



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HAMIDON ALI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON AGENDA ITEM 102: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF
THE ORGANIZATION AT THE PLENARY OF THE 61ST SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
NEW YORK, 2 OCTOBER 2006**

Madam President,

The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization that is before us illustrates the challenges and tasks facing this Organization.

2. As outlined by its Charter, the main purpose of this organization is the maintenance of international peace and security. By and large, this has been achieved. In the Middle East however, the problems there, in particular the Palestinian question, remains unresolved.

3. The devastation wrought on Gaza, Baghdad and Lebanon has left an indelible impression on Muslims worldwide of the complicity of the West to humiliate them. This fans the feelings of outrage and anger, which often erupt into violence.

4. It is imperative that a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis be found. No one party or country could determine how the Middle East is to be redrawn and reshape. The views of all those concerned have to be addressed. In this regard, my delegation feels that the United Nations could play a more pronounced and decisive role, as envisioned by its Charter, by bringing together all parties concerned to the negotiating table.

Madam President,

5. As a bastion of multilateralism, the United Nations has to rise to the challenge of safeguarding the interests of developing countries. Millions, of the poor, the hungry and the destitute, in the South expect the United Nations to play its role in galvanizing support and political will that will bring the benefits of development and globalization.

6. In this regard, Madam President, the theme that you have chosen for the Assembly to focus its General Debate on last week - namely "implementing a global partnership for development" - is indeed prescient. During the 60th session of the General Assembly, we

were not able to conclude work on strengthening the Economic and Social Council. This should now be our priority. An early outcome should be reached at this current session. We should not forget that at the 2005 World Summit, our leaders have reaffirmed the importance of an effective ECOSOC as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development.

7. A strengthened ECOSOC is in our interest so as to be a pillar in the UN system to maintain economic and social justice; just as the Security Council is responsible to maintain international peace and security. Another area in which work is still unfinished is the reform of the Security Council to make it more representative in terms of its composition and in order to better reflect the current world we live in. It is crucial that we realize this. It would lend legitimacy to the Security Council and the decisions it takes, which affect the vast majority of us in this Hall who are not represented in the Council.

8. The 60th session of the General Assembly did agree on a resolution on General Assembly revitalization. It is my delegation's hope that at this current session, the Ad Hoc Working Group on General Assembly revitalization would meet as a follow-up to that resolution. The General Assembly has been deliberating on resolutions relating to General Assembly revitalization for the last fifteen years, and it is high time that we concretize, through the Ad Hoc Working Group, what we have agreed on - namely to strengthen the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations; as well as its role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

Madam President,

9. Our task in reforming the United Nations is not a one-off process but a continuous process. To reform the principle organs of the Organization and strengthen the Organization's capacity to handle the many challenges, such as in the fields of human rights, peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and humanitarian assistance, it is essential that this house be kept in order. The United Nations must become more efficient and more effective.

10. In this regard, my delegation reiterates that it is vital for the Organization to secure a healthy and stable financial position in order to ensure that all operations are carried out within an expected time frame and in an efficient manner. We hope that those Member States concerned will honour their assessed contributions and settle those arrears, without any conditions attached.

11. My delegation will continue to work and cooperate with other delegations on management and secretariat reforms. This process should be all-inclusive involving all parties, who themselves should be actively engaged and possess political will, and be guided by the General Assembly rules of procedure.

12. My delegation also acknowledges the positive contributions from civil society to the Organization, which has particularly been helpful during the current reform process. We

welcome their continued participation in various fora. However, the UN is an intergovernmental body, and the participation of civil society should be guided by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31.

Madam President,

13. One issue that we fail to agree upon at the 2005 World Summit is disarmament and non-proliferation. It is very disappointing to my delegation as the threat of weapons of mass destruction is the greatest threat to all mankind. This is further compounded by the failure of the NPT Review Conference in 2005 as well as the inability of the 2006 UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms to find a consensus. In the latter's case, the weapons involved may be small, but we are well aware of their devastating impact on societies. In this sense, they could also be regarded as de-facto "weapons of mass destruction." We could ill-afford another failure at this session to act on these issues.

14. In conclusion, I wish you well as you lead us in our deliberations on the various issues of the 61st session.

Thank you.