



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE PLENARY ON THE DRAFT OUTCOME

DOCUMENT OF HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SEPTEMBER 2005 (A/59/HLPM/CRP.1)

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, 1 JULY 2005

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank you for convening this meeting to enable Member States exchange to views on the draft outcome document for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005. My delegation fully associates itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement and also the statement of the G-77 and China. However, I wish to offer Malaysia's own perspectives on a number of issues raised in the draft outcome document.

2. My delegation would like to thank you, Mr. President, and commend you on your efforts in preparing the draft outcome document. The draft that you have prepared, together with the team of distinguished facilitators, does indeed serve as a very useful basis for work among Member States. We recognize and fully understand that it is not an easy task to capture and incorporate in the draft the diverse points of view on the issues at hand. We welcome your intention to continue to engage Member States in the process of refining the draft outcome document. We trust that this will be conducted, as in the past and presently, in a transparent, inclusive and open-ended manner.

Values and Principles

3. Malaysia fully subscribes to the view of the NAM that the objective of the September Summit as stipulated in General Assembly Resolutions 58/291 of 17 May 2004 and 59/145 of 13 January 2005 is to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made in the fulfillment of all the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration and the progress made in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. Therefore, we believe that this should be clearly reflected in the section under "Values and Principles". In this regard, we believe that the second sentence of paragraph 7 relating to development should be strengthened and merits placement as a separate paragraph.

4. Considering that the Summit in September should also focus on strengthening and reform of the UN, it would be helpful if in this section in the outcome document, reference is made to important elements as reflected in Article 1 of the Charter. I note the point made by the Ambassador of Jamaica yesterday regarding language in Article 1 (2). By the same token, language in the other parts of this article merits consideration. A linkage could be made to paragraph 4 of the draft outcome document.

DEVELOPMENT

Financing for Development

5. On the issue of financing for development, we believe that additional resources must be urgently found to assist the developing countries in achieving their goals in the economic and social fields. In this regard, Malaysia supports the efforts to identify new and innovative sources of development financing. We welcome efforts by the developed countries on debt relief and debt cancellation aimed at assisting developing countries as well as on increasing ODA targets. In this regard, we fully support the proposal put forth by G77 and China to establish an effective mechanism for monitoring aid flows to ensure that the ODA targets are met.

6. On trade, we believe that the outcome document should emphasize on the need to have a successful outcome of the WTO Doha round of trade negotiations by 2006 to enable it to deliver the benefits to the developing countries, in particular to the LDCs.

HIV/AIDS and other health issues

7. We also welcome the reference in the outcome document to the important issues of reproductive health including reaffirming the goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health services by 2015.

Countries with special needs

8. Malaysia strongly supports the emphasis that has been placed on the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDs) and, in particular, the special needs of Africa. The draft outcome document has rightly called for the full, timely and effective implementation of the Brussels and Almaty Programmes of Action, and the Mauritius Strategy as well as the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action.

South-south Cooperation

9. My delegation notes that an important element in the global partnership for development, i.e. the South-South cooperation, has been left out of the draft outcome document. South-south cooperation has the potential of playing a significant role in promoting sustained growth and development for the developing countries. Based on the development needs of these countries, South-south cooperation should be built as an integral part of the international community's support to these countries. We think that this question merits consideration by all the leaders in September. Therefore, we propose that an appropriate paragraph be drafted for incorporation in the draft outcome document.

PEACE AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY

10. Malaysia believes that there must be serious efforts to evolve common perceptions and agreed approaches to address the whole range of threats to international peace and security. These common perceptions must be developed in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and by all Member States acting together, and with the active participation of each principal organ of the United Nations.

Peacebuilding Commission

11. Malaysia welcomes the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission. We note the growing interest on this proposal. We look forward to the details regarding the proposed Peacebuilding Commission. We believe that the General Assembly must have the primary role in the establishment and formulation of the mandate of this Commission and in the formulation and implementation of its policies and activities, notwithstanding the possible linkages between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council and ECOSOC.

Use of Force

12. Malaysia fully concurs with the views expressed by the Non-Aligned Movement on the question of use of force. With regard to paragraph 47 of the draft outcome document, we believe that any discussions on the principles for the use of force should be conducted both in the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Disarmament

13. On the question of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), my delegation reiterates its principled position that the elimination of WMD, in particular nuclear weapons, must remain paramount in our common endeavour to rid this planet of such weapons. The ultimate objective of our efforts in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament. This commitment has been clearly expressed in the Millennium Declaration as well as the outcome documents of SSOD-I, the Review

Conferences of the NPT and the conferences of States Parties to the BWC and CWC. Similarly, Member States have expressed their commitment to eliminate the proliferation of WMD. In this connection, Malaysia stresses that efforts concerning non-proliferation must not take precedence over efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament.

