



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE
PLenary TO DISCUSS THE REVISED TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S DRAFT
OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SEPTEMBER 2005.
(CLUSTER V: STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS)
MONDAY, 1 AUGUST 2005**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to take the floor again to speak on Cluster V: Strengthening the United Nations

IV. STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS

- General Assembly

1. On the issue of the General Assembly, Malaysia strongly supports the reaffirmation in the Millennium Declaration of the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations.

- Human Rights Council

2. Malaysia firmly believes that the shortcomings of the existing Commission on Human Rights is due to politicization, double standards and selectivity applied by some Member States in its work. Therefore, any reform of the human rights machinery must seriously address these issues. Otherwise, this reform exercise would be meaningless if politicization, double standards and selectivity continue to prevail.

3. The revised draft outcome document has outlined the proposed mandates, size and composition of the proposed Human Rights Council. Malaysia is of the view that these important issues should be considered and decided on by all Member States through the appropriate process in the General Assembly. Malaysia's comments on the proposals are as follows.

- (i) Malaysia can support the proposal to establish a reformed human rights body, including a reformed Commission on Human Rights, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly.

- (ii) Malaysia does not support the proposal for the reformed human rights body to be established as a main Charter body. The proposal to elevate the status of a reformed human rights body to a principle organ would not only be redundant but it could also dilute the importance of the General Assembly, and main organs of the UN.
- (iii) On the relationship between the reformed human rights body and the Security Council, Malaysia is of the strong view that the relationship should strictly be confined to within the context of matters affecting international peace and security.
- (iv) On the membership of the reformed human rights body, it is more practical for members to be elected by simple majority of members present and voting in the General Assembly.
- (v) On the size of the reformed human rights body, Malaysia's preference is for a body of comparable in size to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), which currently is at 53, if not larger so as to better reflect the representative character of the body. A smaller membership would be contrary to the call for expansion in the membership and democratization of other UN organs and bodies, in light of the increase in the UN membership. Membership of the reformed body should be based on the principle of equitable geographical representation. Consultations during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly should also include the question of the size of the new body.
- (vi) On para 131(c), we strongly feel that the selection of Member States willing to serve in the reformed human rights body should be left entirely to the general membership. Malaysia remains open to the proposal for Member States willing to serve on a reformed human rights body to make voluntary pledges and declare their commitment to abide by the highest standards of human rights. Malaysia objects any proposal to imposing criteria for membership into the reformed human rights body.
- (vii) Notwithstanding our aforementioned comments, we are of the view that the outcome document should focus on securing agreement on the general proposal for a reformed human rights body, leaving the difficult part of elaborating on its mandates and structure to the 60th session of the General Assembly.

- Secretariat

4. On the proposals for Secretariat reform, Malaysia fully shares the concerns and views expressed by the Chair of the Group 77 and China.

5. Similarly, Malaysia is also disappointed that the earlier views and comments of the Group 77 and China under this section were not taken into consideration. We also note that there were several new proposals in particular those concerning management reform as reflected in paragraphs 136,137,140,144,146 and 147 of the revised draft outcome document were neither derived from the Draft Outcome Document nor the Secretary General 's report on "In larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for all". We fully concur with the views of Group 77 and China that the

reform of the Secretariat will only be achieved by taking into account the broad consensus of the Member States.

6. Malaysia recognizes the need to provide the Secretary General with sufficient authority and flexibility in carrying out his managerial responsibilities and leadership under relevant regulations established by the General Assembly and also the importance for the Secretary General to provide Member States with a full system of accountability in the work of the Organization. However, we should also bear in mind the importance of the intergovernmental review mechanisms and the role as well as authority of the General Assembly in this regard.

7. Malaysia notes that there have been several proposals on management reforms, which are currently being implemented with a view to improve system of accountability, transparency and efficiency of the organization. To further enhance the effective management of the Organization, we believe that Member States should continue to have the role in monitoring such reform initiatives and also to be kept fully informed of all activities of management and oversight reform.

Thank you.