



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia 
to the United Nations

(Check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY H.E. HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON AGENDA ITEM 109: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON
THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION,
AT THE PLENARY OF THE 62ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER 2007**

Mr. President,

I wish to express the appreciation of the Malaysian delegation to the Secretary General for his first annual report on the work of the organization, as contained in document A/62/1. The issues and challenges that the world is facing today place a greater demand on this Organization to fulfill its mandate as outline in the Charter. Therefore it is imperative for us Member States to ensure that this mandate is carried out effectively.

2. My delegation also wishes to commend the Secretary General for his initiatives at ensuring that the United Nations continues to have a central role in the multilateral decision-making process, maintenance of international peace and security and promotion of international cooperation. In this regard, we note the core tasks that the Secretary-General had set out to make the Organization including the Secretariat, more effective in his inaugural statement at this Assembly early this year.

Mr. President,

3. The Secretary-General's report stated that halfway through the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, progress is uneven.

On the other hand, it also mentions that these Goals are achievable if existing commitments are met. Looking forward, we believe, however, there is greater scope for disquiet rather than for optimism. This belief is based on the following reasons:

- i. One, the Marginal Concept in orthodox economic theory holds that in the initial stages, gains are relatively larger and progress therefore more rapid. However, the data in the report shows progress achieved in the various MDG targets even at the initial stages are too small relative to the targets to be achieved. For example, in terms of the target of halving, from 1990 and 2015 the proportion of those suffering from hunger, the prevalence of underweight children under-5 years has been reduced from 33 to 27 percent for the period 1990 to 2005. This is only a 6 percent reduction within a 15 year time span, compared to an overall target of 16.5 percent within a total 25 year time span.
- ii. Two, the data on the prevalence of underweight children under-5 years is also interesting as it shows that there are immense structural and political obstacles that need to be overcome. It indicates that even when the level of global food production is at an all-time high, the human family as a whole is unable to feed its most vulnerable members.
- iii. Three, this lack of progress is occurring at a time when the global economy has uninterruptedly expanded for the past half-decade.
- iv. Four, despite the announcements made, there is significant room to doubt that existing commitments will be implemented in time to achieve the MDG targets.

4. Given the immense scale of the problems, we are gratified that the Secretary-General has made the achievement of the MDGs one of his topmost priorities. In commending the Secretary-General, we would also like to point out that what the UN needs to do presently is ensure that the present developmental system works better, rather than merely establish new steering groups and bodies.

5. That said, Malaysia will support the Secretary-General any way we can. In this regard, Malaysia's UNDP Country Programme Document envisages a higher level of collaboration with the UN in our South-South cooperation activities.

6. It is for this reason that we are monitoring very closely developments related to the TCPR as well as the UNDP Strategic Plan, as both would

greatly bear on the UN's involvement in South-South cooperation activities. At the same time, Malaysia remains committed to expanding our South-South cooperation programme, which we are re-tailoring so that the programmes and initiatives offered better meet the needs of the countries involved.

Mr. President,

7. My delegation is concerned at the pace of building sustainable response to HIV/AIDS over the longer term. We note the work of UNAIDS at assisting countries in helping them to set national targets, developing national capacity to design and implement AIDS plans, ensuring the best use of resources as well as encouraging the involvement of civil society and private sector in this regard. All these, in some way have contributed to the efforts of achieving the MDG of checking the spread of HIV by 2015.

8. However, the HIV epidemic is still spreading steadily and is now affecting every country in the world. Each year, more people die of HIV/AIDS and the number of people living with HIV continues to rise, in spite of the fact that we have developed means to check its spread. Apart from our efforts thus far to address this problem, my delegation is of the view that more attention should be given to educate people about the disease. Education is the key to the achieving of the MDG target on HIV.

Mr. President,

9. On climate change, my delegation concurs with the Secretary-General that we now witness the unprecedented momentum in efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We are now more aware of the gravity and urgency of the situation.

10. We must ensure the success of the 13th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change scheduled to be held in Bali in December this year. For the conference to be successful the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must prevail. We must recognize the fact that the poorest countries of the world have the least capacity to adapt, and should therefore be apportioned the least responsibility to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Furthermore ongoing national or regional initiatives to deal with climate change must not compete with, but should instead complement, the negotiations under the UN framework.

11. A post-2012 agreement needs to build upon the architecture and other fundamentals of the Kyoto Protocol. For example, there should be absolute emission reduction targets for developed countries, expanded mechanisms that facilitate contributions from developing countries as well as special provisions for the least developed countries and small island developing states. We know that climate change has implications not only for the environment but also the global economy. This is an important additional reason why the principle of differentiated responsibilities must apply, so that the developing countries can maintain their capacities for sustainable development.

