Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(49)

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

AGENDA ITEM 45: INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW UP TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS,

AND

AGENDA ITEM 55: FOLLOW UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT

AT

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

NEW YORK

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Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking the Secretary General for his reports on the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, *and* the follow up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit as contained in documents A/59/545 and A/59/282 respectively. My delegation also welcomes the combining of these two interrelated agenda items in a joint debate in the interest of ensuring efficiency in the work of the General Assembly and a clear focus on the work that lies before us between now and September 2005.

2. My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered earlier by the Distinguished Representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the Distinguished Representative of Brunei Darussalam on behalf of member states of the Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Nonetheless my delegation wishes to highlight a few points of interest to Malaysia.

Mr. President,

3. The Secretary General's reports cover a spectrum of important issues relating to the Millennium Declaration and those of major conferences and summits. While the reports have served to enhance our awareness of the status of achievements and shortcomings in realizing the proclaimed goals, they at the same time remind us of the various complex and daunting challenges as well as promising opportunities that lie ahead. We welcome the Secretary General's recommendations as a basis for further consideration by Member States and the various bodies and institutions within the United Nations system.

4. Next year, the year 2005, has been earmarked to be an important year to review, assess and even take bold decisions, if necessary, on the status of implementation of the various decisions our leaders had agreed at the turn of this millennium in the year 2000. We are pleased that serious attention has been given to the achievement of the goals set in the Millennium Declaration by the convening of relevant follow-up conferences and summits that specifically focus on the goals and means of achieving those goals. We consider the high level international meetings and follow-up conferences to be convened next year, including sessions of the General Assembly and ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, to address various questions, including on social development, advancement of women, sustainable development, population, the family, HIV-AIDS, trade and financing for development as an important part of the process which would culminate in the High Level Plenary Meeting or Summit in September 2005.

5. Malaysia believes that the international community should continue to focus on follow up action to the Monterrey Consensus of the International

Conference on Financing for Development, the Plan of Implementation of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development and other important follow-up conferences and summits that would contribute to the realization of the Millennium Declaration and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. We congratulate the Secretary General for his vision and a number of his initiatives leading to the establishment of various supporting mechanisms to monitor, facilitate and assist in the implementation of the goals by member states. The Secretary General's efforts in particular through the UN Millennium Project and the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change as well as the series of informal consultations and dialogue carried out among member states and other actors, should keep everyone focused on the progress made and further measures required. In this connection Malaysia reaffirms the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and in promoting and coordinating international cooperation on development and international economic affairs. We commend the Organization for its excellent efforts to monitor and coordinate the progress of implementation of the MDGs. We believe that the international community must fully commit itself to this to ensure that the UN is able to maintain this role in the years to come, if necessary through reforms, which could be agreed upon at the 2005 Summit.

Mr. President,

6. Now is the time for serious reflection. By September 2005 we would have completed one third of the journey to our target date of 2015. By now we already have reasons to be concerned about the prospect of many countries, especially the least developed countries, not being able to meet many of the MDG targets. The report of the Secretary General and other reliable statistics from UN agencies and the Bretton Woods Institutions clearly indicate that while some countries are on track towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, many others still face enormous difficulties and obstacles to meet the set targets. HIV infection has reached alarming levels not only in Africa but also in parts of Asia and Eastern Europe. Poverty and the spread of HIV/AIDS and other serious communicable diseases remain a major problem. Incidences of poverty in many parts of the world have not been mitigated and in some cases have worsened. It is therefore imperative that the international community should be able to harness the knowledge, capacity, resources and technological tools that are necessary to achieve real progress in combating hunger and poverty, in coping with communicable diseases, in redressing the negative impact of globalization and in meeting the security threats and challenges arising from the failure to adequately address these questions, including the root causes of terrorism.

7. Malaysia believes that we have to seriously mobilize sufficient political will and find additional ways to move countries towards the path of progress in achieving the MDGs. New and innovative sources of financing for development must be found. The WTO trade negotiations on the Doha Round must result in the attainment of a final agreement that would hopefully deliver the promise for a

level playing field in trade for developing countries. A rollback of developed country trade barriers and subsidies in agriculture alone would improve global welfare by about $120 billion. Most of the MDGs require a multi-dimensional approach that calls for action at the international, regional and national levels. The need for international aid and assistance is central to this approach. As has been widely acknowledged, an estimated sum of $150 billion per year would be required to meet the goals set in the Millennium Declaration. Efforts must be focused on raising the required financial resources including through new and innovative sources of financing. While it is important to find ways and means to ensure that countries are able to meet the targets, it is equally important to prevent any regression in the goals that have already been achieved.

8. Malaysia is pleased to note that many developing countries are working closely with the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, and their development partners to introduce necessary reform and changes to their policies and national priorities to achieve social and economic development. Good governance is key to reform. But good governance at the national level must also be matched by the commitment to apply good governance at the international level to establish a dynamic and enabling international economic environment. This could surely facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy and allow them to share the benefits of globalization.

9. The international community must continue to introduce necessary reform and changes, including to the international financial architecture, to create a level playing field that would give a fair chance for developing countries to remain engaged with the increasing globalised world economy. In this regard, Malaysia believes that the deliberations that would proceed following the issuance of the reports of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, the Millennium Project and the Secretary General's own report expected in March 2005 as we prepare for the Summit to be held in September 2005 would be of utmost importance. We also believe that the results of summits and conferences held outside the UN system would also provide useful inputs to the 2005 Summit.

Mr. President,

10. The Secretary General in his report on Modalities, Format and Organization of the High Level Plenary Meeting of the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly has made useful proposals for consideration by member states. My delegation has offered our preliminary comments at the informal consultations conducted by the President earlier this month. We generally concur with the Secretary General's recommendations as well as the views already expressed by many delegations. We look forward to you, Mr. President, leading the preparatory process for the Summit. Like others we attach great importance to the Summit. We agree that the Summit should provide the opportunity to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the integrated follow-up to the major United Nations

conferences and summits in the economic social and related fields as well as to discuss other issues vital to the world, including the future of the United Nations. Malaysia will actively participate in the process in our national capacity as well as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. We will work closely with you, Mr. President, and with other delegations, the major groupings, the Secretary General and other actors in ensuring that the Summit would truly achieve the objectives that everyone hopes for.

I thank you Mr. President.