



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

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 80: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AT THE PLENARY OF THE 63<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2008**

Mr. President,

I join others in thanking Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for his presentation to the General Assembly of the Annual Report of the Agency for 2007. It was a year of notable success for the Agency in its efforts to ensure that the benefits of nuclear technology were shared globally for economic and social development.

2. My delegation shares the concern of the IAEA that the Agency's Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) continues to lag behind the pressing needs of developing countries. In this regard, my Delegation reiterates the need for the IAEA to ensure an equitable balance between the three pillars of its mandate, comprising Nuclear Applications, particularly through Technical Cooperation, Nuclear Safety and Security, and Nuclear Verification. This is especially important with the emerging convergence of a global nuclear energy renaissance with a need to ensure the efficient use of nuclear power, while also addressing nuclear safety, security and the verification of nuclear weapons non-proliferation safeguards by the IAEA.

3. The emerging global food crisis requires the attention of the IAEA in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In view of the proven benefits of nuclear technology applications in food production and agriculture, my Delegation supports the continued operation of the Joint Division of the FAO and IAEA and looks forward to a successful resolution of this matter between these important international organisations.

4. It is in this spirit that my Delegation looks forward to the new three-year IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme cycle, which gives emphasis to food and agriculture, human health, natural resources, and nuclear power, in line with growing demand for technical cooperation for both peaceful non-power and power applications of nuclear technology from developing Member States. Towards this end, it is necessary for

resources for the Management of Technical Cooperation for Development, or Major Programme 6, to be increased.

5. On the call for the establishment of appropriate mechanisms to ensure that the resources for the TCF are sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP), Malaysia supports the idea of changing the status of contributions to the TCF from being voluntary to that which is more obligatory on all IAEA Member States. Nevertheless, Malaysia fully supports the call to employ hedging mechanisms to protect against the erosion of the value of the TCF due to currency fluctuations, and also to establish appropriate criteria for setting the TCF targets in order to avoid the currently unfavorable experience that recipient Members States have to go through in negotiating the TCF targets.

6. In order to encourage more recipient States to provide extra budgetary contributions to the IAEA, in line with the concept of shared responsibility, such as for the Regional Co-operation Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology in Asia and the Pacific (RCA) projects, Malaysia calls for such contributions to be exempted from Programme Support Costs by the IAEA.

7. Malaysia, on its part, has consistently been honouring its obligations to contribute on time and in full to both the Regular Budget and TCF of the Agency, in addition to the extrabudgetary contributions for the RCA. As a Member State that has benefited from the Technical Cooperation Programme, Malaysia has, in return, also been supporting the Programme and other IAEA activities through in-kind contributions, the provision of experts and Fellowship training opportunities to other Member States, and hosting various Agency activities.

8. In this regard, my Delegation wishes to thank the IAEA and put on record our appreciation for the continuing support of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Department in the implementation of IAEA Technical Cooperation projects and various other activities in Malaysia, including the trust given to Malaysia to continue hosting the IAEA Post-Graduate Educational Course (PGEC) on Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Services. My Delegation also wishes to express our gratitude to other Member States that had shown interest in the Course, which has attracted candidates not only from within our region, but also from beyond.

Mr. President,

9. On the application of full-scope safeguards to all nuclear activities in the Middle East, Malaysia regrets that there is no progress on consultations towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region. In this regard, Malaysia wishes to reiterate the need for a prompt establishment of such a zone as recognized in relevant United Nations resolutions. Malaysia views with serious concern that certain nuclear facilities and materials in the Middle East are not subject to IAEA comprehensive safeguards. Thus Malaysia calls upon Israel to join the NPT, refrain from engaging in nuclear military activities, and open unconditionally all its nuclear

facilities and activities to IAEA inspections and safeguards in order to clarify the extent of its past and present nuclear activities. Only then could the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East be achieved.

Mr. President,

10. My Delegation firmly believes that the future of the IAEA should be based on the fundamental bargain underlying the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), particularly the inalienable right of all the States Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I, II, and III of the NPT. This should encompass the need to respect the choice and decision of each country concerning the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy that they wish to undertake, without jeopardizing their respective national policies or international cooperation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel cycle.

11. Another fundamental principle is for developed Member States to promote the realisation of the legitimate need of nuclear energy of developing countries, by allowing them to participate to the fullest extent possible in the transfer of nuclear equipment, materials, scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes with a view to achieving the largest benefits and applying pertinent elements of sustainable development in their activities.

12. On the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Malaysia firmly believes in the need for any concern that any party may have on such matters to be best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Malaysia also firmly believes in the need for nuclear weapon non-proliferation control arrangements to be transparent and open to participation by all States, and to ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development. It is also a matter of extreme importance that the IAEA Secretariat be allowed to maintain and enhance its impartiality and professionalism, particularly in carrying out its safeguards verification activities. Malaysia strongly rejects any attempt by any party to politicise the work of the IAEA, including its Technical Cooperation Programme, as this tantamounts to a violation of the Statute of the IAEA.

13. In parallel, there is also a need for nuclear weapon States and all States that are not parties to the NPT to exercise greater political will towards a general, complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament, as called for under the NPT.

14. At the operational level, Malaysia firmly believes in the need for the IAEA to sustain a proper balance of emphasis between the three pillars of its mandate on peaceful applications of nuclear technology, including technical cooperation, nuclear safety and security, and nuclear weapon non-proliferation safeguards and verification. In this regard, Malaysia does not see any need to impose any new or additional legally-binding safeguards obligation on NPT States Parties as a prerequisite for the peaceful

use of nuclear technology beyond those of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Model Additional Protocol.

15. In order to sustain the relevance of the IAEA to the needs of its developing Member States, renewed attention should be directed to the promotional aspects of the mandate of the IAEA in terms of technical cooperation. In view of the respective obligations of Member States concerning IAEA safeguards, Malaysia rejects any notion that would have the effect of granting a right for the IAEA Secretariat to exclude certain technologies from the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme.

Mr. President,

16. Malaysia believes that any notion of a Global Nuclear Order should not worsen the dichotomy between developing and developed Member States by endorsing an emerging regime of nuclear technology suppliers and recipients on top of an existing regime of nuclear weapon States and non-weapon States. This is especially important in the current period where more developing States need to develop legitimate peaceful nuclear power programmes to ensure their energy security and long-term sustainable development.

17. Malaysia further believes that any initiative to develop any multilateral approach to the nuclear fuel cycle and fuel supply assurances should not create such a new regime of nuclear technology haves and have-not. Malaysia firmly believes that the establishment of any such multilateral approach or regime should be based on extensive, comprehensive and transparent consultation between all interested parties and Member States, and that all decisions should be taken by consensus.

18. Finally, Malaysia would like to express once again its appreciation to Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the IAEA, as well as to the IAEA Secretariat for their significant and valuable work in fulfilling the three pillars of the Agency's mandate. Malaysia pledges its full support to the IAEA, as one of the organisations of the United Nations system, to continue to uphold and maintain its central and universal role in addressing the enormous challenges ahead.

I thank you, Mr. President.