Mr. President,

12. Peace and security is one of the main pillars of the United Nations. We support the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security as well as the promotion of a more equitable international political and economic order. The United Nations must continue to shoulder its responsibilities in the maintenance of international peace and security. We take note of the efforts of the Secretary-General to equip the United Nations to be able to face the increasing and demanding challenges in this area.

13. Malaysia commends the United Nation's efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the UN peacekeeping operations. In order to ensure continued effectiveness of the UN peacekeeping operations, we are of the view that the UNDPKO should be strengthened and adequately staffed taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation. The UN should also provide the necessary training requirements to peacekeepers to meet the specific needs and varying nature of UN peacekeeping operations in order to ensure the overall success of these peacekeeping operations.

14. The future deployment of a massive hybrid peacekeeping operation in Sudan and also in Chad and Central African Republic opens up a new dimension of a future framework of cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations in handling peace and security issue. We will monitor closely the effectiveness of this cooperation that could set the foundation for future peacekeeping operations.

Mr. President,

15. The key to peace in the Middle East rests on adjust settlement of the Palestinian issue. In this connection, Malaysia supports the role of the United Nations to promote a comprehensive peaceful settlement and the realization of a two-state solution. Real peace could only be achieved if the legitimate rights of the Palestinians are recognized and protected. The UN must play the role of an honest broker and a protector of all rights of the Palestinian people.

Mr. President,

16. Malaysia concurs with the Secretary-General's view that failure and deadlock characteristic of the major fora and instruments in the areas of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation for the past few years have underlined the clear need to revitalize the international disarmament agenda through coordinated efforts in which the UN should play a more effective role.

17. Malaysia reaffirms the important role of the Office for Disarmament Affairs to engage with Member States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society. It should promote universal participation in multilateral treaties.

18. My delegation notes that this year, we commemorated the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Malaysia hopes that more countries would become party to this Convention and other instruments relating to disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

19. The accession of India, Pakistan and Israel to the NPT as well as the observance of nuclear weapons states to their obligations under the NPT would strengthen the nuclear disarmament regime. The Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, issued on 8 July 1996, underlined that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. To date, there are no indications on the part of the nuclear weapons states in carrying out this obligation.

20. Our goal should be to achieve general and complete disarmament through the multilateral process, of which the primary concern should be nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

21. My delegation commends the efforts of the UN humanitarian systems in strengthening the UN humanitarian response towards crises. We recognized that since 2006 the CERF has marked a significant step forward in improving the speed and predictability of funding for humanitarian crises.

22. However, to further improve the humanitarian response of the United Nations, my delegation is of the view that United Nations Policy guidance on humanitarian response should be further strengthened to help the international community deal promptly with emergencies and natural disasters whenever and wherever they occur. The international community should be able to work collaboratively to provide effective mechanisms to mitigate the impact of natural and human-induced disaster and serve as a joint response to disaster emergencies through concerted global, regional and national efforts. They should also intensify their cooperation to strengthen efforts towards developing a world-wide early-warning system for natural and human-induced disasters through, among other things, a multimodal approach, and taking into consideration the internationally agreed framework on the strategy for disaster reduction and operationalization of a regional standby arrangements for disaster relief and emergency response. Cooperation should be intensified in the areas of emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction; and prevention and mitigation, on the aftermath of disaster. More importantly disaster-prone countries' capacity to handle disaster must be improved and strengthened.

Mr. President,

23. We welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to further strengthen a system of accountability, transparency and efficiency of the organization. We look forward to receive further reports relating to these areas in the coming months. Taking into account the process underway and previous experiences as well as deficiency resulted from the current rules and regulations, we firmly believe that reform is a collective agenda of all Member States that must be dealt with in a realistic manner. All decisions and mandates of the General Assembly should continue to be honored and

respected throughout the process. To make the United Nations a more efficient and effective organization, collective views of Member States are deemed important to ensure predictable resources and timely implementation of all mandated programs and activities. The Secretary-General and Secretariat should avoid duplication of resources, and on embarking on proposals that would be detrimental to the work of the Organization.

Mr. President,

24. Our hope for a better, prosperous and peaceful world remains with the United Nations. For the past six decades the United Nations has struggled to maintain its role as envisaged in the Charter, in spite of the imperfections, shortcomings and constraints imposed upon it by none other than the Member States themselves. The United Nations is the beacon for multilateralism that needs to keep burning. It needs to be reformed and restructured according to times and in keeping with the current and future challenges. This General Assembly session, under your guidance, Mr. President, should set the pace for the hard work that is required ahead.

Thank you.

