



# *Malaysia*

*Permanent Mission to the United Nations*

**STATEMENT BY**

**AMBASSADOR RADZI RAHMAN  
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 39 (a)  
NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT:  
PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT**

**AT**

**THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK**

**MONDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2004**

*[Please check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

1. Malaysia associates itself with the statement made earlier by the Distinguished Representative of Qatar on behalf of G 77 and China, as well as by the Distinguished Representative of Laos, on behalf of ASEAN.

2. My delegation would like to thank the Secretary General for his report, A/59/206 on the second consolidated report on the progress and implementation and international support for NEPAD, and A/59/285, on the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary General's report on the causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

3. We also wish to thank Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Under-Secretary General and Special Adviser on Africa, for his insightful and informative presentation to the Member States last Wednesday. We are pleased to learn from him that many projects are being implemented under NEPAD, in collaboration with the various agencies under the United Nations system, the development partners and various financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods Institutions. We also congratulate Mr. Gambari and his colleagues for the good work done.

Mr. President,

4. Africa as we are aware is a vast and a diverse continent. African countries have their own uniqueness, special needs and strengths. For many years the continent has drawn international attention in the struggle against poverty, hunger, communicable diseases, armed conflicts and a myriad of other woes that have hindered most of the countries in the continent from achieving sustainable development and political stability. NEPAD promises to bring about a changed social, political and economic in Africa.

5. The report of the Secretary General on the status of implementation of NEPAD is very encouraging. It is gratifying to know that progress has been achieved, albeit not evenly spread across all countries in Africa. We are especially encouraged by the fact that development programmes and projects have been well planned and spread to cover all essential sectors to move African countries towards a higher level of economic development. We are indeed pleased to note from the report that progress in developing sectoral policy frameworks, implementing specific programmes and projects and establishing targets for expenditures for specific sectors priorities have marked the past year. We support the current programmes and projects that focus on the key areas of infrastructure development, health, education, environment and tourism, agriculture, science and technology and industrialization. From the perspective of Malaysia's own development experience these are among the sectors that are essential to launch a country toward greater progress and development. We

note for example, the programme to convert 600,000 African schools into e-schools.

6. Malaysia has welcomed and strongly supported the efforts to bring an integrated approach towards development in Africa through NEPAD and we congratulate the African countries for supporting and adopting the initiative in their development agenda. We applaud the leaders of African countries for their continuing commitment and determination to take bold steps in bringing about economic growth, promoting sustainable development, reducing poverty and achieving food security as well as stability to their respective countries.

7. As confirmed by the Secretary General in his report, NEPAD has made some impact on Africa. There is no doubt that those African countries that have registered progress through NEPAD have proven that development and progress are achievable in Africa just like elsewhere and this achievement would certainly serve as an encouragement for other African states to emulate. Their experiences could be offered as best practices to fellow African countries. Malaysia would like to emphasise that implementation of programmes and projects under NEPAD will succeed with external assistance. The international community, in particular our development partners and the United Nations systems, should continue to provide the necessary assistance to sustain the current positive momentum for change under NEPAD. There is so much that the African countries can do, and we are all aware of their current limitations and constraints especially in financial resources particularly among the least developed countries in Africa. We are encouraged to observe that the international community has responded quite positively with a series of international actions that are geared towards aiding the implementation of NEPAD, including the establishment of the International Commission for Africa by the Government of the United Kingdom.

8. The financial needs required to meet the objectives set for NEPAD has been clearly defined at various conferences and summits. We are aware that efforts involving development partners, international and regional financial institutions and the UN system have been initiated to provide the necessary resources to finance programmes and projects under NEPAD. We welcome debt relief efforts that have the potential to benefit African countries, especially the decision by G8 Leaders to extend the duration of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiatives to 2006. However we share the concern of African countries that more needs to be done to address the important question of their debt sustainability to ensure a long-term solution to the debt problem faced by developing countries especially the LDCs, the majority of whom are in Africa. In this connection we urge the development partners, particularly the creditor countries of the North to look beyond the HIPC Initiatives for ways and means, including new and innovative ideas, to ease and assist affected countries to acquire firmer and sustainable national financial standing. We wish also to join the others in echoing the call to development partners to fulfill their pledges on

their shares of ODA targets meant for African countries to enable the full implementation of NEPAD.

9. As expressed in many fora, we believe that trade would be one of the practical and effective means to assist African countries, since the majority of African countries are agricultural and commodity producing and exporting countries. Developed countries must continue to make further efforts to open up their markets to exports from African countries, particularly agricultural products and commodities. Developed countries must also undertake the necessary measures to eliminate their agricultural export subsidies and reduce trade-distorting domestic farm support with a view to helping African countries earn their fair share from their agricultural exports. Only then can we talk about exploring the potentials for raising domestic sources of financing for development in Africa.

Mr. President,

10. It has been acknowledged, including in the Secretary General's report, that South-South Cooperation could play a crucial role to compliment and supplement other efforts to promote development in Africa. The international community should take advantage by promoting South-South Cooperation under the many existing initiatives among developing countries, which could serve as another important track to promote growth in Africa.

11. Malaysia is a firm believer in the potentials of South-South Cooperation. For more than two decades Malaysia has incorporated programmes on South-South Cooperation in our foreign policy and national development plan. In our modest way to share our development experiences with other developing countries, Malaysia has invited many African countries in the last twenty years to participate in various development-related training programmes under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). Besides offering technical and administrative training Malaysia is also a strong supporter, active participant and initiator and has played host to development dialogues with Africa, in particular the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) process. We are also a strong supporter and active participant in the Southern African International Dialogue (SAID) process. We have also participated without fail in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) initiated by Japan. In translating policy into action Malaysia has encouraged its private sector to seek partnerships and investments in many African countries with the objective of sharing our development experiences in areas essential to Africa and participating in the nation building process in Africa. We believe that the presence and involvement of our private sector in African development through their investments and business ventures would make a positive contribution toward the realization of various objectives of NEPAD. We do hope that the best practices in other developing countries, especially those related to the creation of

a conducive domestic environment to attract and sustain FDI would be of great value to many African countries.

Mr. President,

12. My delegation is most encouraged by the fact that the African countries are committed to NEPAD. They have demonstrated their resolve to undertake the necessary changes to enhance the potential of Africa towards people centered robust growth and lasting political stability. Many important intra-African initiatives have been established that empower Africans themselves to enhance the coordination, planning, implementation and monitoring of the programmes and projects under NEPAD and these are functioning well. While the African continent is making efforts to draw up and implement plans of action to create a conducive and enabling environment for the success of NEPAD, it is imperative for the international community to provide the well needed support to ensure that Africa succeeds in this endeavor. The success of NEPAD would certainly bring tremendous benefits to the global community.

I thank you, Mr. President.