



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY MR. ZAINOL RAHIM ZAINUDDIN, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UN, ON "THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY CAUSED BY TERRORIST ACTS" AT THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 9 DECEMBER 2008.

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to thank you for convening this open debate of the Security Council on the threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. I believe this debate provides excellent opportunity for member states to revitalise their solidarity and contribute ideas to strengthen the leading role of the United Nations in conducting global anti-terrorism efforts.

Mr. President;

2. Before I proceed further, my delegation wishes to take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt condolences to the families of victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai and our deepest sympathies to those injured and affected in anyway by the carnage that resulted from those cowardly attacks. We reiterate our categorical condemnation of those terrorist acts and all other acts of terrorism irrespective of its motivation and objectives in all its forms and manifestations, including state terrorism. The terrorist attack in Mumbai clearly demonstrates again how terrorism directly threaten regional peace and international security.

3. International terrorism by its very nature is borderless. Terrorist groups in fact make use of the advances in technology, transportation and globalisation to exploit the weak links in trans-border situation to plan, raise funds and eventually mount its asymmetric attacks, more frequently now on civilian targets. Therefore we cannot over-emphasise the need for the international community to intensify cooperation and for the United Nations to provide a stronger leading role to narrow down and eventually obliterate the space for these terrorist activities.

4. In this regards, my delegation is encouraged by the improvements in the work methods under the United Nations counterterrorism regimes especially for the subsidiary bodies under Council Resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1540. We welcome the adoption of Council Resolution 1822 and the short term goal of the 1267 Committee to make the Consolidated List a living document while at the same time responding to calls by the general membership that the listing and delisting process must guarantee more stringent criteria for

due process including the human rights of terrorist suspects. My delegation also welcomes the work of the Counter Terrorism Committee on completing the preliminary implementation assessment (PIA) of all member states while avoiding to put too much reporting burden on the member states.

5. Nevertheless, the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council for counter-terrorism need to rigorously evaluate their effectiveness, and to constantly improve ways to facilitate effective implementation of the resolutions. We should avoid a situation whereby member states are turned off by the requirements of the subsidiary bodies or much worse, the subsidiary bodies working on their own, in total disconnect from the general membership of the United Nations.

Mr. President;

6. We continue to be confronted almost daily by news of some forms of terrorist act involving greater number of civilian casualties. My delegation regrets that the international community still struggles to adopt a universally accepted definition of terrorism when there is agreement that we could not accept nor tolerate these terrorist acts. To use the analogy of the six blind men and an elephant, while we address the same enemy, we fail to agree on how to define it. We feel this important because without which we are unable to address this scourge comprehensively. We see as a result of our inability in this regard, international counter-terrorism cooperations are compromised by narrow national perception and conflicting political expediencies. The agreement of a universal definition should help to form full solidarity behind a comprehensive international action against terrorism.

7. My delegation also wishes to reemphasise our strong conviction that all the best efforts and resources expended to wage war on terrorism would be futile, if the environment that breeds terrorism is left unchecked. As a country that had gone through this experience, particularly during the communist insurgency, Malaysia remained convinced that the best counter-terrorism effort must be through addressing the root-causes of terrorism. No prison nor detention camps will be big enough when terrorist recruitments continues to thrive within an environment of utter despair and indignity under the situation of colonisation, foreign occupation, wrongful seizure of lands and destruction of homes, illegal settlement, ethnic cleansing, abject poverty or the hopelessness of getting protection and redress.

8. In the same vein, it is a misguided effort to base terrorism on religion or nationality as no religion propagate nor any nationality is predispose to terrorism. My delegation calls on the international community to reject any attempt to link Islam and Muslim to terrorism.

Mr. President;

9. We welcome the identification of fresh directions as mentioned in the concept paper circulated by the Presidency of the Council (Doc. S/2008/738), that religions are victims of terrorism and that socio-economic handicaps indeed a factor favouring the spread of terrorism. Definitely, we have a new challenge confronting us to mend the atmosphere of mistrust, serious infringement of human rights; civilisation and cultural division caused by

terrorism and counter-terrorism actions. Definitely also the United Nations should take a firm lead in future counter-terrorism effort both within the Council and the General Assembly.

10. In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate Malaysia's commitment to give its fullest cooperation to all states and the United Nations in the fight against terrorism. Malaysia believes that terrorism can only be eliminated with all around cooperation and solidarity of all members of the international community through a comprehensive counter-terrorism effort.

Thank you.

