



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR MOHD RADZI ABDUL RAHMAN
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 27: THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

AND

**AGENDA ITEM 39(D): EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE,
NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN**

TUESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2005

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,

We thank you for convening this meeting that enable non-members of the Security Council to participate in the deliberation of this important issue before the Council. We also look forward to an open, inclusive and more comprehensive deliberation on the issues relating to Afghanistan in the General Assembly.

2. Since the Secretary General's last report in March we are encouraged to note that Afghanistan continues to register relatively impressive progress in the implementation of the Bonn Agreement. As a nation emerging from long period of armed conflicts the process of peace building and national reconstruction are not expected to be easy. Nonetheless, we believe, with the sustainable support of the international community, the strong determinations of the population for peace, and a functioning Government now in place, many essential measures to further enhance stability and development in the country can be effectively pursued and implemented.

3. Having achieved the desired progress in Afghanistan it is important that they are sustained and strengthened. We look forward to further efforts to ensure the successful parliamentary and provincial elections that are scheduled to take place on 18 September this year. We welcome the Secretary-General's assurances of continuing commitment to assist the Government of Afghanistan as it continues to address the vital tasks required to fulfill her political, security and development agenda.

Mr. President,

4. While we welcome the encouraging achievements thus far, my delegation fully acknowledges the remaining challenges ahead that could present serious obstacles to the full recovery of that country. We are concerned to note that in the area of social and

economic development, for example, that twenty percent of children in Afghanistan die before the age of five and a woman dies every thirty minutes from pregnancy related causes. The life expectancy remains alarmingly at 44.5 years. The extent of poverty and under-development among the vast majority of the population can be left to our imagination. It remains clear to us that the question of development must be given serious attention when addressing the issues of security, illegal drugs and institution of good governance.

5. We have noted from the Secretary General's report that over the past years since the Bonn Agreement the Government of Afghanistan has received extensive assistance from the international community. The United Nations too has played a key role in responding to many humanitarian crises. Nonetheless given the prevailing fragile situation in Afghanistan my delegation wishes to urge the international community and the United Nations to continue their support to the Government of Afghanistan in its endeavor to overcome the remaining challenges in the essential areas in nation building. More efforts must be made to assist Afghanistan to explore and develop its economic and trade potentials. International assistance in the field of education, including development of the relevant infrastructure, human resource training and development, is one important area that needs to be given greater emphasis in its national development agenda.

6. The coming parliamentary election to be held in September 2005 is a crucial event that hopefully would mark the completion of the political transition towards national reconciliation and stability in Afghanistan. However, my delegation shares the view that the security situation in Afghanistan must be effectively addressed prior to the parliamentary elections. My delegation believes that the participation, enthusiasm, support, and more importantly, the will of the Afghan people to achieve peace and development would make the coming electoral process possible in a peaceful and orderly environment. The government, assisted by the international community, must continue the efforts to promote and build the confidence and trust of the people in a secure and peaceful environment.

Mr. President,

7. Malaysia has also noted from the report that the narcotic drug eradication efforts in 2005 were not as successful as we would have expected. In this regard, we believe that the international community must play its role in extending close cooperation and in assisting the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to substantively decrease the drug trade in the near future, with a view to its total eradication in the long term. We believe that besides genuine and sustainable national efforts, international cooperation is highly essential to effectively combat illicit drugs cultivation and trafficking.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia looks forward to cooperating closely with the Government of Afghanistan in the context of our bilateral relations and is ready to explore ways and means to continue to enhance our relations. Malaysia stands ready to assist and in this connection will continue to provide, within our modest capacity, technical assistance and training to Afghans in essential areas of nation building under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme.

Mr. President,

9. In this trying period of national reconstruction, it is clear that Afghanistan requires continuing support from the international community. Despite the difficulties, the country has been able to accomplish relatively impressive progress to move forward. We have to acknowledge that the remaining efforts would continue to be difficult and challenging. Nonetheless, with assured and sustained support from the international

community, we are confident that the Government and the people of Afghanistan will be able to rebuild their country, strengthen the foundations of constitutional democracy and assume their rightful place in the community of nations.

10. Last but not least we wish to join others in expressing our appreciation to the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Jean Arnaud; the relevant United Nations agencies; all the men and women of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA); and respective national governments, for their remarkable efforts in assisting Afghanistan, despite the prevailing difficult and dangerous conditions.

Thank you Mr. President.