



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAMIDON ALI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
(ASEAN) ON AGENDA ITEM 66(a): NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S
DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL
SUPPORT AT THE PLENARY SESSION
OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2005**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprising of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Malaysia. ASEAN also wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

2. We wish to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and thorough report on the progress of implementation and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as contained in document A/60/178.

Mr. President,

3. Since the launching of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) four years ago, there has been a transformation of the African peoples moving forward towards greater integration and unity. The African countries determination to maintain a positive momentum, despite the many and complex challenges, is truly admirable. We are aware from the report of the Secretary-General that the African countries have taken action on many fronts including in infrastructure development, information and communication technology, health, education, agriculture and many other important areas. The international community has made a pledge to meet the special needs of Africa. With the

appropriate international response, African countries would have a greater chance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and integrating better into the world economy. In this connection, ASEAN hopes that partnerships for Africa's development could be further strengthened.

4. The partnership between Asia and Africa is a long-standing and was further strengthened at the inaugural Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung in 1955. This historical occasion had given rise to a unique spirit of kinship and solidarity known as the "Bandung Spirit" among the countries of the two regions. The 2005 Asia-Africa Summit and the Golden Jubilee of the Asia-Africa Conference of 1955 held earlier this year in Indonesia had revived the commitment of the two continents to build a world resting on the principles of peace, security, stability and prosperity. A bridge spanning the Indian Ocean connecting the continents of Asia and Africa is now being built through the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership (NAASP).

5. There is much common ground between NEPAD and NAASP as the challenges being addressed by Africa are similar to those faced by other developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region including ASEAN. Poverty still exists in rural and urban areas. Both regions also face the pandemic of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria. The destructive forces of natural disasters had also affected our lives. With such similarities, it is only natural that Asia and Africa work together. In this regard, as a sub-regional organization, ASEAN would very much like to have greater dialogue and cooperation in the full materialization of NEPAD as well as NAASP. Such a dialogue has been ongoing including through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and the Asia-Africa Sub-Regional Organizations Conference (AASROC) in which ASEAN has been actively participating.

Mr. President,

6. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate ASEAN's commitment to the successful implementation of NEPAD and the NAASP which are complementary efforts, and we hope that the international community will continue to give its full support to them.

Thank you, Mr. President.