



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY MR. NORZUHDY MOHAMMAD NORDIN
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 17: THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

AND

**AGENDA ITEM 73 (E): EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL
ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION
OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN**

AT

**THE PLENARY OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK**

MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2005

Mr. President,

My delegation is pleased to participate in this debate on both Agenda Item 17 and Agenda Item 73 (e) concerning Afghanistan. We wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, and the emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of warstricken Afghanistan, as contained in document A/60/234 5/2005/525.

Mr. President,

2. My delegation joins others in congratulating the Government of Afghanistan and the Afghan people on the remarkable progress they have achieved since the Bonn Agreement of December 2001. We commend the recent confirmation of the final results for the parliamentary and provincial council elections held on 18 September 2005, and regard it as paving the way toward the timely inauguration of the new parliament and the conclusion of the Bonn political process. We believe that the successful completion of these elections have demonstrated the broad commitment of Afghan voters towards a democratic future of their country. We reiterate our appreciation to all those who had contributed to the electoral process, especially to the Joint Electoral Management Body and the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), for their dedication and valuable work, and to the international community including neighbouring countries for providing security assistance, funds, election personnel and observers. In this regard, Malaysia applauds the Afghan people for having taken these brave steps and calls on them to remain fully committed in rebuilding their country, in strengthening the foundations of a constitutional democracy and to resume their rightful place in the community of nations.

3. While we applaud these achievements, Malaysia recognizes the urgent need to tackle the remaining challenges, including security, narcotics, strengthening the rule of law and justice sector reform, human rights, and economic and social developments. My delegation is concern that failure to effectively confront these challenges could undermine the newly created political institutions and present serious obstacles to the full recovery of Afghanistan. In this respect, Malaysia calls on the international community to fully support the Government and people of Afghanistan as they work to build on their achievements, to underpin their freedom and enhance their security, to complete the transition to the rule of law, to accelerate the pace and scope of human and economic development, and to eliminate dependence on the illicit drugs economy.

4. My delegation recognizes that the continued and sustained support of the international community is essential for the implementation of a robust development strategy that could benefit all Afghans in their endeavour to overcome the remaining challenges. In this regard, Malaysia stands ready to cooperate and will continue to

provide technical assistance and training programme to Afghanistan under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), in strengthening the capacity of the Afghan people in their endeavour at nation building.

Mr. President,

5. Malaysia notes with concern that the cultivation, sale and trafficking of illegal narcotics poses a significant threat not only to the long-term security and stability of Afghanistan, but also to neighboring countries and the world at large. It has been widely acknowledged that narcotics are a threat to national security, social stability, and health; and could impact on governmental effectiveness. My delegation is concerned that despite the efforts to address the problem, Afghanistan remains the largest opium producer in the world, providing nearly 87 per cent of the world's total supply. Although the recent report of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime noted some progress in cutting back opium poppy cultivation, Afghanistan risks in becoming a "narco-state."¹¹ In this regard, my delegation endorses and supports the 2005 Counter-Narcotics Implementation Plan as the basis for making progress towards a drug-free Afghanistan. We also endorse the efforts made by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to end poppy cultivation; to build relevant judicial and police capacity; and to provide sustainable alternative livelihoods for those engaged in poppy cultivation. We call on the international community for efforts and assistance in this regard.

6. As security remains essential for long-term reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, my delegation welcomes the progress made in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of militia forces, and recognizes the particular challenges associated with the disbandment of illegal armed groups in Afghanistan. This progress has been manifested in the improved political environment during the recent elections; and the creation of the Afghan National Army, which ensures that military assets and weaponry are in secured hands of the State and to be used only in legitimate defence of the State.

7. Although the elections themselves were largely peaceful, my delegation noted the large number of attacks on security forces and Afghan citizens in recent months. An ambush in Helmand province on 10 October killed 18 Afghan policemen. Earlier, four policemen were accidentally and mistakenly killed. Suicide bomb attacks were also on

the rise. In early October an assault on a British embassy convoy near Kandahar wounded several people, while a suicide bomber who drove into a Canadian army convoy a week earlier killed one Afghan. In September, a man wearing military uniform blew himself up near an army centre, killing nine people. While we equivocally condemned all such attacks in Afghanistan, including the attacks against International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and expressed our deepest sympathies to the victims, we also expressed our disgust and abhorrence over the video showing the burning of remains of alleged Taliban fighters by soldiers of a particular country. Such controversy including the alleged abuses of human rights of detainees do not bode well in the efforts of the international community to assist the Government of Afghanistan to secure and stabilize the country.

Mr. President,

8. My delegation endorses the key principles of cooperation between Government of Afghanistan and the international community underlining the "Post Bonn Process," and as set out in the Secretary General's report. We support the central and impartial role the United Nations plays towards the consolidation of peace and stability in Afghanistan. While we welcome the readiness of the Government of Afghanistan to prepare an interim national development strategy, which is to be considered at a conference in London planned for January 2006, we wish to urge the international community to support this process and contribute generously to Afghanistan's development effort. Such support will go a long way in achieving growth through rebuilding infrastructure; developing human and institutional capacity; and in community-based development. This process will define our mutual commitment, and will provide a framework by which we could measure their implementation over the coming years.

9. In our capacity as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Malaysia wishes to emphasize and reiterate its commitment and the commitment of other NAM members towards Afghanistan's development as reflected in the Final Document of the XIII NAM Summit in Kuala Lumpur in February 2003.

Mr. President,

10. Afghanistan has made great stride in its efforts towards nation building. However more could be done in the area of reconstruction, and in particular in removing obstacles to the private sector investment. In this regard, efforts by the United Nations, the international community and Afghanistan's neighbours need to be further enhanced. On this note, my delegation is pleased to join the other delegations in co-sponsoring the draft resolution on this important question that has been introduced by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Germany.

Thank you, Mr. President.