



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE PLENARY ON AGENDA ITEM 110: "REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION" (A/60/1)**

29 SEPTEMBER 2005

Mr. President,

Let me begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and incisive report on the work of the organization, as contained in document A/60/1. My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by Jamaica on behalf of the G77 and China.

2. For the last two weeks, this Assembly has been engaged in the High-Level Plenary Meeting and the General Debate, and the World Summit has adopted the Outcome Document. This is a momentous time that Member States should seize upon, and not lose momentum, in bringing about the necessary reform of the United Nations. In this regard, I wish to underline Malaysia's position that the reform of the United Nations system to enhance its effectiveness must also lead to the promotion and strengthening of multilateralism.

Mr. President,

3. As described by the Secretary-General in his report, this past year has witnessed both progress and setbacks for the organization and the world in many areas, in particular in the fields of international peace and security as well as in international economic cooperation and development. While we support adequate attention to be given to issues related to international peace and security, we are particularly concerned that not much progress has been registered in the field of international economic cooperation and development.
4. Malaysia feels strongly that special attention must be paid to the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We are concerned of the fact that at the current rate of progress, the MDGs are expected to be realized only in 2147, rather than the initial target year of 2015. In our efforts to achieve the MDGs, we should continue to be mindful of the current as well as the emerging challenges facing us. Clearly, the biggest challenges facing the

developing countries is poverty eradication and in the area of financing for development. There are over one billion people - that is one in every six people around the world - who live in extreme poverty, subsisting on less than one US Dollar a day.

5. The situation regarding financing for development is equally worrisome, if not critical. More than 30 years ago, the richest countries had committed themselves to provide 0.7 percent of their gross national income (GNI) as Official Development Assistance (ODA), particularly for the poorest countries. However, the amount given had only amounted to a mere 0.25 percent of the combined Gross National Income of countries that are members of the OECD's development assistance committee (DAC). In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the adoption by the European Union (EU) of clear timelines for reaching the 0.7 percent target.
6. Apart from this, the international financial architecture should also be reformed. Eight years ago, East Asia was battered by a financial crisis, which in turn had trans-regional repercussions threatening the health of the global economy. A current issue that could also threaten to imperil the global economy, which this organization should address, is the prolonged and sustained increase in oil prices. This burden is disproportionately borne by developing countries, hence impoverishing them further. It is reprehensible that the poor are expected to absorb the cost of instabilities of production.

Mr. President,

7. The Secretary-General's Report elaborated on conflict situations in many parts of the world. In this regard, UN peacekeeping operations have continually proven to be an indispensable tool for the maintenance of peace and security, both in the context of interstate and intra-state conflicts. The increase in the number of peacebuilding 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. 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 ensure success of these missions.
8. Peacebuilding is another important component in the maintenance of international peace and security. We have seen, all too clearly, in the past where countries under stress or recovering from conflict have slid back into anarchy and failure. It is in this note that Malaysia supports the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, which could play a pivotal role in assisting countries emerging from conflict in their economic development and institution of the rule of law. The Peacebuilding Commission to be formed should be under the aegis of this Assembly and deal with post-conflict situations.
9. The United Nations should also not lose sight of the long, outstanding problem confronting the organization, since its inception – that is, the Question of Palestine. Malaysia welcomes the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza but it should be

part of the Road Map and should be quickly followed by similar measures in the West Bank. Israel should also cease all activities relating to the issue of settlements, including in and around Jerusalem, as well as the construction of the Separation Wall, which has been pronounced illegal by the International Court of Justice. The United Nations must remain engaged in efforts for the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. We had faced and had fought terrorism in the past. We had been successful in defeating the terrorist threat not just by conventional use of military force alone, but also by winning the hearts and mind of the people. It is for this reason, Malaysia has been calling for an understanding of the root causes of terrorism to be able to address the issue most efficiently. My delegation also holds to the distinction between acts of terrorism and the right of people fighting for self-determination, and that terrorism should not be associated with any particular race or religion.
11. In our efforts to address the multiplicity of international security threats, we should be reminded that norms and principles of international law should not be set aside. The larger membership of the Organization has a vital stake in ensuring these efforts are undertaken in the collective spirit, ensuring the centrality of the multilateral process. Multilateralism is still the best option in dealing with threats and challenges besetting the world today - for ensuring peace and security in the relations between nations, for combating terrorism, for protecting human rights, and for enforcing compliance with international law.
12. An issue related to the peace and security agenda that was conspicuously missing in the Summit Outcome Document is disarmament and non-proliferation. We are deeply concerned following the failure of the NPT Review Conference in May 2005 to adopt a final consensus document, the World Summit too failed to adopt even a single paragraph on disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, the General Assembly needs to clearly signal to the wider public that this august body is seized on this critical issue, as weapons of mass destruction pose the greatest threat to human existence. We also need to bear in mind that we need to address the question of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear technology - the three pillars of the NPT – in a balanced manner. The Assembly should also give greater attention in addressing the threat of proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Mr. President,

13. The threats and challenges contained in the Secretary-General's Report are numerous and multi-tiered. The Summit Outcome Document, although far from perfect, outlines the reforms this Organization could undertake to meet these threats and challenges.

14. To address these reforms, the effective management and modernization of the organization need to be enhanced. It is important for Member States to bear in mind that without adequate resources, this process will not succeed. The General Assembly as the most representative body of this organization must be at the forefront of the reform process. It must continue to be empowered and reinvigorated to play a substantive role. It must act as the main deliberative and policy-making body of the United Nations. Together with the reform of the General Assembly, the Summit also called for a reform of the whole United Nations system. To this end, we need to be actively engaged in transparent, constructive consultations in working towards acceptable decisions on the establishment of the Human Rights Council and Peacebuilding Commission as well as the reform of the Security Council, Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat.

Mr. President,

15. This is a momentous period for the United Nations. Recalling your words during the closing of the General Debate a few days back, the coming days and weeks will determine whether the World Summit goes down in history as a missed chance for the United Nations, or the start of the most substantial reform programme in the history of the organization. My delegation hopes for the latter and we will fully support you in your effort to move the process forward.

Thank you.