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## STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST (YEMEN)

## **NEW YORK, 15 FEBRUARY 2015**

Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting today, which reflects the urgency of the matter.

2. My delegation commends the initiative of the GCC in coming up with the draft resolution on Yemen, as well as the efforts by Jordan and the United Kingdom for facilitating discussions on the draft.

Mr. President,

- 3. This month signifies the fourth anniversary of the revolution in Yemen that sparked off the democratic transition in Yemen based on the aspiration of its people. Yemen was a success model for the region, being the only country with a negotiated political transition arising from the Arab Spring in 2011, which included a clear road map and timeline for an inclusive democratic transition.
- 4. Unfortunately, Yemen is currently in real danger of backsliding into civil war and sectarian conflict. Malaysiais deeply alarmed at the unravelling situation in the country, with the unilateral takeover of the government by the Houthis, the increasing threats of terrorism, the looming secession in the south and the dire humanitarian crisis.
- 5. With the resolution adopted today, which Malaysia co-sponsors, we hope it will send a clear and unmistakable signal to all parties in Yemen that any efforts to derail the political transition in Yemen, whether directly or indirectly, are unacceptable.
- 6. We also call on the Houthis to immediately release the Yemeni President, Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers from house arrest.

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## Mr. President,

- 7. We highly appreciate the tireless efforts by Mr. Jamal Benomar, Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Yemen, to salvage the dialogue between all parties and we reiterate our strong backing of his works. His optimism and perseverance to resolve the current situation through inclusive dialogue and negotiations in the difficult situation is highly admirable. However, in the end, the success of the negotiations will depend on the political will of the parties in Yemen themselves.
- 8. Thus, Malaysia urges all parties, in particular the Houthis, to uphold their earlier commitments to the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism, the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference, and the Peace and National Partnership Agreement. We echo the view of the international community that this remains the only legitimate path towards a democratic, stable and inclusive Yemen, and we will continue to support Yemen towards this endeavour.

I thank you, Mr. President.