



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

57

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STATEMENT BY MOHAMAD RAZIF ABD MUBIN
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
ON AGENDA ITEM 54: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- (A) IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, THE PROGRAMME FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21 AND THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT;
- (C) INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION;
- (D) PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND;
- (F) PROMOTION OF NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD SOLAR PROGRAMME 1996-2005; AND
- (H) CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK
WEDNESDAY, 2 NOV 2005

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by expressing our utmost appreciation to the Secretary-General for all his reports submitted under this agenda item.

2. My delegation associates 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.

Mr. Chairman,

3. We are pleased to note from the report of the Secretary-General that progress has been made in pursuing sustainable development over the past years. We also welcome his recommendations in the report on the implementation of Agenda 21 and on Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). On our part, I wish to reiterate Malaysia's commitment to achieving the targets set out in the JPOI and Agenda 21 in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. Malaysia continues to take appropriate actions to ensure that its development is sustainable and balanced. The principles of sustainable development are in fact well integrated into our development policies and their implementation. We have also adopted 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. In this regard, my delegation looks forward to participate actively in the 14th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) which will be held in New York from 1 to 12 May 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

4. My delegation believes that development could be sustained if we put efforts to wisely manage factors that are linked directly to development such as the efficient use of energy and the ability to manage our biodiversity in a sustainable manner. Apart from that we should also find the best possible ways to address the effects of climate change with a view to avoid predictable natural disasters or at least to reduce our vulnerability to natural disasters.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The world is paying greater attention to the issue of biological diversity as the increasing exploration and development of biological diversity resources demands serious attention to be given to the issue of preservation and sustainability of the environment. Malaysia believes international cooperation and collaboration is vital in assisting developing countries to fully explore the potentials of their biological diversity resources. In this connection, access to and the transfer of relevant technology and expertise especially from developed partners would be essential. As a country blessed with dense tropical forest, Malaysia has taken steps to ensure its development strategies are carried out in a sustainable manner to protect the richness of its biological diversity. We plan to transform the country into a world centre of excellence in conservation, research and utilization of tropical biological diversity by the year 2020.

6. In doing so, however, we are mindful of the need to ensure the involvement and participation of all members of our society. In particular, we recognize the role of local communities in the conservation, management and utilization of biological diversity. We want to also ensure that these communities benefit from its development.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The many natural calamities and disasters that we have witnessed in recent years clearly indicate that we need to pay serious attention to climate change, in particular global warming. We need to muster our collective political will to effectively implement what we have agreed upon and continue to find ways and means through

international cooperation to prevent calamities. Changes in climatic conditions will not only adversely impact human lives, health, food security and economic activities of many countries; but more importantly it could even submerge many of the low-lying islands. In this regard, we call on all nations to become party to the Kyoto protocol, and observe our collective obligations to help alleviate the problems that I had mentioned. On our part, in order to reduce carbon emission, we have taken measures, which include increase energy efficiency, reduction in burning of fuels and increase usage of renewable energy.

8. With regard to the strategy for natural disaster reduction, we must recognize that majority of developing countries lack the capacity as well as the financial resources needed to minimize the impact of the disaster on the local population. We have witnessed that poorer countries often suffered most in term of casualties and destructions caused by natural disasters. My delegation also feels that the current solutions, bureaucratic methodologies, policy frameworks and government-to-government aid, are not adequate and sustainable to address the underlying problems. Poor nations need sustainable economic and social development that would enhance their resilience to cope with natural disaster.

Mr. Chairman,

9. 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. Malaysia has already undertaken several measures that would hopefully help to reduce its dependency on fossil fuel.

Mr. Chairman,

10. In conclusion, we must all agree that to continue benefiting from the resources that are found in our environment, we must act to conserve and maintain them. Sustainable development must be integrated in all our economic activities. In doing so, we will continue to benefit from our common planet.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.