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Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Haniff, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations, on United Nations Peacekeeping: A Multidimensional Approach, at the United Nations Security Council, New York, 21 January 2013

Allow me to congratulate you, on Pakistan's assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of January 2013. I am confident that under your able stewardship, the Council would be able to undertake the task entrusted upon it by the membership in the most productive and effective manner. I would also like to thank the UN Secretary General for his statement which has given us a status update of the various peacekeeping missions that is operating globally. At this juncture, I also wish to align my statement made by Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of NAM.

Mr. President,

2. Peacekeeping missions today have become increasingly complex, as the nature and characteristic of conflicts have changed. Major peacekeeping and peacebuilding challenges remain and many conflict ridden countries continue to experience instability years after the end of armed conflict, with high levels of relapse into violence. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's statement in the December 2012 Security Council's debate on post-conflict peacebuilding was apt, when he stated that the reason for relapse although varied between countries, has a common thread, that is a deficit of trust in the wake of conflict, between different political parties and social groups, between State and society, and between State and its international partners.

Mr. President,

3. While we have seen positive progress in the UN peacekeeping efforts through the years, it would be prudent to go back to the basic and to focus more on strengthening partnerships within and between peacekeeping missions. We should refocus our efforts on integrating peacekeeping core capabilities and we should find ways to improve the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. In this connection, the various actors in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts cannot continue to work in silos. The Council, in collaboration with DPKO and Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), should find ways to integrate further and strengthen collaboration between these actors, namely the military and police components in peacekeeping, civilian actors, civil society and regional organization. In pursuit of an integrated approach, Malaysia would encourage the participation of Member States to the CAPMATCH online platform, as introduced by the Civilian Capacity Unit. CAPMATCH, with its providers of training and assistance would be able to play an important role in support of a successful transition from conflict to governance. Such an integrated approach, in our view, would further facilitate the transition between peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Mr. President,

4. A successful transition from the peacekeeping stage into peacebuilding depends very much on the building of state institutions during the peacekeeping period. Failure to work closely and effectively with the national governments and local actors in ensuring a sustainable institutional architecture at the end of the peacekeeping period would possibly bring back instability to the country concerned. Towards an effective and sustainable outcome, focus should be given to enhancing state institutions especially those relating to judiciary, law and order and economic development. A potential stable state needs this institution to be the backbone of it democracy. The UN has the substantial role in ensuring that these institutions are stable at the end of the peacekeeping mandate.

Mr. President,

5. International assistance through quick impact projects, can also be useful in complementing peacekeeping work done through the UN. International development assistance, through coordination with the Peacebuilding Commission, including developing civilian capacity and expertise contribute to a successful implementation of these quick impact projects that would benefit the local populations directly. Positive outcome of these projects would encourage local actors to work closer with the international community in bringing sustainable stability to the country concerned, as they see the benefit of this collaboration. In this connection, I would suggest that future mandates for peacekeeping missions should include component of this nature.

6. In conclusion, Mr. President I would like to reiterate Malaysia's firm support for the central role of the United Nations, through the United Nations Security Council, in the maintenance of international peace and security. We are mindful of the daunting task that the United Nations faces in keeping the peace in conflict regions. The UN peacekeeping missions can only be successful if close collaboration between the different actors is given importance. Our task does not end at the expiry of the mandate. The UN would only be remembered fondly by the local populace if we can bring long lasting peace and subsequent prosperity to these trouble nations. Together we can succeed.

I thank you Mr. President.