



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR RASTAM MOHD ISA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 10: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION**

AT

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

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,

I wish to express the appreciation of the Delegation of Malaysia to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and incisive report on the work of the organization, as contained in document A/59/1. I should like to congratulate the Secretary-General in particular for his initiatives and perseverance to ensure that the United Nations continues to have a central role in the multilateral decision-making process, maintenance of international peace and security and promotion of international cooperation.

2. As described in the Report of the Secretary-General, events and developments occurring in the last year have clearly demonstrated that the international community and the United Nations have had to confront many challenges through an extraordinarily challenging year. Most of these challenges require concerted efforts based on credible and effective multilateral cooperation and understanding premised on the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. The challenges of the maintenance of international peace and security; further strengthening of international cooperation; achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; eradication of poverty and hunger; promotion of trade and sustainable development; provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief; promotion of human rights, democracy, good governance, justice and rule of law in particular in post-conflict societies; fight against infectious diseases, and the international efforts to combat terrorism remain enormous for the United Nations and the international community. The Secretary-General has clearly envisioned the need for a more robust response. For this he has entrusted the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change to make bold and practicable recommendations on policies, processes and institutions. My delegation has welcomed the establishment of the Panel and looks forward to its recommendations. We agree that the United Nations has to change in order to better meet current and future challenges and threats.

Mr. President,

4. The call for reform of the United Nations continues to resonate in the General Assembly. During the recent General Debate, leaders had unanimously called upon Member States to take bold initiatives and steps to ensure genuine reform and restructuring of the Organization. Reform has to be undertaken in a comprehensive, holistic and objective manner involving all organs and relevant bodies of the United Nations.

5. My delegation continues to firmly uphold that the Security Council must be reformed and restructured to promote democratic practices in its decision-making, which would reflect international geopolitical realities and the overall current membership of the United Nations. We wish to reiterate that besides the question of increased membership of the permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council, the rights and privileges accorded to members, in particular the veto power vested in the permanent members, must be seriously reviewed with a view to phasing it out completely in due course. Similarly, the process of revitalizing the General Assembly must continue. This includes possible rectification of the injustice brought about by a veto exercised by a Permanent Member in the Security Council, for instance, by way of making certain types of resolutions in the General Assembly capable of setting aside a veto in the Security Council.

6. In his Report, the Secretary-General has elaborated on several armed conflicts and their grim consequences and ramifications. Conflicts remain unresolved in the Middle East, while at the same time longstanding and new conflicts in the African region continue to require the international

community's attention. The courageous efforts of the leaders of Africa, *inter alia*, through the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism to address the root causes of conflict and deploy the African Union's own peacekeeping forces in the continent must be commended and supported.

7. My delegation also takes note of the continuing efforts by the United Nations development agencies in assisting Member States in addressing the root causes of conflict and in building their long-term capacity for the peaceful settlement of disputes. The increase in the number of peace building and peacekeeping missions in the past year has also placed greater strain on the Organization's resources and its capacity to plan, deploy and manage those missions. In this regard my delegation would like to urge Member States to positively respond to the call for sustained political support and for an increase in the financial commitment of the Member States to further ensure the success of United Nations peace building and peacekeeping missions. We should not shy away from supporting and committing ourselves to the efforts and programmes that are being carried out under the auspices of the United Nations, be they attempts aimed at prevention and resolution of conflicts, provision of humanitarian assistance in conflict areas or post-conflict peace building in accordance with the Charter. Malaysia remains committed to supporting UN peacekeeping and peace building activities.

8. On the situation in the Middle East, the case of Iraq is a clear example where nations cannot go it alone, particularly in reconstruction efforts and in bringing back peace and security. Once again my delegation would like to stress that the United Nations has a role and should be given that rightful role to play in Iraq. As we see it, what is needed now is a collective will to enable the United Nations to undertake its responsibility in a secure and safe environment. This could then provide the incentive and opportunity for Member States of the United Nations to fulfill their obligations and assist Iraq in reconstruction and post-conflict peace-building efforts. Malaysia is prepared to participate under such circumstances.

