



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

Revised Version

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HAMIDON ALI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON AGENDA ITEM 26: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AT THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK
MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I should like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Fourth Committee for the 60th Session of the General Assembly. My delegation offers you and other members of the Bureau its fullest cooperation in carrying out the tasks before you. We are confident that you will discharge them effectively.

2. I should also like to compliment His Excellency Mr. Kyaw Tint Swe of Myanmar and to the other members of the outgoing Bureau for the exemplary manner in which they conducted the proceedings of the Committee during the 59th session.

3. I should also thank too the Chairman of the Special Committee on Decolonization, His Excellency Mr. Julian Hunte of Saint Lucia for providing an enlightening perspective on the works of the Special Committee and to the Rapporteur, His Excellency Mr. Fayssal Mekdad of Syria for introducing the detailed report of the Committee. I wish to also take this opportunity to express our condolences to the countries seriously affected by the earthquake in South Asia, in particular Pakistan and India. We deeply regret the loss of lives, and the material damages suffered by the people of the 2 countries.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Since its inception, the United Nations has taken it as an important task to help the vast number of colonial countries and peoples to exercise their right to self-determination and strive for independence. It is of great significance that a large number of countries had exercised their right to self-determination and attained their independence following the adoption in 1960 of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. More than 80 former colonies have gained their independence. However, there are still a number of Non Self-Governing Territories remaining today that serve as a constant reminder to us that our work is far from complete.

5. We are already at the mid-point of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001-2010), mandated by the General Assembly at its 55th

Session in December 2000, which called for the redoubling of efforts to implement the Plan of Action for the Second Decade. At this juncture, I should like to congratulate the Secretary-General on the report submitted pursuant to the provisions contained in resolution 55/146 and the Plan of Action on action taken by the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies to implement the Decolonization process. The international community, the administering Powers, the specialized agencies, in particular the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has a duty to bring the process of decolonization to a successful conclusion.

6. In this regard, I should like to congratulate the people and Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for successfully hosting the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization in May this year, which takes place during the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. I should also like to express my appreciation to the Special Committee on Decolonization for its important contributions towards the successful conclusion of the seminar. The seminar continues to provide valuable opportunity to take stock of the progress that has been made in decolonization, and also provided opportunities for representatives of the peoples of the Territories to present their views and recommendations to the Committee as well as formulating strategies for achieving the objective of eradicating colonialism before the end of the decade.

7. The recommendations contained in the report adopted by acclamation at the conclusion of the seminar merit consideration and follow-up. These recommendations should be utilized as tools to serve the needs of the people of the Territories themselves. Many of these Territories have made considerable progress in their political, constitutional, economic and social development and have gone a long way towards self-government. The question is one of finding the appropriate format and timing for the completion of decolonization in each Territory. The role of the Special Committee, and indeed of the UN as a whole is crucial. My delegation supports the recommendation for the Special Committee to embark on a public awareness campaign to foster an understanding among peoples of the Non-Self Governing Territories of the self-determination options included in the relevant United Nations resolutions on Decolonization, especially within the context of developing work programmes for specific Territories. In this respect, the United Nations information centers, especially those in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, could play significant role in disseminating information, promoting public awareness and mobilizing support and assistance for any consultation process to be held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory regarding any act of self-determination.

8. The administering powers too have an important role to play. The importance of their participation in the work of the Special Committee deserves serious attention. Malaysia calls upon them to fulfill their responsibility in a spirit of cooperation, understanding, political realism and flexibility. In this regard, my delegation calls on the Special Committee to continue to encourage the resumption of negotiations between the governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom with the aim of finding a solution to the question of the Falklands Islands (Malvinas), taking into consideration the interests of the peoples of the islands. With regard to Western Sahara, Malaysia urged the parties concern to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which would provide for the self-determination of the people in that Territory, in a manner consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

9. As the current Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), we feel it is necessary to highlight that NAM has played a significant role on the issue of decolonization and the right of self-determination. The Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement at their XIII Conference held in Kuala Lumpur in February 2003, reaffirmed the inalienable right of peoples of the Non-Self Governing Territories to self-determination and independence in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, regardless of the territory's size, geographical location, population and limited natural resources. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement remains committed to the goal of complete elimination of colonialism and supports the effective implementation of the Plan of Action of the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. NAM had welcomed General Assembly Resolution 55/146, which declared the Second Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism from 2001 to 2010.

10. The Non-Aligned Movement wishes also to reaffirm the right of all people who were or are still subjected to colonial rule or occupation to receive fair compensation for the human and material losses they suffered as a result of colonial rule or occupation. Colonizing countries should bear the full responsibility and pay full compensation for the economic, social and cultural consequences of their occupation.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Malaysia continues to support the right of territories to self-determination and independence. The principle of self-determination should be implemented in accordance with the wishes of the people, consistent with the United Nations General Assembly resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations. Malaysia also supports the work of the Special Committee on Decolonization. We urge that adequate financial and human resources be provided to the Special Committee to enable it to complete its noble efforts to assist countries and territories toward decolonization. We shall continue to maintain solidarity with the people of the Non-Self Governing Territories and to cooperate with the Bureau of the Committee on the way forward for their eventual independence.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman