# Malaysia

## Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Haniff,**
**Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations,**
**on Agenda Item 17:**
**Information and Communication Technologies for Development,**
**at the Second Committee of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly,**
**New York, 12 November 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statements made by Algeria, on behalf of G77 and China, and Indonesia, on behalf of ASEAN, under this agenda item. I also would like to thank the Secretary-General for the report presented under this agenda item.

2.      As highlighted in the report, the ICT sector and the role of ICT in social and economic development have experienced tremendous growth since the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The number of mobile subscriptions worldwide has almost trebled to 6 billion. Smartphones have transformed mobile telephones into multi-purpose devices. Broadband networks have become pervasive. The proportion of people with a computer worldwide is expected to rise from 1 in 50 in 2008 to 1 in 3 by 2020, while the internet users has more than doubled to 2.5 billion, since 2005.

3.      Malaysia recognises the potential role of ICT in accelerating growth, eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development, which would help accelerate achievement of the MDGs. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the positive developments in the global ICT sector as illustrated in the report. Now, allow me to share some of Malaysia's approach in integrating ICT with the development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

4.      Malaysia has always strived to stay in-step with the advances of ICT. From initiatives like the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), to the National Broadband Initiative, which were launched in 1996 and 2010 respectively, the Government has been continuously driving change and innovation, to ensure that Malaysians would have a high standard of living and be competitively relevant on the global stage.  One of the aims of MSC is to spearhead the development of the ICT industry in Malaysia, while the National Broadband Initiative implementation plan would enable Malaysians from all walks of life, in both urban and rural areas, to enjoy broadband services at affordable cost.

5.      In October 2011, the Government of Malaysia launched the latest ICT initiative called Digital Malaysia.  The initiative is expected to create an ecosystem that promotes the pervasive use of ICT, in all aspects of the economy, to connect communities globally and

interact in real time, resulting in increased Gross National Income, enhanced productivity and improved standards of living of the people in Malaysia.

6.      Digital Malaysia is underpinned by three strategic thrusts that have been identified as critical game changers, namely:

> One: To move Malaysia from being supply to demand focused, i.e. initiating    more demand-focused activities to leverage existing infrastructure, economic activity, market trends and consumer behaviour;

> Two: To shift behaviours from being consumption, to production centric, by, among others, to encourage and enable internet users to produce as much as they consume from digital technologies; and

> Three: To evolve from low knowledge-add, to high knowledge-add. This is done to increase development of local talent in key industries, in becoming innovators and knowledge workers.

7.      Digital Malaysia is expected to deliver its targeted goals through the implementations of a number of supporting projects. Currently eight projects have been identified and are being rolled-out. These projects are: the Asian e-Fulfillment Hub, Enabling e-Payment Services for SMEs and Micro Enterprises, Shared Enterprise Services, Develop On-Demand Customised Online Education, Microsourcing to Generate Income for the B40, Facilitating Societal Upliftment, Establish a Trusted Mobile Digital Wallet Platform, and Growing the Embedded Systems Industry.

8.      At the international level, in line with Malaysia's support for South-South cooperation, and mainly through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), we have been an active international development partner, providing technical and capacity development support in various sectors, including ICT related fields to over 141 developing countries since 1981. Malaysia will continue to strengthen its South-South cooperation programme, including sharing its ICT experience with fellow developing countries, in order to respond to emerging global and regional challenges, as well as the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries.

9.      While we welcome the growing use of ICT in supporting broader development processes, it is important for us to remember that development is not simply about boosting the number of computers, mobile telephones or smartphones and broadband users within a country as part of national e-strategies. Instead, the strategic thrust of ICT initiatives ultimately is to help achieve tangible improvements in the living standards of the people.  I believe that this Committee should endeavour to find more ways where the use of ICT can further accelerate economic development of member states, especially in countries from developing world.

10.     To conclude, Mr. Chairman, Malaysia will continue to promote the pervasive use of ICT in its development agenda and we stand ready to share our best practices and development experience in ICT sector, with fellow developing countries, with the aim to boost the standard of living of people in member states.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.