



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

AGENDA ITEM 108:
PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2004-2005
STRENGTHENED AND UNIFIED SECURITY MANGEMENT SYSTEM
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

THE FIFTH COMMITTEE
OF THE 59TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK
THURSDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2004

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. Let me begin by thanking the Secretary General for presenting his report on this very important agenda item. We also thank Mr. Vladimir Kuznetsov, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and Mr. Dileep Nair, the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for their respective remarks and observations.

2. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Malaysia attaches great importance to the issue of safety and security of United Nations staff and personnel. Malaysia pays tribute to the many courageous men and women who daily place their security and safety at risk in carrying out the mandate and responsibility entrusted to them by the Member States in various parts of the world.

4. We share the assessment of the Secretary General that as the role and responsibility of the United Nations is expanded to deal with issues ranging from promoting development to peacekeeping, the Organization is now faced with a security environment that presents unprecedented risks. The United Nations, driven by decisions made by Member States, has often found itself operating in conflict zones or other volatile areas. On many occasions, United Nations staff and personnel have had to face non-state actors who have little or no respect for the rules of war as well as the rule of law. The United Nations flag can no longer offer protection when United Nations personnel and premises have become targets of direct and deliberate attacks, which can no longer be viewed as isolated cases. Threats against the United Nations have fundamentally escalated.

5. The deteriorating security environment has placed United Nations staff members in the field as well as at the headquarters at greater risk. A large number of United Nations staff members are being deployed on potentially hazardous missions, alongside military units, established in areas at war or in situations of high risks to carry out the mandate entrusted to them. As a result, security has become an essential condition for United Nations personnel to carry on with urgent humanitarian and other mandates in the field.

6. Malaysia is gratified that the General Assembly had authorized last June additional resources for the first phase of implementation of urgently needed new security measures worldwide which included security infrastructure enhancements and new security posts for high-risks duty stations.

7. Malaysia welcomes and supports the ongoing efforts of the Secretary General to ensure the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises. We concur with the assertion by the Secretary General that the current security system is seriously fragmented and urgently in need of security reform. We are of the view that the Secretary General's proposed measures for the creation of a single, integrated security management system with the proposed establishment of a Directorate of Security merits serious consideration by Member States. We believe that a well-structured and effective response to the rapidly changing security environment, which the United Nations now faces, is of vital importance to address the security needs of the Organization in an efficient and effective manner. A clear line of authority, which ultimately leads to the head of the proposed Directorate, must also be established to reflect genuine integration in the accountability and responsibility framework.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Malaysia hopes that the proposed unified security structure will result in a genuine integration rather than merely enhanced coordination and will also help

to avoid duplication and potentially dangerous confusion, as pointed out in the Advisory Committee's report. We recognize that to achieve full and genuine integration, much work needs to be done.

9. Given the authority to exercise complete and effective control over all security matters on behalf of the Secretary General, the head of the proposed Directorate of Security must be someone with the required skill and expertise. Malaysia would like to stress the importance of the appointment of a person with extensive professional experience in the organization and management of complex international security functions for the post of Under-Secretary-General for the proposed directorate.

Mr. Chairman,

10. My delegation has taken serious note of the Secretary General's proposal to do away with the existing cost-sharing arrangements that have funded field security operations and the suggestion that it be part of the core budget of the Organization. Similarly we have also taken note of the important observations and views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in reacting to the proposal of the Secretary General. Given the importance of this issue we would like to urge that serious consideration and attention be given to achieve an amicable financial arrangement as soon as possible to enable the immediate implementation of a new single, integrated security management system. In our deliberations on this matter we believe that the Committee should always be mindful of the importance of putting in place a security management system that would contribute to the protection and prevention of further fatalities among those men and women serving under the United Nations banner.

11. On the primary responsibility of host countries to provide security and protection of United Nations staff members, their spouses, dependents and properties, Malaysia joins in calling all Member States, particularly where the

United Nations is involved in peacekeeping and peace-building, to continue to work with the United Nations to ensure safety and security of United Nations staff and personnel. Malaysia, which hosts a few United Nations agencies, will continue to honour its obligations in this regard.

12. Finally, Mr. Chairman, my delegation takes this opportunity to offer our prayers for the safety of the three United Nations international staff who were taken hostage last Thursday in Kabul, and we join the international community in calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

Thank you.