



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY MR. ZAINOL RAHIM ZAINUDDIN,
CHARGE D'AFFAIRE A.I. AND DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE
ON THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA
20 MARCH 2009**

Mr. President,

1. Let me at the outset congratulate you on your Presidency of the Security Council for the month of March 2009 and how pleased we are to see you preside over our meeting today. We also thank you for allowing Malaysia to participate at this meeting.
2. We wish to thank Mr. Ahmadou Ould-Abdullah, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Somalia and Mr. Mohamad Abdullahi Omar, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Somalia for their briefings.
3. We also wish to thank the Secretary General for his report on the situation in Somalia (S/2009/132) and his report pursuant to the Security Council resolution 1846 (2008) (Doc. S/2009/146). My delegation welcomes the positive developments highlighted in the two reports. We warmly welcome the strong commitments by the international community to persevere in the efforts to resolve the situation in Somalia.

Mr. President,

4. Malaysia condemns the acts of piracy and armed robberies at sea off the coast of Somalia. The situation is a serious threat on flow of global maritime trade. It endangers the lives of crew members on board the hijacked or attacked ships. The situation also causes serious impediments to conveyance of international humanitarian assistance to Somalia and the projected supplies of UN assistance to AMISOM.
5. Malaysia is directly drawn to the situation of piracy off the coast of Somalia when three Malaysian-flagged ships were hijacked in the Gulf of Aden between August and December of 2008. Malaysia dispatched five royal Malaysian Navy vessels to the Gulf of Aden in rotation. The objective then was to render the necessary assistance in the effort to seek the release of the hijacked Malaysian ships. Currently the Malaysian Navy provides escort and necessary security coverage to other Malaysian-flagged vessels plying the area. Malaysian Navy vessels had also provided security upon request to vessels of other countries, and had been

successful in thwarting a couple of attempts by pirates to board and hijack such foreign vessels.

Mr. President,

6. Malaysia had raised serious concern to the international community over the piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia. We raised this during the general debate of the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly and also during the meeting of our Foreign Minister with the UN Secretary General in September 2008. Malaysia had urged the international community to immediately and collectively formulate concrete steps and framework of cooperation to address the problem. With this position in mind, Malaysia had joined other states in co-sponsoring in particular the Security Council Resolution 1846 (2009).

7. Malaysia welcomes the anti-piracy operations undertaken by member states, regional and international organizations, and in particular welcomes the collaborative efforts by neighboring littorals states in that endeavor. We firmly believe however that **the United Nations should take leadership role including through establishing a UN naval peacekeeping force to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.**

8. We share the view that fundamentally the long lasting solution to the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia can only be achieved with political stability, the prevalence of the rule of law and improved socio-economic situation in the country. Therefore, the counter-piracy action should be carried out in a holistic manner involving political solution and reforms of the security sector, economy and human rights in Somalia.

9. Finally, Mr. President, let me reiterate Malaysia's continued readiness to work and cooperate in international efforts to resolve the scourge of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia and in the resolution of the overall situation in Somalia.

Thank you, Mr. President.