14. My delegation joins others in expressing its disappointment over the inability of the recently concluded Review Conference of the States Parties to the NPT to reach consensus on the substantive questions surrounding the three pillars of the NPT - disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear technology. This notwithstanding, Malaysia remains committed to the NPT and maintains that the Treaty continues to have an important cornerstone status in the global disarmament and non-proliferation framework. Malaysia continues to have faith in the NPT regime and its review process through the Review Conferences. In looking ahead, Malaysia urges all States Parties to the NPT to begin considering about what needs to be done and accomplished from now until the next Review Conference in 2010. In this regard, we believe that the leaders can provide some guidance in September.

15. My delegation believes that the UN continues to have a central role in setting the norms in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The institutions and mechanisms currently existing under the UN, namely the Disarmament Commission, the First Committee of the General Assembly and Special Session on Disarmament process, are certainly the most appropriate avenues for Member States to deliberate on questions in these fields. We think that this should be clearly reflected in the draft outcome document.

Terrorism

16. The issue of terrorism must be viewed comprehensively. It is imperative that a universally accepted definition be formulated, the root causes of terrorism be identified and adequately addressed, and appropriate measures to deal with all aspects of terrorism be undertaken. In considering the question of terrorism, we must also address the legitimate struggles of peoples fighting for their right to be free of colonial and alien domination, foreign occupation and their right to national liberation. Malaysia believes that the leaders should strongly condemn terrorism. This should be clearly reflected in the draft outcome document, perhaps in paragraph 54.

17. We note that the Secretary General's counter-terrorism strategy attempts to address some of the issues concerning terrorism. However, there are some elements which have not been taken into account. For example, it fails to address the root causes of terrorism, inter alia political grievances, economic and social marginalisation, regional conflict and foreign occupation and oppression. We believe that more discussions on this matter are required.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

Human Rights

18. On the resolve to strengthen the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, we wish to stress that the proposal to increase both financial and human resources of the Office would need to be carefully examined to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office in carrying out its mandate. We also wish to reiterate our concerns on the non-representation and under-representation of several Member States, especially from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in the staffing of the Office.

Rule of Law

19. Malaysia agrees with the need for universal adherence to and implementation on the rule of law at the national and international levels. However, we do believe that the application

of the rule of law in the international context must be based on the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter.

Democracy

20. In principle, my delegation can support the establishment of a Democracy Fund for the purpose of assisting Member States, upon request, in the promotion of democracy. We also welcome the establishment of an Advisory Board to provide funding guidelines, which should be based on request; provided in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner; and be demand driven, that is it must correspond to the overall social and political needs of the country concerned. However, we are unclear as to what is meant by the role of the Advisory Board in providing policy guidance and to whom.

Responsibility to protect

21. We welcome attempts to draft language in the draft outcome document which seeks to take into account the major concerns of Member States. There is a whole range of questions – political, legal, moral and operational – constituting the debate on the concept of responsibility to protect. We agree with the NAM that there should be more discussions on this concept and its implications on the principles on non-interference and non-intervention as well as respect for the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of States. This issue needs further consideration and discussion among Member States. We think that the idea of further consideration in the General Assembly is a good one. But to reflect a sense of urgency, we propose that this would be done during the 60th session.

Culture of Peace

22. We welcome the inclusion in the draft outcome document the recognition on the value and importance of initiatives towards the promotion of a Culture of Peace. We especially wish to emphasize the value of dialogue among cultures and civilizations in strengthening exchanges and partnerships, promoting tolerance, mutual respect and understanding among all peoples. In this regard, we believe that the Secretary-General should facilitate the various initiatives and to explore and develop mechanisms for the implementation and follow-up of these initiatives.

STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS

23. Malaysia fully supports the NAM position and reiterates its commitment to multilateralism and the multilateral processes in resolving issues of common concern to the international community. In this regard, Malaysia believes that the United Nations has the central role in the maintenance of international peace and security and promoting international cooperation. Therefore any reform should be comprehensive, inclusive, balanced and pursued in an effective manner.

General Assembly

24. Malaysia strongly supports the reaffirmation of the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. Malaysia firmly believes that the General Assembly must play a more substantive role and that it must continue to serve as the conscience of the world on the burning issues of our time.

