



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE OPEN DEBATE ON “COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN
MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY”,
AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL,
NEW YORK, 6 AUGUST 2013**

Madam President,

1. Allow me to begin by congratulating you on the assumption of President of the United Nations Security Council for this month. Argentina has been one of the leading voices calling for regional cooperation in South America, and the choice of the topic for this high-level open debate clearly demonstrates your astuteness in this area. I also like to thank the United Nations Secretary-General for his earlier briefing. Malaysia associates itself with the statement made by Vietnam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Madam President,

2. Malaysia, as a firm believer in multilateralism and regionalism, recognises the importance of regional organisations cooperating with the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. As one of the founding members of ASEAN, we strive to create a regional union of states which could concentrate our shared efforts towards addressing common challenges. From the outset, ASEAN faced threats to our collective peace and security, ranging from post-colonial territorial disputes, to the non-traditional security issues of today.

3. As ASEAN evolved over time, it also strengthened and deepened its linkages with the UN and other international and intergovernmental organisations. This of course includes cooperation with the UN in maintaining international peace and security. The pace of this cooperation has accelerated, as can be seen in the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership. This Partnership, which was adopted over a year ago, has already seen tangible results, such as the exchange of experiences and best practices in conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy between ASEAN and UN officials. Peace and Security, has been one of the major component under the Political-Security Cooperation, which has been identified as the first priority areas under the ASEAN-UN

Comprehensive Partnership. As an initiative to enhance cooperation between ASEAN and UN in counter terrorism, including improving capacity and exchanging of information, Malaysia hosted a workshop, and a seminar on international joint investigations on cash courier border controls, in Kuala Lumpur in November 2011 and June 2012 respectively. Both workshop and seminar which was facilitated by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), aimed at strengthening the capacity of the ASEAN Member States in joint investigations in the region, and in detecting and preventing the illegal cross-border movement of cash. It also emphasised on the rule of law and the importance of respecting human rights while countering terrorism. In this regard, Malaysia looks forward to the first review of the Comprehensive Partnership which is expected to take place in October this year.

Madam President,

4. It would be relevant at this point to also highlight the comprehensive approach taken by Malaysia in addressing threats to regional security, especially within the ASEAN context. We have always argued that it is necessary to address the root causes of such threats, be it underdevelopment, poverty, political disputes, or preservation of national, socio-cultural and ethno-religious identities. As such we believe that regional security arrangements should also take into consideration such factors in a more holistic approach. At the same time, the broader framework of ASEAN also provides us with policy instruments to tackle the economic and social factors which drive conflicts.

5. I should also like to point out that while regional problems require regional solutions, there is also a smaller subset of sub-regional problems which can be more effectively resolved by sub-regional solutions. This can be illustrated by using the case of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). This sub-regional organisation comprises of the states of East Malaysia, Brunei, several Indonesian provinces in Borneo, Sulawesi and Papua, as well as Mindanao and Palawan in the Philippines. Although these areas are geographically distant from their respective capitals, the local governments have been given the capacity to interact with each other on a number of issues. The local focus of such an organisation has led to more effective enforcement actions in combating latent threats, which would otherwise remain under the radar of national governments. One example which complements the work of the Security Council on the ground is the BIMP-EAGA Working Group on Customs, Immigration and Quarantine. This mechanism has the capacity to enhance existing measures by individual states to prevent the smuggling of small arms and light weapons, as well as the cross-border movement of individuals suspected in terrorism. As such, and despite its primary intentions for enhancing economic cooperation, BIMP-EAGA and other sub-regional organisations have demonstrated the potential to also play a supporting role in the maintenance of peace and security.

Madam President,

6. In concluding, ASEAN has been successful in promoting peace and security in its region. My delegation believes that this is due to the consultative and discreet diplomacy that ASEAN members practice, or what is commonly known as “the ASEAN way”. As such, and looking at the examples of other regions, we are of the view that there should not be a “one size fits all” approach to collaborations between the UN and regional organisations. Instead, the unique circumstances of a region and its people should be taken into consideration when devising such mechanisms of collaboration.

I thank you Madam President.