



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Haniff,
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations,
at the Open Debate on
“Threats to International Peace and Security caused by Terrorist Acts:
A Comprehensive Approach to Counter-Terrorism”
at the United Nations Security Council,
New York, 15 January 2013**

Madam President,

First and foremost, I wish to congratulate you and Pakistan on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I wish to welcome you back to New York to attend to this open debate on a subject that is truly important and in the interest of all Member States. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his briefing earlier. At this juncture, I wish to align my statement with that delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Egypt on behalf of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Madam President,

2. As with all present here today, Malaysia too hopes to see a world free from terrorism. In order for that day to become a reality, terrorism must be addressed and countered in all its hideous forms and manifestations, as well as at all levels. Therefore, Malaysia cannot agree enough that terrorism must be countered in a comprehensive manner. If terrorists are comprehensive in carrying out their acts of violence, so must we be as well.

3. In the wake of September 11, 2001, and subsequent terrorist attacks across the world, the international community reinvigorated our resolve and efforts to counter terrorism. The international community introduced innovative measures to target the financing of terrorism. However, as demonstrated in terrorist attacks and bombings thereafter, only minimal sums are required to cause disproportional harm to the people. Furthermore, terrorists have managed to leverage lower risk-higher margin sources of revenue through kidnapping and hostage taking through ransom. Thus, measures to curb the financing of terrorism have only managed to achieve qualified success. In fact, despite all the outreach and capacity building programmes proffered, despite enforcement and legislative measures that have led to countless prosecutions around the world, and despite resorting to the use of armed force, we continue to face this deadly scourge, which shows no sign of abating.

Madam President,

4. Our efforts to prevent individuals or groups that are intent on committing terrorist attacks from slipping through the cracks are simply not enough. In reality, if we are sincere in eradicating terrorism, we must nip the problem in the bud. There is a need to understand the root causes of why people resort to terrorism in the first place and to address underlying conditions that breed it. For one, there is a need to undertake inclusive political and economic developmental efforts that would address social and economic needs. In short, we need to win the hearts and minds of the people to counter terrorism effectively.

5. Malaysia also strongly believes on the need to ensure that human rights standards are maintained when countering terrorism, which is why Malaysia repealed the Internal Security Act of 1960 last year and introduced the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012. This decision demonstrates that while the Government remains committed to ensure that security is constantly safeguarded, the rights of the people also need to be upheld.

6. It is also equally, if not more, important to take efforts to resolve conflicts and repression. Those living under occupation must be accorded their most fundamental right to life and liberty with dignity and hope. Failing to acknowledge and take measures to address this is simply turning a blind eye to a fundamental cause of terrorism.

Madam President,

7. Malaysia is supportive of interfaith and intercivilizational initiatives such as the UN Alliance of Civilizations. Without a doubt, such initiatives promote greater understanding among all religions and civilizations in the world. However, while greater interaction and understanding is pivotal in building trust, we believe that the real problem that exists today is not between peoples of different faiths and cultures. Rather, it is between moderates and extremists of all faiths and cultures. It is due to this that Malaysia calls for the establishment of a Global Movement of the Moderates. It is essentially a call on the majority of moderate people, who have remained relatively silent despite being appalled by the despicable acts of extremists and terrorists, to drown the voices of extremism. Malaysia believes that the moderates must be the only dominant voice to occupy the mainstream. This would strongly contribute to our effort to eradicate terrorism. Likewise, moderation is also the best response in countering incitement to violence and extremism. We must not let extreme voices dominate world headlines and instill fear in the peoples of the world, but must speak out to ensure that the voices of moderation prevail.

Madam President,

8. Terrorism and extremism are serious challenges. Overcoming them requires clear-thinking based on an objective assessment of the situation. It also requires comprehensive action, based on common effort. Certainly, there will remain places and issues that provide a well-spring of support for terrorism. Thus, we must constantly remain vigilant. But, let us not overstate the case of the dangers posed by terrorism, nor underestimate the length and breadth of the challenge. Let us take on the threat head-on so that we may usher in a renewed period of global peace and prosperity for all.

I thank you.