



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

THE HONOURABLE AHMAD SHABERY CHEEK
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA

ON

AGENDA ITEM 77: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE
WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

AT

THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 59TH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK

ON

WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2004

[Please check against delivery]

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno for his presentation on the state of affairs relating to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and his frank views expressed on 25 October. We appreciate the work that the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) have done and continue to do to ensure that the United Nations is able to meet the challenges of peacekeeping and other related activities at present and in the future.

2. Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered yesterday, 26 October 2004 by the distinguished delegate of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). My delegation would like, nonetheless, to highlight some important aspects.

3. Malaysia has been involved in UN peacekeeping missions for more than four decades beginning with the deployment of our soldiers in ONUG in early 1960s. To date, Malaysia has participated in 17 peacekeeping missions under the United Nations as well as UN-sanctioned multi-national forces. We remain committed in assisting the United Nations in discharging its responsibility. Malaysia welcomes and supports the continuing efforts by the United Nations to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of UN peacekeeping activities as a key instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security. We are confident that with the full support of member states, these efforts will contribute towards early and durable resolution of conflicts and save the further loss of lives, destruction of property and suffering among people caught in conflict situations, in particular women, children and the elderly.

4. Malaysia would like to reemphasize the central role of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security as well as the importance of multilateralism in the resolution of conflicts. Malaysia supports where it is appropriate and feasible, the involvement and contribution of regional organizations or arrangements in peacekeeping in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. However such regional arrangements should not in any way diminish or absolve the role and responsibility of the United Nations. We believe that the United Nations can provide all the necessary support through its larger membership, including advisory, logistics and financial support, which can be provided by member states, towards ensuring the effectiveness of the involvement of regional organizations or arrangements in peacekeeping, peace-making and peace-building activities. Like any other peace-keeping missions undertaken by the United Nations, it is imperative to ensure that missions undertaken on a regional basis are governed by the basic principles of peace-keeping in full conformity with the UN Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Peace-keeping missions are becoming more complex. My delegation has noted the comments of the Under Secretary General that for the United Nations, while significant capabilities have been developed, increased demands at headquarters and

in the field are straining the system. Thus more innovations are required if the United Nations were to clearly fulfill the peacekeeping mandates given to it. It is neither possible nor practical to develop guidelines that apply to all situations since they are all different. More often than not, the international community will find itself unprepared for every new conflict that eventually requires the deployment of peacekeepers. Therefore, the United Nations must continue to have clear, realistic and achievable mandates for peacekeeping missions in keeping with the specific nature and requirements of each mission. There is also a need for regular assessment on the size, mandate and structure of peacekeeping operations according to progress achieved in order that necessary adjustments can be made, including downsizing and rightsizing of the respective peacekeeping components.

6. The Joint Mission Analysis Cell, which has served, as an effective planning tool must be fully optimized to reinforce the intelligence capacity of the UNDPKO. There is a need for a robust unit that is able to use force when necessary in a situation of self-defence and within the specified rules of engagement. In line with this approach, robust rules of engagement need to be formulated to adapt to the current operational and tactical scenarios.

7. Malaysia is of the view that in order to ensure the effective implementation of UN peacekeeping operations, the UNDPKO must be strengthened and adequately staffed, taking into account the principal of equitable geographical representation as stipulated in the Charter. My delegation supports the strengthening of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit and its active role in the development of generic guidelines, procedures and best practices for current and future use in peacekeeping operations. The United Nations should also provide the necessary training requirements to peacekeepers to meet the specific needs and the varying nature of peacekeeping operations so as to ensure the overall success of UNDPKOs. In this regards, Malaysia welcomes the participation of military and civilian police personnel from other countries in the peacekeeping training programme conducted at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre. We sincerely appreciate the cooperation that has been extended to the Centre by UNDPKO.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Some weeks ago, the Secretary General has stated that the ***number and scope of UN peace operations are approaching what may become their highest levels ever, improving prospects for conflict resolution, but, also stretching thin the capacities of the system.*** My delegation is fully conscious of the increasing demands placed upon the United Nations. In this regard, Malaysia would urge more Member States to contribute peacekeeping troops for this anticipated surge in demand for peacekeeping operations. As it is, UN peacekeeping personnel come from only a small number of troop-contributing countries and the main troop contributors come from the developing countries. In contrast, the number of troops from western nations average less than 600 personnel. The Secretary-General has pointed out certain "critical gaps" in specialized military capabilities, such as tactical air support and field medical facilities. Hence, Malaysia calls upon countries that have well equipped military forces to actively participate by contributing troops to UN peacekeeping

operations in our joint effort to ensure that mandates given to the United Nations can be successfully fulfilled.

9. Security and safety of United Nations staff and associated personnel must be given the utmost priority as peacekeepers are practically serving in the larger interests of the international community. There is a need to protect United Nations staff and its associated personnel against unjustifiable and unacceptable acts of violence and aggression. The United Nations must develop better capacities to prevent and manage threats both in the headquarters and in the field. Malaysia joins the United Nations in paying high tribute to all men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Malaysia also honours the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the service of the United Nation and from the noble cause of peace.

10. Peacekeeping had become increasingly multidimensional. It is important that in any attempt at resolving conflict, serious attention be paid to the root causes of conflicts. Many of the existing conflicts are often underpinned by socio-economic problems such as abject poverty, illiteracy, lack or absence of good governance and a myriad of other problems related to under-development. My delegation recognizes the need for the United Nations to combine peacekeeping with the development approach and to work with relevant agencies and regional and sub-regional organizations to achieve comprehensive and durable peace in conflict areas. In this regard, due consideration must be given by the Security Council and ECOSOC to such new approaches.

Mr. Chairman,

11. My delegation would like to share our concerns regarding on the financial situation facing the United Nations, as it will directly affect the implementation and operation of UN peacekeeping operations. The estimated total cost of UN peacekeeping operations from 1948 to June 2004 has been about USD31.54 billion and the outstanding contributions to peacekeeping as of July 2004, stood at USD 2.48 billion. This further adds to the current financial problem. Besides urging member states to fulfill their financial obligations toward UN peacekeeping, my delegation would like to urge the United Nations to further explore new and innovative ways and means to raise funds for peacekeeping operations.

12. Finally, Malaysia would like to reaffirm that peacekeeping operations today remain one of the key mechanisms available to the United Nations in discharging its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security. As such, there is a need to further strengthen the partnership between the United Nations, the Secretariat, the troop-contributing countries and the wider membership of the United Nations in the face of complex peacekeeping operations. There is not only a need for a strong political will but also strong political willingness from member states to enable the United Nations to meet present and future challenges.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.