Security Council

25. As for the Security Council, Malaysia is of the view that restructuring should entail improvement of working methods, including regulating and eventually eliminating the veto. A restructured Council must be legitimate, transparent and accountable to the larger membership and not merely the veto holders.

The Economic and Social Council

26. Malaysia fully supports strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council as the main body in addressing the global economic, social and development issues and improving its functions as mandated by the Charter in coordinating the activities of various actors in the implementation of development agenda goals. Malaysia fully supports the recommendation for ECOSOC to hold annual ministerial-level policy coordination meetings to review existing global policies and assess progress towards implementation of agreed development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals.

27. Malaysia also welcomes the recommendation that ECOSOC should serve as a high-level Development Cooperation Forum to review trends in international development cooperation, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen links between the normative and development work of the UN. The recommendation for ECOSOC to convene timely meetings to address threats to development, including humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, with the aim of formulating coordinated responses is particularly welcomed.

28. On the need for ECOSOC to rationalize and strengthen its work in post-conflict management, we believe that ECOSOC should play a role in the work of the proposed Peacebuilding Commission, bearing also in mind the role of the General Assembly.

Human Rights Council

29. Malaysia strongly recognizes the need to strengthen the human rights component in the work of the United Nations. Given that there are still a number of different views on how and what shape the reformed human rights body should take, we believe that it would be more prudent at this juncture for our leaders to make a principled decision on the need to reform the UN human rights machinery. Pending a decision on possible changes in the status of the Commission on Human Rights, the General Assembly could elaborate further on the specifics of a possible future human rights body.

Secretariat

30. On the proposals for Secretariat reform, Malaysia fully supports the views presented by the Chair of the Group 77 and China. In this section, Malaysia would also like to reiterate its earlier comments on the proposals presented by the Secretary-General.

31. Malaysia fully recognizes that a capable and effective Secretariat is indispensable to the work of the Organization. Malaysia fully supports the objective of the Organization to achieve the highest levels of competence, integrity, ethical behaviour, efficiency, transparency and accountability, with full emphasis given to ensure that the recruitment of UN staff at all levels are carried out on as wide and equitable geographical distribution as possible. We also commend the Secretary-General's efforts to further enhance the effective management of the Organisation. Similarly, we also hope that the physical aspects of reform and modernization of the UN Headquarters, in the context of the Capital Master Plan, will also take shape and be given due consideration by the leaders. For example, they may wish, in September, to take note of the current efforts in this regard.

32. Malaysia agrees on 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 expects the Secretary General to provide Member States with a full system of accountability in the work of the Organization.

33. Malaysia fully supports the call to insist on the highest standards of behaviour in the personnel deployed to UN missions and for that matter, throughout the whole system, and in this regard, welcomes the Secretary General's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.

System-wide coherence

34. With the expanding scale and scope of its activities, the UN system of funds, programmes and specialized agencies, as a whole needs to deliver services in a more coherent and effective way, and to avoid duplication of mandates and actions between the different bodies within the system. To ensure stronger system-wide coherence, Malaysia supports the measures at the policy, operational and humanitarian, as well as international environment governance levels as outlined in the draft outcome document.

Regional Organizations

35. Malaysia fully supports the need for the United Nations, regional and sub-regional Organizations to develop a stronger relationship through formalized agreements and regularized involvement of regional organizations in the work of the UN. The United Nations and regional organizations should play complementary roles in facing not only the challenges to international peace and security, but also in promoting economic and social development.

Charter

36. Malaysia believes that the principles of the Charter of the United Nations are as valid today as it was when this Organization was founded. To better reflect the realities of today, we could agree to update the Charter of the United Nations as appropriate.

Conclusion

Mr. President,

37. In the consideration of all these proposals for the UN to be better organized, resourced and equipped to address the challenges in security, economic and social, and human rights fields by reforming, restructuring and revitalizing its major organs and institutions, we would like to reiterate that it is important for Member States to bear in mind the resources needed and to recognize that without adequate resources, the process of reform will not succeed. We think that this issue of adequate resources should also be addressed by the leaders in September.

38. Finally, Malaysia would like to suggest that you consider a process of negotiations or more interactive consultations in a transparent, inclusive and open-ended manner on the draft outcome document through the facilitators. These negotiations would provide the opportunity for Member States to participate interactively to exchange views on the specific points and issues, without necessarily going into a detailed drafting exercise.

39. In conclusion, let me reiterate Malaysia's commitment to provide its fullest cooperation to you to ensure the success of our common endeavor.

Thank you.