



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

(15)

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAMIDON ALI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE
AT THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK
TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me join other speakers in congratulating you on your appointment as the Chairman of the Second Committee of the 60th General Assembly. I also wish to congratulate the other members of the Bureau. The adoption of the Outcome Document of the High-Level Plenary Meeting has certainly placed an important role to the Second Committee. My delegation is confident that under your able stewardship, the Committee will come to a fruitful conclusion. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

2. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, as well as the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Nevertheless, I wish to touch on a number of important issues which are of particular interest and concern to my delegation.

3. I wish also to thank Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs Jose Antonio Ocampo for his statement yesterday. We concur with his view that the 2005 World Summit has reaffirmed the faith in the multilateral system.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The United Nations through its summits and conferences has identified many challenges confronting developing countries in achieving the necessary development goals. The biggest challenge of all is poverty eradication. We are encouraged that the recent 2005 World Summit reaffirmed our determination to ensure timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives. We are hopeful the reiteration of our commitments would contribute to galvanize real efforts towards poverty eradication. We believe that eradication of poverty is a collective responsibility which requires the sustained efforts of all stakeholders, both in the developing and developed countries as well as the United Nations system.

5. The various programs of actions that have been prescribed and adopted will not be able to be fully implemented and sustained if not supported by the required financial resources. Malaysia therefore is of the view that financing for development is one of the most crucial and core issue in international cooperation for development. Unfortunately, developing countries as a whole continue to face limited access to international sources of financing for development activities. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the adoption by the European Union (EU) of a set of clear timelines for reaching the 0.7 per cent target of its Gross National Income (GNI) as Official Development Assistance (ODA). As a complement to this process, we would like to recall our proposal that was adopted at the G-77 Second South Summit that urged for the establishment of an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure that the internationally agreed targets for ODA allocation by the developed countries are met and are on time.

6. We welcome the offer by the Government of Qatar to host the follow-up Conference to the International Conference on Financing for Development next year. We urge the international community to take that opportunity to press for a new international framework on financing for development that will be more supportive of development efforts by the developing and the developed countries that will benefit the whole global economy. We also believe that this conference will provide an opportunity to the international community to strengthen international cooperation for development by addressing institutional and systemic issues, including the reform of the international financial architecture in a holistic manner. It is also our hope that the conference would be able to find more innovative ways and means for the mobilization of additional financial resources towards realizing the internationally agreed development targets set forth

in the Millennium Declaration and as reiterated in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Malaysia is fully committed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We have to-date successfully achieved 7 out of the 8 Goals. Nevertheless, we need to improve further in the areas of health and education in terms of spatial, ethnic, gender and age; in eradicating extreme poverty among indigenous peoples; in promoting gender equality in terms of economic and political as well as eliminating gender-based violence; and in improving pre-school education coverage, performance, content and the use of ICT. We need to improve too in the area of environmental management by better policy implementation and halting the spread of HIV/AIDs through prevention, treatment and care. Malaysia also hopes to attain the World Health Organisation's population-to-doctor ratio of 600 to one by the year 2018.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The sharp increase in the price of crude oil in the world market is a matter of grave concern to many of us. This has adversely affected the economies of most developing countries, creating further hardship to their already fragile economies. In this regard, the international community should give serious attention to measures to mitigate the impact of rising crude oil prices on the economy of developing countries. The UN can play a leading role to canvass urgent international cooperation and response to deal with the issue. On the domestic front, national governments should be encouraged to adopt measures to reduce the country's dependence on diesel and petrol through conservation and encouraging increasing use of natural gas and other alternative energy sources such as palm oil-based biodiesel as a viable and cost effective alternative to fossil fuels for motor vehicles. Malaysia has already undertaken measures that would help to reduce dependency on fossil fuel.

9. The Avian influenza virus presently affecting some countries in the Southeast Asian region is a major cause of concern to my country. In addition to the deaths, an estimated US\$10 billion to US\$ 15 billion in losses to the poultry industry have been recorded so far in Southeast Asia. According to the United Nations, a global influenza pandemic could occur at any time and claim anywhere between 5 million and 150 million lives depending on steps the world takes to combat the H5N1 strain of bird flu. We therefore urge the international community through the United Nations to give serious attention to this emerging threat.

Mr. Chairman,

10. We have witnessed the impact of globalization on the world economy in particular among the developing countries. While a few have managed to take advantage of the opportunities provided by globalization, many others, especially the LDCs, have suffered economic hardship and further marginalization. Globalization must be managed to create a new global order that would bring benefit to both developed and developing countries. Genuine efforts must be undertaken to seriously address a number of fundamental issues related to the international financial and trading systems. If globalization is properly regulated it could assist in correcting the prevailing inequities between the developed and developing countries.

11. Malaysia has benefited from globalization through trade liberalization and foreign direct investment. According to the A.T. Kearney Globalisation Index this year, Malaysia was ranked the 4th open and economically integrated economy in the world. My country's external trade had continued to expand by 9.8% to reach RM 53.9 billion (US\$ 14.2 billion) in the first seven months of this year. In terms of World Economic Forum(WEF) global competitiveness, my country's competitiveness has improved by seven places to 24th this year. Malaysia has also become an increasingly popular tourist destination. Tourist arrivals to Malaysia had increased from 10.6 million in 2003 to 15.7 million in 2004 generating revenues of RM 29.7 billion (US\$7.82 billion). We are targeting 19 million tourist arrivals in 2007 as we celebrate the country's 50th anniversary of its independence.

12. Malaysia is fully committed to achieving the targets set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Agenda 21 in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. Malaysia continues to take appropriate action to ensure that its development is sustainable and balanced. The principles of sustainable development are integrated into development and implementation. A comprehensive approach, which takes into account the population's socio-economic needs as well as the enhancement of the quality of life through improvements in productivity and conservation of the natural environment has been adopted. In this regard, my delegation looks forward to participate actively in the 14th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) in New York from 1 to 12 May 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

13. Malaysia attaches great importance to South-South Cooperation. In this connection, on 28 September 2005 Malaysia had officially launched the South-South Information Gateway (SSIG) as a one-stop information center where all information would be made available according to the perspective of the countries of the South. At the initial stage, the SSIG will focus on the exchange of radio, television, film and news content between developing countries. This exchange will benefit the countries of the South by encouraging business opportunities besides fostering stronger relationship and understanding amongst countries of the South.

14. In light of the adoption of the Outcome Document, the year 2006 will be a decisive year for development issues. The time for stocktaking and general assessment has clearly passed. We must now decide whether it is going to be "business as usual" with delegations coming out with mere rhetorics as in the past, or are we going to work together, in a spirit of global partnership between developing and developed countries to operationalise what our Leaders had agreed upon for the benefit of our common planet and for the future of all humankind.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.