



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

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STATEMENT BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR RASTAM MOHD ISA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
CONCERNING  
"THE ROLE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN HUMANITARIAN  
CRISES"

NEW YORK

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*(Please check against delivery)*

Mr. President,

I wish to congratulate you and your Government on Greece's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I should also like to thank your delegation for taking this initiative to consider the Role of the Security Council in Humanitarian Crises; indeed an important issue of concern to all. We appreciate that this is being done in an open debate of the Council, with the participation of the larger membership of the United Nations. We also wish to pay tribute to the French presidency of the Council last month.

2. My delegation is fully cognizant of the efforts made by the United Nations to improve its system and respond effectively to the challenges of violent humanitarian crises. While there have been many successes, there have also been a number of failures whereby peace agreements collapse before they could be fully implemented, and States relapse back into conflict soon after. In many instances conflict and violence create humanitarian crises. How the United Nations, including the Security Council, responds to such crises remain a major concern. This merits further discussion and investigation, to better understand the issues before us today.

Mr. President,

3. The United Nations Charter confers upon the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on behalf of the Member States. This would include actions by the Council on issues relating to humanitarian crises where clear violations of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights have occurred in conflict situations which threaten regional or international peace and security. My delegation views any action that is aimed at humanitarian intervention per se as having no basis in the Charter and international law. Therefore it should be clear that while the Security Council has a role to play, its response should be based on a distinction between crises arising out of conflict situations and those which result from other causes, including natural disasters. While action to deal with conflict is laudable, it also remains the Council's responsibility to ensure that conflict is avoided. Hence, there is definitely a need to learn from past experience and to continue to find ways and means to avert conflict. This effort today points in the right direction.

4. We recognize that the Council has the responsibility to address humanitarian issues relating to situations of conflict and has taken appropriate action to deal with such situations. The Council's consideration of those issues have laid the groundwork for actions in the areas of peacekeeping and peacebuilding and in preventing a return to conflict. We agree that return to conflict often hinges on the extent to which three key issues in post-conflict situations are adequately addressed or not, namely the promotion of the rule of law; security sector reform, and the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of ex-combatants. My delegation is supportive of the view that these pillars for post-conflict security be further strengthened in order to achieve long lasting peace. Indeed, Malaysia initiated an

open debate in this Council on the question of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration during its Presidency of the Council in July 1999. We continue to believe that DDR remains an important aspect of peacebuilding and overall efforts to avoid relapse into conflict. It would be necessary to further develop this aspect together with the promotion of the rule of law and security sector reform to ensure that some common or unified standards are achieved and implementable. We welcome the adoption of best practices arising from past experiences in Security Council mandated UN Missions.

5. Malaysia has been supportive of actions taken by the Security Council in averting humanitarian disasters arising from conflict situations. We also support efforts to deal with the culture of impunity so prevalent in conflict situations. We recognise that it is important for the Council to act in certain instances to ensure safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance as well as the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and other humanitarian workers. In some cases early action would be required. However, the Council must act upon credible, reliable and verifiable information to ensure that the right decisions are made and the right action is taken in conformity with the Charter and international law and guided by the principle of respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States.

6. It goes without saying that there is a need for the Secretariat to enhance its early-warning capability. The Secretariat should have adequate means to gather credible, reliable and verifiable information and make appropriate assessments for the benefit of the Security Council and all UN Member States. To a certain extent, member States with the capability to do so can assist the Secretariat through regular sharing of vital information pertaining to threats to peace and security. The Secretariat should also continue to maintain and update a compendium of information on all aspects related to this question for use of Council members and UN Member States at large.

Mr. President,

7. The role played by the Security Council can certainly be augmented by debate, dialogue and discussions in the other principal organs of the United Nation, namely the General Assembly and ECOSOC. This is all the more pertinent with the recognition of the interconnectedness of threats and challenges faced by the international community and the need to face them in an integrated fashion, taking into account the linkages between development, peace and security and human rights. We look forward to further discussion on this and other issues in all the UN organs.

Thank you, Mr. President.