



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia**  
to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY  
THE HONOURABLE SYED HAMID ALBAR MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF MALAYSIA AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK, 19 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and my own country, Malaysia, I wish to convey our congratulations to you on your election as the President of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I am confident that under your able stewardship, you will steer the proceedings of this Assembly to a successful conclusion. I wish to assure you of the fullest cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement and of the Malaysian delegation.

2. I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Jean Ping, for his dedication and the successful manner in which he conducted the work of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly, which was an exceptionally challenging one. His leadership in steering the consultations and negotiations has led to the successful adoption of the final outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting last Friday.

Mr. President,

3. Sixty years ago, the peoples of the world, including those under oppression and colonialism, celebrated the creation of the United Nations. The UN, as embodied in the Charter and envisaged by its founders, was a beacon of hope following the deaths and destruction wrought by the Second World War. The UN symbolized multilateralism based on principles and law. It was a historic development, signifying a break from the ravages of war and the avarice and greed of the powerful.

4. Multilateralism permitted the evolution of an international order based on a normative framework allowing rule-based interaction among States, thus creating a predictable and stable international environment. In other words, without multilateralism, small and weak states could not hope for a democratic international order within which they could aspire to independence, peace and stability, development and prosperity.

5. Today, as we meet, multilateralism has come under increasing threat. Attempts to unilaterally re-write or re-define the normative framework that has so far allowed rule-based interaction among States is a dangerous experiment. Without the stabilizing effect of such a normative framework, we would only create uncertainty and confusion in the international environment.

6. The fundamental challenge of our times is to address, comprehensively and collectively, the multifaceted threats to our survival and well-being, be it in the areas of peace and security, poverty and development, human rights and democracy.

7. In this regard, the Outcome Document of the recently concluded High-level Plenary Meeting has sought to give a fresh lease on life to multilateralism, both in form and in content. As we continue our discussions to re-shape and re-direct the Organisation, we must ensure that the General Assembly remains the true embodiment of the will of the world community. It must not be weakened in order to strengthen the Security Council. Allow me at this juncture to voice Malaysia's support for the checklist of items to be achieved during the current session, as mapped out by the Secretary-General in his address last Saturday. I hope by the time we meet again this time next year, the Secretary-General's report will illustrate a marked improvement in the world situation, in particular towards achieving the MDGs by 2015.

8. Driven by a common sense of purpose and determined political will, we must implement and operationalise the commitments we have undertaken in the major UN conferences and summits of recent years. This must represent the beginning of the re-doubling of efforts which we must all collectively make in order to secure a more peaceful and just world. Where we had been unable to push the agenda on certain issues, we must now continue that dialogue. Where efforts to reach agreement had failed altogether, such as on the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation, we must now focus our energies in order to achieve consensus.

Mr. President,

9. Lack of reference to disarmament and non-proliferation in the Outcome Document must not be construed as a loss of interest by the international community on the issue, or that it has since fallen off our radar of concern. On the contrary, it must be construed as the refusal by the larger community to compromise on our collective call for nuclear weapon States to effect complete and general disarmament as well as to ensure the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

10. It is indeed regrettable that such a turn of events took place. Coming on the heels of the failed 2005 NPT Review Conference earlier this year, this omission would only serve to reinforce the adverse repercussions on the disarmament regime which had been painstakingly negotiated since the end of

the Second World War. At this 60<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, we must reiterate and indeed reaffirm the importance of full and non-selective implementation of the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, namely: nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear technology. We must continue to work towards the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

11. The world spent an estimated \$1 trillion dollars in global military expenditures last year. Doubtless, much of that went to strengthening military arsenals of States who feel constantly under threat; yet some of that must also have been contributed by terrorists purchasing arms for their condemnable acts. Arms manufacturers also reaped profits from the sale of small arms and light weapons which have wrought untold suffering on unsuspecting peoples everywhere. The international community must collectively call on States to divert such military spending to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and strengthening the development infrastructure. This would go far towards creating a just and equitable order, which in turn would lead to a safer world.

Mr. President,

12. Since the adoption of the MDGs five years ago, the burdens and obstacles faced by developing countries seem to have increased, with almost no amelioration of the problems which had already existed then. Eight years ago, East Asia was buffeted by a financial crisis, which in turn had trans-regional repercussions threatening the health of the global economy. Appeals by developing countries to reform the international financial architecture fell on deaf ears. As a result, the international financial architecture continues to be vulnerable to similar crises.

