



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

Please check against delivery

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON
AGENDA ITEM 67:
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN
AT
THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNGA
NEW YORK, 17TH OCTOBER 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

At the World Summit for Children in 1990 the World Leaders recognised the need for millions of children living in especially difficult circumstances to receive special attention, protection and attention. We promised to protect children and to diminish their suffering, to promote the fullest development of the human potential of every child, to make them aware of their needs, their rights and their opportunities and to put the best interests of children first. Since then, deliberate actions through national programs by concerned nations have brought about tremendous changes in the lives of children all over the world.

2. The Secretary-General, in his progress report, has described the global picture toward meeting the goals set in the Plan of Action for "A world fit for children" as significantly encouraging in the last one year. This is attributed to a greater number of countries that have taken action to incorporate the goals and commitments agreed during the 2002 Special Session into their national policy and planning instruments. We are indeed encouraged by this development.

3. We nonetheless share the view that despite the various achievements registered by many countries in the promotion and protection of the rights of children, much remains to be done and that most of the goals of "A world fit for children" will be achieved only through a major intensification of action for disadvantaged children and families across the world.

Mr. Chairman,

4. For Malaysia, significant progress has been made since the 1990 Summit. The first National Plan of Action for Children in the 90's covering the years 1991-2000 had addressed the issues of survival and protection for Malaysian children. We achieved fully 11 out of the 13 objectives of the Plan.

5. As a follow-up to this, the second National Plan of Action for Children covering 2001-2020 focuses on the issues of development, protection and participation of all children in Malaysia in anticipation of the full-fledged process of globalisation. In line with the Malaysia's Vision 2020, the second National Plan of Action, with the theme "Caring for the Children of Malaysia", sets out a broad framework of actions and measures to be taken by the Government in addressing all areas of concern affecting social and developmental needs as well as the protection of the rights of children. Under the second Plan of Action, various programmes have already been carried out to strengthen the role of the parent and the family to ensure that children receive adequate parental care and protection and that the present generation of children will grow up to be confident, responsible and caring adults.

6. Malaysia's Vision 2020, which sets out the direction for the country's development and progress over the next two decades, envisages that "... every child born should be brought up in a healthy environment, provided with all necessary protection against diseases, receive proper nurturing, care and affection, receive general and higher education as far as possible, receive appropriate skills in necessary fields, imbued with cultural and human values". We strongly believe that the well-being of children and women are reliable indicators of a healthy society and of good governance. Therefore, the Malaysian Government will continue to promote and facilitate the rights of the child, especially in the areas of protection, development and participation.

7. The adoption of the National Social Policy in 2003 has further helped to consolidate the Government's commitment towards the promotion and protection of the rights of children. The National Social Policy goes a step further in establishing a Malaysian society which is progressive, where every citizen has the opportunity to develop his potential in a healthy social environment based on unity, strength, democracy and fairness, with a view to achieving the goal of a fully developed nation by 2020.

8. To ensure the effectiveness of our efforts in carrying out programmes for children, the Department of Social Welfare, under the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Development, has been restructured and provided with additional resources in 2005. A dedicated unit for children has also been established to deal with matters related to the development of our children.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Malaysia commends the invaluable support and commitment demonstrated by relevant United Nations development agencies in gearing their activities to assist and support Member States in implementing the policies, plans and programs as proposed by the Plan of Action. While serious efforts must be taken at the national level by every State to ensure that children are protected from being the target of criminal exploitation, many issues faced by children are closely related to under-development, poverty and conflicts in developing countries. These cannot be solved unless the underlying developmental issues are seriously addressed and the countries concerned provided with the required resources and assistance. We urge the relevant United Nations agencies to continue their efforts in assisting developing countries to establish and strengthen their national capacity and institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of children, and towards achieving the goals set by the Special Session. The international community must take concrete actions to ensure that the rights of children are respected and protected.

10. The 10th OIC Summit held in Malaysia in 2003 adopted a resolution on "Child Care and Protection in the Islamic World", and called upon the ISESCO to organise the First Ministerial Meeting on the Child in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat and UNICEF. Malaysia welcomes with appreciation the generous offer by the Government of Morocco to host this important inaugural meeting to be held in Rabat in November this year. This meeting is expected to address a broad range of issues relating to children in the Islamic World,

Mr. Chairman,

11. Being a State party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child since 1995, Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to the efforts in promoting and protecting the rights of children. In this respect, Malaysia successfully embarked on various measures and programmes to ensure that the welfare and social needs of children are well taken care of while protecting their rights. Malaysia will continue to focus and work towards creating a nation that is secure, confident and caring. We assure you our commitment towards ensuring that the well-being of children will be our utmost priority within the nation's development programs.

12. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Malaysia wishes for more close ties among nations, and for more peace and prosperity, to create a conducive and enabling environment thus ensuring a world truly fit for our children.

Thank you.