9. My delegation strongly believes that the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine remain an important cornerstone in the work of the United Nations. Serious work needs to be done in the General Assembly and the Security Council and also by the Secretary-General. We are concerned that efforts in the Security Council have been blocked most recently. We are equally concerned that there are also declared intentions to curtail United Nations activities concerning Palestine in respect of work done at the General Assembly and subsidiary bodies created by it as well as work done by the Secretariat and UN agencies. The historic advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of A Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has indeed been a great achievement. However, it is most unfortunate as well as unacceptable that follow up action to the advisory opinion has not been taken including in the Security Council. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory remains volatile and the humanitarian situation has deteriorated even further. There is no solution other than the end of Israeli occupation and the creation of a Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, with Israel and Palestine co-existing peacefully side-by-side within secure and recognized borders.

10. The United Nations must be allowed to play a role to resuscitate the Roadmap together with other members of the Quartet. At the same time the international community must also lend its full weight to push for an independent and sovereign state of Palestine. To create an environment of confidence for the speedy resuscitation of the Roadmap, we must seriously consider approving the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force or the placement of an international monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of the Roadmap. Malaysia urges the Secretary-General to exert more efforts in this connection.

Mr. President,

11. Malaysia continues to be gravely concerned over terrorist acts and state terrorism which are capable of undermining peace and security at the national, regional and international levels. Malaysia has extended and will continue to extend its full cooperation and support to international efforts to eliminate this scourge. However, my delegation continues to believe that this question warrants an appreciation of its complexity. The issue should be approached in a comprehensive manner, namely by formulating a universally accepted definition, identifying the root causes and undertaking appropriate measures to deal with them, as well as working towards universalizing international legal instruments concerning this question. We maintain that the United Nations has a vital role to play in this regard, including in the convening of an international conference on terrorism.

12. On the threat to international security posed by all weapons of mass destruction Malaysia is concerned over the slow pace of progress to achieve complete and general disarmament, particularly nuclear weapons. We believe that while the threat of proliferation of WMDs must be confronted, attention should not be diverted from the need to proceed speedily with work on disarmament carried out within the United Nations. Malaysia also believes that the problem of small arms and light weapons which have caused death and injury to millions of human beings, many of them innocent civilians and non-combatants, must continue to be seriously addressed. Efforts must be deployed to regulate and restrict the flow of small arms and light weapons to prevent illicit transfers.

13. A lot has been said at the United Nations about democracy, justice and rule of the law. My delegation agrees that the promotion of democracy and good governance, as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are mutually reinforcing. While the rule of law and democratic principles are observed in our own countries, we must find genuine ways and means to ensure that this is also observed in relations among states. The policy and practice of pursuing unilateral coercive measures as a means of exerting pressure on countries to achieve certain national objectives are clearly contrary to the fundamental principles of democracy, international law and norms of international relations. They are also often counter-productive. The United Nations should be the place and forum for resolving such issues of collective concern.

14. Greater political will and deeper commitment on all sides are needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. High levels of mortality and the uncontrollable spread of deadly diseases are important issues that require urgent attention. Similarly, the donor community should also increase the humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of millions of people affected by conflicts and natural disasters. This is where multilateral cooperation should work at its best; the rich helping the poor while the poor are committed to helping themselves. There has to be greater North-South cooperation in terms of trade, investments and financing for development. There has to be also a concerted effort to increase South-South cooperation. The United Nations can help facilitate and even spearhead many of these efforts.

14. The recently launched initiative to reduce hunger and eradicate poverty as contained in the New York Declaration on Action Against Hunger and Poverty of 20 September 2004 is highly commendable. Similarly, the forthcoming International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Mauritius early next year deserves serious attention and support from the international community. Clearly, more needs to be done vigorously by the international community to eradicate poverty and

hunger, eliminate deadly diseases, promote sustainable development and narrow the digital divide. The United Nations system remains our hope in bringing forward our commitments to fruition.

Mr. President,

15. Our hope for a better and peaceful world for all remains with the United Nations. For almost six decades now the United Nations has struggled to maintain its role as envisaged in the Charter, in spite of the imperfections, shortcomings and constraints imposed upon it by none other than the Member States themselves. The United Nations is the beacon for multilateralism that needs to keep burning. It needs to be reformed and restructured according to the times in keeping with the current and future challenges. The Secretary-General has constantly reminded us of that. This General Assembly session, under your guidance, should be able to set the pace for the hard work that is required ahead. Let us respond to the Secretary-General's hope that to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations, "Member States, the Secretariat and other entities of the United Nations system, civil society and business organizations, as well as individuals around the world will work together to ensure that the anniversary will be worthy of the United Nations and everything for which it stands".

I thank you, Mr. President.