13. Now, even as that and other equally important problems remain unresolved, we are faced with yet another threat – the prolonged and sustained increase in oil prices, which even as we speak, threatens to imperil the global economy. Continuous increases in oil prices are placing a disproportionate burden on developing countries, hence impoverishing them even further, while major petroleum companies enjoy a windfall in profits. This must surely indicate something fundamentally wrong with the current market system. It is morally reprehensible that the poor are expected to absorb the cost of instabilities of production while the petroleum companies continue to reap rewards without interruption. It is hardly surprising then that oil companies and the unbridled free-market in particular are viewed as rapacious and unfeeling by many quarters of the global community.

14. If the UN is to remain relevant to the world at large, it must be able to discuss and decide on precisely issues such as these, which not only impact on our day-to-day life but which also have long-term implications, including on peace and security. If wars in the past were fought over ideology, conflicts in the future will be due to competition over markets and scarce natural resources, blurring

the lines between economics, development and security. Accordingly, the UN must be prepared to address the inter-related and cross cutting issues which give rise to these conflicts.

15. Globalisation, with its myriad challenges and opportunities, has left many in the developing countries marginalized. Following the current trajectory, the international economic system will continue to remain unjust, punishing the poor for being unable to influence, much less dictate, their destinies. Much remains to be done to equalize the field between the rich and the rest. Aid and debt cancellation, while welcome, have limited effect. It is trade that needs to be expanded and made more fair. We must press ahead towards a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system. It is widely recognized that trade has a multiplier effect, able to lift poor communities into becoming self-sustaining ones and progress into creating competitive markets which would benefit the international community.

Mr. President,

16. While we continue to grapple with problems of poverty and economic marginalisation, we are now increasingly faced with threats posed by terrorism. Malaysia condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism. As terrorism is a global phenomenon that transcends national boundaries, fighting terrorism demands effective international actions in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized principles governing international relations and international law.

17. In countering terrorism, the use of conventional military force alone is insufficient. To truly address the scourge and prevent its re-emergence elsewhere and over time, there must be a real understanding of the root causes of terrorism. We must comprehend the underlying factors which motivate them to undertake the most supreme sacrifice - that of human life. While countering their actions, we must at the same time win the hearts and minds of the people to ensure that our victory will not be short-lived.

18. No one group acting alone will be able to achieve total success. Clearly, success requires a sense of common purpose. The portrayal of any particular grouping of peoples as fanatical terrorists or led by a religion of war is therefore irresponsible and would derail any attempt at forging a common and united front against terrorism. At the same time, these attempts would require that the legitimate grievances of the affected communities be meaningfully addressed. The international community as a whole must take a stand to stop actions which contribute, directly or indirectly, to the perpetuation of injustice, oppression or aggression against affected communities. They have a clear duty to disallow such marginalisation. Misunderstanding and fear of "the other" must be replaced by dialogue, understanding and tolerance.

19. The interests and concerns of minority groups must not be sidelined in favour of the majority. Minorities too have rights, which must be protected by the Government. Perpetuated over time, the grievances of minority groups at being sidelined would necessarily seek an outlet.

20. There is a national as well as an international dimension to the issue of peaceful and cooperative co-existence between religions, cultures and civilizations. If Governments can succeed in instituting a culture of tolerance and moderation among people at the domestic level, it would become easy for nation states to cooperate in promoting tolerance and moderation among nationalities and cultures at the international level. We must institute the precepts of justice, respect and understanding in our day-to-day dealings which in turn would lead to fairness, goodwill and harmony in our relations.

Mr. President,

21. The ideals of good governance, democracy and accountability to God and our peoples are not anti-thetical to Islam. The Islamic commitment to good governance is clearly embodied in the Holy Qur'an and the traditions of the Prophet Mohammed (s.a.w.). For our own part in Malaysia, we believe that the compulsion to act based on religious imperatives can be directed towards good, towards progress and development. We call this approach Islam Hadhari, literally Civilisational Islam, or an approach towards a progressive and humanistic Islamic Civilisation. It is consistent with the objective of creating a stable international world order.

22. It is an approach which emphasizes that progress and development are enjoined by Islam. It is compatible with modernity and yet firmly rooted in the noble values and injunctions of Islam. It is an approach that values substance over form, promotes tolerance and understanding, moderation and peace, and certainly enlightenment.

Mr. President,

23. Rich or poor, strong or weak, regardless of religion and belief, one fact is inescapable – we inhabit one world, our global village. Sixty years ago, the founders of our universal Organisation came together, after witnessing horrors hitherto unimaginable and said, never again shall human life be so wantonly extinguished. They also proclaimed that forevermore, humankind would work and live together in peace, harmony and common respect. On this historic occasion, my plea is that we return to those hopes and ideals.

Thank you.