



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations



**REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
AT THE CEREMONIAL MEETING TO MARK THE FORMAL HANDOVER OF
THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP OF SEVENTY-SEVEN AND CHINA
FROM JAMAICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS
THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2006**

Madam Chairperson,

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), I have the honour to express, on behalf of NAM Member Countries and on behalf of my own delegation, our heartfelt congratulations to the Republic of South Africa on its assumption to the Chairmanship of the G-77 and China. I would like to affirm the support of NAM as well as its Member Countries and that of my delegation to the Delegation of the Republic of South Africa as Chair of the G-77 and China for 2006. We have great confidence in the ability of the Republic of South Africa to lead the G-77 toward achieving its aims and objectives, following the illustrious footsteps and fine examples set by preceding Chair Countries of the G-77. Indeed, the strong commitment, consistency and constructive attitude of the Republic of South Africa concerning questions relating to the well-being and interests of the developing countries require no further elaboration here. It is still vivid in our memory the excellent performance of the Republic of South Africa as Chair of NAM from September 1998 until February 2003, during which NAM had markedly gained increased currency and greater activism. Malaysia is deeply honoured to have inherited the Chairmanship of the Movement from South Africa.

Madam Chairperson,

2. The Non-Aligned Movement recalls the commitments by both NAM and the G-77 over the continuing necessity for these sisterly groupings to remain seized on the numerous critical issues of common concerns as well as the challenges faced by the developing countries. Those commitments have been repeatedly made in the forums of both NAM and G77, including most recently during the Second South Summit and the Special Ministerial Meeting of NAM in Doha in June 2005 as well as during the Ministerial Meetings of the G-77 and NAM in New York in September 2005. We need to sustain our collective pursuit in this common endeavour of ours, especially during the current process of reforming the United Nations to meet and respond to the threats and challenges of the twenty-first century. In this connection, we believe that it is critical for NAM and the G-77 and China to continue to work closely especially in the context of the Joint Coordinating Committee of the G-77 and NAM (JCC). This has become more imperative during the follow-up process to the 2005 World Summit Outcome currently underway. Indeed, NAM and the G-77 and China have very important roles to play in this regard.

3. As we look forward to forging a close association and fruitful working relationship with the Delegation of the Republic of South Africa as the incumbent Chair of the G-77 and China, I would be remiss in my duty if I fail to refer to the role and contributions of Jamaica in its capacity as Chair of the G-77 and China for 2005. The Member Countries of NAM hold in high regard and admiration the commitment, hard work and determination displayed by His Excellency Ambassador Stafford O. Neil as

well as his team of distinguished and dedicated Officials throughout their Chairmanship of the grouping, especially during one of the most eventful year in the history of the United Nations. They have certainly carried out their role and responsibility with distinction and valour as well as fulfilled their mandate in the most effective manner. We express our heartfelt congratulations and sincere appreciation to them for a job well done in promoting and upholding the interests of the Group in the face of daunting challenges.

Madam Chairperson,

4. The year 2006 will be an important year for the Non-Aligned Movement. While we are gathered here today to mark the annual formal handover of the Chairmanship of the G-77 and China – this year from Jamaica to the Republic of South Africa, NAM likewise will have its formal handover of its Chairmanship from Malaysia to Cuba. This will take place in Havana on the occasion of the Fourteenth NAM Summit in September 2006. The year 2006 also marks the Forty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of NAM, which took shape in Belgrade in September 1961. While we commemorate and celebrate these momentous events, we should remind ourselves of the *raison d'être* that have given birth to our two sisterly groupings over four decades ago. The pursuit of justice and the rule of law, peace and security, prosperity and stability, economic development and progress, and social advancement for our people; and ensuring its early achievement are as valid and relevant today as they were envisaged by our leaders almost half a century ago. The eradication of poverty, illiteracy and diseases remains at the top of our agenda. We certainly hope that this year will bring brighter prospect and greater benefits for our people whose interests and concerns we have pledged to pursue, safeguard and defend at the United Nations. On a personal level, I look forward to forge a closer working relationship with Ambassador Kumalo on those questions, which remain central to both the G-77 and NAM.

5. Finally, Madam Chairperson, I should take this opportunity to express my delegation's heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the excellent work and services extended by the G-77 Secretariat. We know that the G-77 Secretariat often has had to work under severe constraints, including financially. In this connection, in my capacity as Chairman of the NAM Coordinating Bureau, I wish to urge the cooperation, support and commitment of the Member Countries of NAM to endeavour to settle their dues, in full and without delay, to the Account of the Economic Cooperation Among the Developing Countries (ECDC). My delegation believes that various initiatives that have been carefully outlined under the ECDC could be better implemented with the desired results if adequate financial resources were provided for.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.