



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

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON THE SITUATION IN TIMOR-LESTE, 19 FEBRUARY 2009**

Mr. President,

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption as President of the Security Council and to thank you for organizing this open debate on the situation in Timor-Leste. I wish to also thank H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations for his report on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste – UNMIT (Doc.S/2009/72). By the same token I wish to welcome the presence of H.E. Dr. Jose Ramos Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and thank him for his statement. Last but not least; I wish to thank Mr. Atul Khare, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, for his comprehensive briefing.

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia aligns itself with the statement made by H.E. Chirachai Punkrasin, Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Thailand, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Nevertheless, we wish to make the following statement as a country and a neighbour which would like nothing more than a peaceful and prosperous Timor-Leste.

Mr. President,

3. Malaysia welcomes the progress achieved by Timor-Leste. The SG's report highlighted that the situation has returned to normalcy. What was a crisis has turned into an opportunity to solve the two major residual issues from the conflict of 2006 i.e. the issues of 'petitioners' and the internally displaced persons (IDP). To-date, the petitioners had fully disbanded and had been re-integrated into the society and 54 of 63 IDP camps have been closed.

4. We wish to congratulate the leaders and people of Timor-Leste, which with the assistance of UNMIT and other international partners have been successful in maintaining peace and stability in the country. It proves again that Timorese are more than capable of reconciling whatever differences that emerged for the sake of peace and prosperity for their country.

5. The encouraging security situation augurs well for the planned resumption of policing responsibility by the national police of Timor-Leste (PNTL). The national ownership of the policing responsibilities will represent a major milestone in the rehabilitation of the security sector in Timor-Leste. This will enable Timor-Leste to

graduate from UNMIT soon. In spite of this positive development, Malaysia believes, the resumption process should be carefully implemented under a phased approach that emphasized the need for PNTL units to meet the criteria mutually agreed to by the Government of Timor-Leste and UNMIT, and that this is done in accordance with the related arrangements as set out in para 21 & 22 of the Secretary General's report. In this regard, we would like UNMIT and the international community to continue providing the necessary support so that Timor-Leste could take the policing responsibility based on mutually agreed criteria and without imposing arbitrary deadlines.

6. As to the issue of security, we are of the view that it requires a holistic approach. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes UNMIT's medium-term strategy that is focused on economic and social development, and promotion of the culture of democratic governance and dialogue besides security sector reform and strengthening of the rule of law.

7. The introduction of benchmarks for the medium term strategy is important. Benchmarks will facilitate measurement of the performance of both UNMIT and the Government of Timor-Leste. This will enable adjustments to be made on the strength and mandate of UNMIT in due course.

Mr. President,

8. While there is progress, stability still remains fragile. The Secretary General's report underlines several major root causes such as poverty and unemployment, urban migration, absence of effective land and property regime, weak judicial system, and weak security institutions.

9. Consequently, Timor-Leste still requires a robust presence of UNMIT. In this regards Malaysia supports the expressed interest of Timor-Leste for the mandate of UNMIT to be further continued on a yearly basis. UNMIT's continued presence and support is critical as it allows for proper traction in the reform of the security sector, especially with regard to reconstituting the PNTL; integrating the rule of law; implementing economic and social development; and the consolidation of effective and sustainable democratic institutions and governance. We wish to re-assure Timor-Leste of Malaysia continued support and cooperation be it bilaterally or multilaterally through UNMIT or other regional and international mechanisms.

Mr. President,

10. Finally, Malaysia is happy to see you chairing of the Core Group on Timor-Leste. We wish to also commend Mr. Atul Khare, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the good work he has accomplished for Timor-Leste.

Thank you.