

STATEMENT

BY

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OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**THE UNITED NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS**

AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL

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(Please Check Against Delivery)

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking you for convening this meeting. We are indeed pleased and greatly honoured to address the Council today under the presidency of Pakistan and especially to see you, Your Honorable Minister, presiding over this meeting.

Mr. President,

2. At the outset, Malaysia would like to reiterate that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security resides with the United Nations as envisaged in the Charter. We therefore consider United Nations Peace Keeping Operations as a vital and an indispensable element of the Organization.

3. At the same time we wish to emphasize that UN peacekeeping operations, no matter how successful they are, cannot be a substitute for a permanent solution, nor to be used as an excuse to gloss over the need to address the underlying root causes of conflict.

Mr. President,

4. Within this limited time allocated in this debate I would like to raise a few, among the points of concern and interest to Malaysia in relation to UN peacekeeping operations.

5. First, the Security Council must strive to avoid selectivity and double standards in establishing UN peacekeeping operations in order to enhance its credibility in the eyes of the international community. This particular point was also stressed by leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement when they met at the 13th NAM Summit in Kuala Lumpur last year.

6. The Council will recall that it has received in the past, proposals to intervene in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by way of deploying the appropriate UN presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem. On all those occasions, when UN urgent intervention was most needed, regrettably, the Council was prevented from approving the proposals, hence indirectly allowing the continuation of flagrant and gross violations of international law and the brutal and wanton oppression of the Palestinians by the occupying power. Malaysia once again urges the Council not to turn a blind eye on the current grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to fulfill its long overdue responsibility under the Charter by seriously considering the

deployment of UN presence in the appropriate form and modality in the Territory. We believe the UN presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory would immensely contribute to the current efforts for peaceful settlement and the establishment of the State of Palestine, co-existing side by side, in peace with Israel as envisaged by the Road Map.

7. Second, high priority must be accorded to strengthen the safety and security of peacekeepers and associated personnel in the field missions and respective headquarters. In this context, every effort must be made to further improve the safety and security system especially in the field missions in the face of the increasing threat to UN personnel. We welcome the Secretary General's recommendation for the creation of a full time safety and security focal point and a Mission Security Management Unit (MSMU) within the DPKO.

8. The capacity of the UN to collect, collate, analyze and disseminate intelligence report in a timely manner must be enhanced. We welcome the formation of Joint Mission Analysis Cell (JMAC) by the DPKO in four missions for the purpose of enhancing capacity to gather information in the field and use it appropriately to assess the environments in which they are operating. JMAC should be expanded to other peacekeeping missions as well and this capacity should be optimised to the fullest.

9. Third, we noted the cooperation and consultations between the Secretariat and the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) have significantly improved at formal and informal levels. The consultations has enable TCCs to share in advance vital information enabling them to adequately prepare their troops for their specific missions. We would like to encourage more frequent consultations and to widen the scope, where possible, of such cooperation and consultations.

10. In this connection we welcome the consultations between the Security Council and TCCs under the provision of Security Council Resolution 1353. We have noted however, the views expressed by TCCs during the consultations, sometimes on several occasions, were not taken into consideration when the Security Council made important decisions pertaining to the expansion of mandate or the appropriate size of peacekeeping force in a mission. We wish to draw the attention of the Council that the TCCs expertise and experience acquired through decades of participation in peacekeeping operations, can serve as invaluable inputs to the Security Council in all stages of planning and implementation of peacekeeping missions. We urge that this matter be given its due attention.

Mr. President,

11. My fourth point is on the resources and budget for peacekeeping operations. It has become clear that the current allocation of \$2.82 billion for peacekeeping budget is insufficient. With new theatres of peacekeeping operations in the pipeline, an estimated additional \$1.5 billion may be required. The member states and the UN will certainly have to find ways and means to raise the required resources. It is our hope that in meeting this challenging task of mobilizing additional resources the existing periodic payment of reimbursement and claims to TCCs will not be affected.

12. We also like to draw the attention of the Council that there are still troop contributing countries that have yet to receive reimbursement for their participation in various missions that have been closed more than a decade ago such as UNOSOM (Somalia) and UNTAC (Cambodia). We urge that the UN continue with the efforts to settle the long outstanding account while the UN deliberates on innovative and practical modalities to raise the required resources for the expanding peacekeeping operations.

I thank you Mr. President.