



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**THE HONOURABLE MR. GOH SIOW HUAT
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA**

ON

AGENDA ITEM 85 : SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, THE PROGRAMME FOR THE
FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21 AND THE OUTCOMES OF
THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT;**

**(b) FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION
FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES;**

**(d) PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE
GENERATIONS OF MANKIND; and**

(f) CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

AT

**THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 59TH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK**

ON

WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2004

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation for the reports submitted under this agenda item. We also thank the Secretary-General for the report on the Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) as contained in document A/59/220.

2. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of Qatar on behalf of the G-77 and China and the statement made by the distinguished Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). However, I would like to make some further comments.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The Secretary-General has pointed to encouraging progress at all levels in pursuing sustainable development over the past one year. The 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) which was held in New York to carry out an in-depth review of the important cross-cutting issues of water, sanitation and human settlements had enhanced the understanding of the relevant stakeholders on the priority concerns and obstacles in the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). However, the review had also shown that a significant number of developing countries are not on track to ensure environmental sustainability and thus achieve Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These countries will not be able to attain targets 10 and 11 of Goal 7 which is to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015 and improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. Many of the same countries would also not be able to meet the dateline of 2005 for preparing integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans. In these countries, the persistence of poverty and lack of financial resources, technology and capacity present major constraints in efforts to achieve progress in these areas. Clearly they need assistance. We believe that the fulfillment of commitments agreed to at Monterrey could bring about much needed assistance and relief to those countries concerned.

4. My delegation has noted the view expressed last week in this Committee by Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT). We concur with her that the issue of human settlements is most important when discussing the issues of water and sanitation. In this connection, we hope that the respective bureaus would be able to resolve in an amicable manner the problem in the scheduling of the CSD-13 and the 20th Session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council. Presently both meetings have been slated to begin on 11 April 2005. This is most unfortunate since the UN-HABITAT also deals with the issue of water and

sanitation, two of the thematic themes of the CSD. We feel that a thorough discussion of these issues in both meetings held at different times would be of great benefit to all. Malaysia looks forward to participating actively at the CSD-13 , the implementation phase, which will be held in New York in April 2005.

5. My delegation recalls that in his statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development(CSD) in April 2004, the Secretary-General had warned of the threat to the natural resource base, the continuation of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and the glacial progress in slowing deforestation and biodiversity loss. At the Observance of the 24th World Food Day and the 59th Anniversary of the formation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation(FAO) two day ago, we learned that more than 840 million people in the world are suffering from chronic hunger while at the same time many more suffer from the devastating effects of malnutrition and debilitating diseases. The majority of these undernourished people live in the developing countries. Hunger and desperate means to produce food has led to the unprecedented loss of biodiversity. Unsustainable processes of development has exerted tremendous pressure on natural resources while unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, especially in the developed countries, has threatened the fragility of the natural environment.

6. We welcome the convening of the high level International Meeting to review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) for the sustainable development of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which will be held in January next year in Mauritius. It is our hope that this international meeting, held 10 years after the first global conference on the sustainable development of the SIDS in Barbados in 1994, will culminate in concrete and practical measures to enable these countries to achieve sound economic growth and sustainable development. Malaysia has positively considered the Secretary General's call for high level participation at the Meeting and has agreed to contribute to the SIDS Voluntary Trust Fund.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Conservation of biological diversity remains one of Malaysia's top priorities. Consequently, the increasing loss of biological diversity is a central concern for Malaysia. As a member of the Like-Minded Megadiverse countries, Malaysia feels a special responsibility in ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of its biological resources, as well as fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from biodiversity. Recognizing the rich cultural heritage of the country, Malaysia has taken steps to ensure that its development strategies are carried out in a sustainable manner to protect and conserve biological diversity. In this connection, Malaysia's National Policy on Biological Diversity has been formulated to provide direction, strategies, plans and programmes to conserve the nation's biological resources and to ensure that its components are utilized in a sustainable manner.

The Government has identified biotechnology as a major initiative in the promotion of science and technology, research and development as well as technological innovation to support Malaysia's overall strategy for sustainable growth.

8. Malaysia hosted the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-7) last February. We also convened the first meeting of the Conference serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Priority issues for the COP-7 included the biological diversity of mountain ecosystems, role of protected areas in the preservation of biological diversity, transfer of technology and technology cooperation, as well as the implementation of the target set at the 6th meeting to achieve, by the year 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity. At the end of COP-7, a framework was developed to facilitate the assessment of progress made towards the achievement of the 2010 targets and the communication of that assessment to promote coherence among the programmes of work of the Convention, within which national and regional targets might be set and indicators identified. At the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration was adopted. The Declaration urges those governments which have not done so to ratify and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Climate change is now considered as one of the most serious threats to sustainable development, with adverse impacts on human health, food security, economic activities, water and other natural resources and physical infrastructure. In this regard, Malaysia is pleased that the Russian Federation has now decided to sign and ultimately ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Malaysia on its part has taken specific and concrete mitigation measures to reduce the release of greenhouse gases (GHG). We have taken measures which include the improvement of energy efficiency, less fuel burn and increased usage of more renewable energies that emit less GHG or none at all such as solar, hydro and biomass power.

10. In conclusion, my delegation would like to reiterate that Malaysia remains committed to fulfilling its commitments and working with others. By ensuring that only by implementing all these commitments, would we be able to leave a sustainable heritage for future generations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.