as the ASEAN-UN relations are concerned, I am happy to note that the level of functional cooperation between both sides have been good and substantive. I would like to see continued UN assistance to ASEAN in particular focusing in particular on community building and integration efforts.

11. Having said that, I believe that both sides can benefit from regular Summit meetings. Perhaps the next ASEAN-UN Summit could be held in an ASEAN country. I am also hopeful that ASEAN would one day be able to have an observer status in the UN commensurate with our stature as a regional organisation.

Thank you.