



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. KENNEDY JAWAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA ON AGENDA ITEM 9: REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND AGENDA ITEM 119: QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS AT PLENARY MEETING OF THE 64TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 13 NOVEMBER 2009

Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself to the statement made yesterday by the Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement under this agenda item.

2. Malaysia takes note of the Report of the Security Council, as contained in document A/64/2. We recognize the important work being carried out by the Security Council, evident in the 228 formal meetings and 141 consultations of the whole, which the Council undertook during the period under review. This adds up to more than one meeting per day, as the Security Council remains seized with over more than 43 different issues relating to the maintenance of peace and security in four different continents.

3. However, what does not add up is how these many meetings were so efficiently summarized in a report to the general membership of the United Nations in a mere 51 pages, with an additional 20 pages thrown in to describe the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council. The other 202 pages were facts and figures relating to the reference number of the resolution, and its dates of adoption. In terms of balance, this does not seem to my delegation a 'balanced' reporting of the actual discussions which we know the Security Council to have carried out with all its due diligence and meticulousness.

4. The general membership of this esteemed Organization should be kept informed of the deliberations of the Council, particularly those held in closed sessions. The UN Charter stipulated that the Council acts on behalf of the general membership, thus making it obligatory that the membership be notified of not only decisions of the Council, but also deliberations of the Council. This is what we were hoping the Report of the Security Council would contain - a more comprehensive reporting of the goings of the Council, as well as an analytical look at the many issues under the agenda of the Council.

5. Malaysia would also like to see concerned countries being included in the deliberations of the Council rather than informed after the fact. This is provided for under Article 32 of the Charter, and should be strictly adhered, rather than selectively applied. We hope to see a more streamlined and standardized procedure in this respect.

Mr. President,

6. Malaysia was one of the countries which rejoiced when at the end of the 62nd session of this august Assembly, Member States were able to push through, by consensus, an agreement to establish the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform at the informal plenary of the General Assembly. We believe that this breakthrough, though small in the eyes of the rest of the world, would finally put us on our way towards the reform of the Security Council after 14 long years of discussing the matter.

7. Having gone through three rounds of Intergovernmental Negotiations in the 63rd session of the General Assembly, we are now not so convinced that we actually achieved as much as we thought we had. After a brilliant start under the very able Chairmanship of Ambassador Zahir Tanin of Afghanistan, the Intergovernmental Negotiations seems to have sort of fizzled out in the second and third rounds of negotiations. The first round was successful in that it outlined the five key issues to be discussed: categories of membership; the question of the veto; regional representation; the size of an enlarged Council and the working methods of the Council; and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly. All were as outlined and agreed to in GA resolution 62/557.

8. Let me take this opportunity to briefly renumerate Malaysia's position regarding these five key issues. We would like to see an expansion of the Security Council in both categories, whether permanent or non-permanent seats – without expansion of the veto – with a view to an eventual abolition of the right to veto. The Security Council should be more representative. Hence its enlargement should take into account the fact that the membership of the United Nations itself has grown over the past decades. Malaysia believes that seats of the Council should be held by countries, with due regard being given to equitable geographical representation, and the Council should be more inclusive and transparent than its current work methods. Both the Council and the General Assembly should interact more and due regard should be given to Article 24 (1) of the UN Charter which stipulates that it is the Member States of the United Nations that confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and that the Council acts on their behalf.

Mr. President,

9. My delegation is convinced that the reason why the second and subsequent rounds of the Intergovernmental Negotiations lacked the momentum afforded by GA resolution 62/557 and the sterling qualities of the first round, is because States did not have a negotiating text before it. It is still not too late for us to have such a composite text, to form the basis of our negotiations during this 64th session. If delegations are serious about moving forward, then prove it. Give the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiations the necessary mandate to produce this composite text that we need.

10. The text should include all the options proposed for each key issue. Then it will be the task of the Intergovernmental Negotiations to taper down the list by eliminating those proposals which do not enjoy a minimum amount of support. Key to the proposals to be put forth should also be the intermediate approach which seems to have gained much interest in the last weeks of the 63rd session of the General Assembly. We need to move forward. We need to truly negotiate a tangible document rather than restate our long-held views.

Mr. President,

11. In the coming months, progress will be measured not by the sheer determination of those who want to move forward, but by the flexibility of delegations which see obstacles rather than opportunities in this path we have embarked. Malaysia affirms its strong support to the process of reform of the Security Council, and in particular in the question of the equitable representation in the membership of the Security Council itself. It is time that we discard notions of elitism and embrace the promise of inclusiveness. And that promise is well within our collective grasp.

Thank you Mr. President.