



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAMIDON ALI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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,

Malaysia associates itself with the statement made earlier by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

2. My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the state of progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as well as the report on the support given by the United Nations system for NEPAD. We are pleased to learn that many projects are being implemented under NEPAD, in collaboration with the various agencies under the United Nations system, the development partners and various financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods Institutions. My delegation also welcomes the report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International support for NEPAD, entitled "From rhetoric to action: mobilizing international support to unleash Africa's potential". The publication of all these reports on NEPAD again underscores the importance that this august body and the international community attach to the continued development and well-being of Africa.

3. We wish to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, Under-Secretary General and former Special Adviser for Africa on his new assignment as the Under-Secretary General in the Department of Political Affairs effective from 1 July 2005. We are confident that the Secretary-General would expeditiously appoint a candidate of equal caliber to the post of Special Adviser for Africa as the portfolio, which entails the promotion of international support for NEPAD and the development of Africa, is indeed very important.

Mr. President,

4. As we have previously enunciated in the past, Malaysia views NEPAD as a courageous and bold undertaking by the African countries to prevent their further marginalization from the process of globalization. In their efforts to integrate with the global economy African countries themselves must have the ownership of their development programmes in partnership with the relevant international agencies. In this regard, we consider NEPAD as the most viable socio-economic blueprint that could bring sustained economic growth that would in turn contribute to the strengthening of democracy, as well as enabling greater enjoyment of human rights for all the people in the continent.

5. Malaysia welcomed and strongly supported the efforts to bring development in Africa through NEPAD. We commend the African countries for supporting and adopting the initiative in their development agenda. We also applaud the leaders of the African countries for their continuing commitment and steadfast determination to take bold steps in promoting sustainable economic growth and social development, reducing poverty and achieving food security as well as political stability in their respective countries. I wish to recall that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) too, at the XII Conference of Heads of State or Government of NAM in Kuala Lumpur in February 2003 commended the establishment of NEPAD and supported its full implementation.

Mr. President,

6. We are all aware that Africa faces numerous, multifaceted and a complex range of issues, issues which are both challenging and must be dealt with in a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated manner. The continent still lags behind the target of six per cent growth in Gross National Product per annum as has been established by the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. It has been noted that Africa will require an average annual economic growth of seven per cent to enable it to reduce by half the number of people living in poverty in the continent by 2015. This could only be achieved with external assistance particularly from the developed countries, in terms of providing financial resources, foreign direct investments as well as opening up markets for exports from African countries. In this connection, we share the view of the Secretary-General that NEPAD cannot succeed without a significant increase in support from the international community and that unleashing Africa's potential for development requires harnessing the creativity and dynamism of private initiative in a range of areas, including in agriculture, industry, science and technology, and infrastructure development. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the agreement by the Group of 8 to cancel the debt of the poorest 18 countries, the majority of whom are in Africa. We are also pleased with 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) and to double its aid to more than US\$ 80 billion a year by 2010.

7. Malaysia is of the view that the establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) could contribute further to the efforts leading toward

achieving the goals set under NEPAD. In this regard, we hope further initiatives could be undertaken to encourage and to enable African countries to accede to the APRM. We also acknowledge the important contributions and roles of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia is pleased with the existing state of relations and the level of cooperation with Africa. Nonetheless we would continue to explore additional ways and means to further promote cooperation with countries in the continent. Malaysia's trade and economic links with Africa have grown at a satisfactory rate. In 2002, our trade with Africa totaled US\$ 1.353 billion. Last year, in 2004, it rose to US\$ 2.215 billion, an increase of 64 per cent within a span of 2 years. Malaysia will continue to encourage its private sector to promote and further enhance its close economic ties with its counterparts in the African countries for mutual benefit.

9. Since 1980, within the framework of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), Malaysia has offered technical cooperation in areas in which Malaysia has comparative advantage in term of experience and expertise to 46 African countries. Malaysia considers this programme as its modest but useful contribution to Africa in the context of South-South Cooperation. We had also engaged African partners, at both governmental and private sector levels, through the annual Langkawi International Dialogue(LID) and Southern African International Dialogue(SAID) convened under the auspices of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technical Development(CPTM). Malaysia had participated as an observer at the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) and looks forward to actively participating again at the TICAD IV in Japan 2008. Malaysia also supports the New Asian –African Strategic Partnership adopted at the 2005 Asian-African Summit in Jakarta.

10. In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Malaysia's commitment towards cooperating with our African brothers and sisters in their collective efforts towards achieving peace, sustainable development and prosperity in their countries. Malaysia reiterates that it will do its utmost within its limited means and capacity to join others in assisting Africa, a continent that holds tremendous resources and potentials, in developing its own capacity to fully integrate into the world economy.

Thank you, Mr. President.