



Malaysia⁶

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

AGENDA ITEM 52: REVITALISATION OF THE WORK
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

AND

AGENDA ITEM 54: STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED
NATIONS SYSTEM

AT

THE PLENARY OF THE 59TH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

MONDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2004

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,

I should like to associate my delegation with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Algeria on Agenda 52: Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly in his capacity as coordinator of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Working Group on Reform of the United Nations and Revitalization of the General Assembly.

2. I join him and other speakers in paying tribute to H.E. Julian Hunte, President of the 58th General Assembly for his energetic leadership on the issue of the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. We now look towards your leadership and vision, Mr. President, in bringing forward the ongoing process to which Mr. Hunte had given great impetus and commitment. My delegation stands ready to support you in your efforts.

3. Leaders who spoke at the General Debate over the past two weeks had overwhelmingly expressed their support for the need to reform the United Nations and strengthen the organization to enable it to face threats and challenges of the 21st Century. Further to the call for reform and strengthening of the United Nations, member states have also raised questions pertaining to the General Assembly and its role within the framework of the United Nations system. The role of the General Assembly has been clearly outlined in Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter. As reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration, the General Assembly is the chief deliberative, policy – making and representative body of the United Nations. The General Assembly should be the true symbol of multilateralism that embodies the set of ideals and principles which member states depend upon.

4. The General Assembly has adopted Resolution 58/126 and 58/316 respectively as a means to revitalize the General Assembly, enhance the authority and role of the Assembly and improve its methods of work. Malaysia reaffirms its support for the work done thus far. We concur with the points raised earlier by Algeria on how we should move forward. There is certainly the urgent need to ensure the effective, full and proper implementation of the two resolutions.

5. It is true that prior to Resolutions 58/126 and 58/316, other resolutions to revitalize the General Assembly had been adopted in the past, and some improvements to the workings of the General Assembly had been achieved. However, there are still many other areas that have yet to be addressed. The key to success is the implementation of those resolutions. This aspect should be stressed above all else. A proper monitoring mechanism must be put in place to ensure that General Assembly resolutions are implemented. We must find ways of ensuring that the Assembly's decisions and recommendations are pursued, complied with and sincerely and wholeheartedly implemented by all parties concerned. Sponsors and co-sponsors of resolutions could play a more responsible role in ensuring not only ownership but also follow up, accountability and implementation. The role of the Secretariat is also crucial in this regard.

6. In continuing our work on the process of revitalizing the General Assembly, my delegation believes in the need to also focus on the following:-

- a) Strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly;
- b) Improvement in the methods of work;

- c) Further rationalization of the agenda, resolutions and reports; and
- d) Streamlining of the work of the Main Committees to be in keeping with the General Assembly Rules of Procedure.

Mr. President,

7. With regard to the Agenda Item 54, my delegation recalls General Assembly Resolution 58/269 on 23 December 2003 regarding the issue of strengthening the United Nations, which focuses on improving the methods of work and practices of the United Nations. We believe that all member states should continue to seriously look into the urgent implementation of the recommendations made under this resolution, especially in the full participation of the member states for the planning, programming and budgetary process of the United Nations.

8. We should emphasize here that the United Nations system is essentially an intergovernmental institution. However, we note the Secretary General's recommendations regarding the involvement of non-governmental organization on issues of mutual dialogue, as contained in the "Report of the Secretary General in response to the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations". We are willing to further examine those recommendations with other delegations and the Secretariat.

9. Malaysia continues to fully subscribe to the position of NAM on the strengthening of the United Nations as stated in the Final Document of the XIII NAM Summit held in Kuala Lumpur on 20th to 25th February 2003 and the Final Document of the XIV Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Durban on 17th to 19th August 2004. This issue is addressed in the NAM documents in a more encompassing manner. It is not just restricted to questions relating to the improvement of procedures and methods of work in the United Nations organs.

10. The Non-Aligned Movement is focused on the larger picture of the need to reform and strengthen the United Nations system as a whole. It calls for a comprehensive reform of all the United Nations organs, including the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This is to uphold the centrality of the United Nations in current global affairs, as envisaged under the Charter of the United Nations, especially in the maintenance of international peace and security and in promoting international cooperation. This is more relevant today in view of the many new challenges bearing down upon the organization. My delegation looks forward to the opportunity to further discuss the relevant issues relating to this question in this Assembly.

Thank you.