



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR RASTAM MOHD ISA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
IN HIS CAPACITY AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING
BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

AT

**THE SOLEMN MEETING IN COMMEMORATION OF
THE FORTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF AFRICA DAY**

DELIVERED BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR RADZI RAHMAN
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

**THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

ON

TUESDAY, 25 MAY 2004

Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver a Statement on behalf of His Excellency Ambassador Rastam Mohd Isa, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York, in his capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Statement reads as follows:

I have the honour to extend, on behalf of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, our sincere congratulations and warm felicitations to you, and through you, to the distinguished representatives of all the African countries on the auspicious occasion of the 41st Anniversary of Africa Day. The Non Aligned Movement remains conscious of the fact that the countries of Africa constitute almost half of its membership and have made very important contributions in the Movement's pursuit of its goals and objectives.

In celebrating this auspicious occasion with our African brothers and sisters, we note with full awareness the problems faced by Africa. But we remain confident that the commitment already shown by Africans themselves towards improving the situation in the African continent will eventually be fulfilled. We believe that the potential that exists in the African countries can be fully tapped. What is needed is for us, Africans and non-Africans, to fulfil our pledged commitment and muster the necessary political will.

Mr. Chairman,

Africans constitute ten percent of global population, yet Africa accounts for only one percent of the total global gross domestic product and around two percent of global trade. The African countries have collectively accumulated the largest percentage of external debt. Africa possesses the largest deposits of natural resources and precious minerals, but remains unable to transfer the profits generated by these commodities to better the lives of the continent's peoples. The majority of Africans remain subjected to abject poverty, underdevelopment and serious communicable diseases. The problem is compounded by inadequate assistance from the international community. This situation is a cause of concern to the Non-Aligned Movement and this has been clearly stated by the leaders of the Non-Aligned countries at their XIII Summit in Kuala Lumpur in February 2003. It is the view of the Non-Aligned Movement that Africa needs to be given equal opportunity to be engaged in global trade in a fair and equitable manner. Africa should be given external debt relief through debt cancellation or concessions and must be given access to cheap and affordable medication for communicable diseases.

In expressing its solidarity with Africa on this occasion, the Non-Aligned Movement is mindful of the momentous strides in various fields that the African Union has achieved in the last one year. These include the inauguration of the Pan-African Parliament in Addis Ababa on 18 March 2004, the operationalization of the African Union Peace and Security Council, the recent adoption in March 2004 of the Vision of the African Union and Missions of the African Union Commission and the 2004-2007 Strategic Framework of the

African Union Commission. These constructive developments have further confirmed the strong commitment and common vision of African Leaders and peoples to determine their future and destiny by themselves as well as claiming complete ownership of the issue of African integration – for a united and strong Africa.

The Non-Aligned Movement notes with great satisfaction the positive developments that have taken place in the process of conflict resolution in various parts of Africa. The Movement reaffirms the existence of an intrinsic link between peace and development that demands an integrated approach to conflict prevention, resolution and management. Building a peaceful and prosperous Africa should not rest on the shoulders of solely the Africans. The international community is equally and commonly responsible towards this end. The Non-Aligned Movement remains committed and shall continue to extend its support and cooperation, in various forms, to the African nations in their endeavour to achieve lasting peace in Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which has gained greater prominence and acceptance, is a most useful instrument for Africa in addressing current and future multifaceted challenges. The Movement has commended its adoption, sincerely endorsed it and supported its full implementation. We remain committed to work alongside the African countries to render the necessary assistance to sustain the momentum in achieving the objectives of NEPAD. We also believe that South-South cooperation can be a very important aspect of the implementation of NEPAD. This should be broadened and intensified within Africa and between Africa and other developing countries. This could be done through the enhancement of cooperation among the regional and sub-regional organisations that we belong.

The Non-Aligned Movement is sincerely grateful to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for having so generously agreed to host the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of NAM at their XIV Conference in Durban from 17 to 19 August 2004. This Conference is important since it would provide the opportunity for the Ministers to assess the status of the implementation of the outcome of the XIII NAM Summit, which included matters concerning the situation and developments in Africa. Its convening is also timely to enable our Ministers to respond to recent and current international developments.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to congratulate South Africa and Africa as a whole for the decision of the International Federation of Football Associations (FIFA), announced in Zurich on 15 May 2004 that South Africa will host the 19th FIFA World Cup in 2010. This highly welcomed decision has set a significant milestone for Africa. The year 2010 will signify the first time in the eighty-year history of FIFA that such a prestigious sporting event and a sport that is immensely enjoyed by Africans will be held in the African continent. It will be the seventh time that such an event is held in a developing country and the second time in a Member Country of NAM, after Chile hosted the 7th FIFA World Cup in 1962.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.