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STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE 2ND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNCSD) NEW YORK, 15-16 DECEMBER 2011

EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM RIO+20

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to associate itself with the statement made by Argentina on behalf of G-77 and China. Allow me at the outset to thank you for giving us the floor to share Malaysia's views on the expected outcomes from Rio+20 Summit.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Since the Earth Summit of 1992, there has been growing recognition of, and respect for the Rio Principles and implementation of Agenda 21 and related international, regional and sub-regional commitments to sustainable development. There has also been progress in improving the quality of life of millions of people.

3. However, twenty years after the world committed to sustainable development, there were considerable weaknesses and imbalances in and between all three pillars of sustainable development, namely the economic, social and environmental pillars, and their integration at the national as well as regional levels still remains an urgent challenge.

4. The Conference could set a perspective about the way in which these three aspects of Sustainable Development need to be brought in harmony, in order to set the stage for transforming the paradigm of development as practice now. To move to one that is more in keeping with the concept of Sustainable Development, one that is more people-centred and planet-centred and less profit-centred.

5. The Conference could signal the political will to move to such a transformation and with urgency, which could trigger and accelerate much of the technical work that would be required to facilitate that new approach.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The Rio+20 Conference will take place in a radically changed geo-political world compared to 1992. This makes it possible for the 'developing' countries to exercise new and different leadership towards the outcome of the Conference, in relation to the world and to themselves. All countries must choose a different economic pathway to seek and to move towards Sustainable Development.

7. In this context, Malaysia expects that Rio+20 will be able to produce a focused political document, containing strong commitments for Green Economy initiatives and programs for the achievement of Sustainable Development. The key components of the outcome document should be as follows:

i. Firstly, the outcome document should include concise and strong political commitments that reaffirms our determination to implement Sustainable Development based on the three pillars and guides countries to pursue a vision of Green Economy with a view towards Sustainable Development;

ii. Secondly, it is important to reaffirm the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, as it is a manifestation of general principles of equity in international environmental legal framework. It recognizes the historical differences in the contributions of developed and developing States to global environmental problems, and differences in our respective economic and technical capabilities to tackle the problems;

iii. Thirdly, the outcome document should articulate a plan for building Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD), by identifying the modalities of its institutional form. It should include when, and under what terms, the newly envisioned IFSD structure would be enacted and operational; and

iv. Finally, there is an urgent need to find solutions to address the means of implementation of sustainable development and financing for development. A failure to do so would relegate the Rio+20 Summit to just another international talk shop.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Malaysia wishes to reiterate the importance of the expected outcomes of Rio+20 next year. We need to set our targets clear, address the core issues heads on, and adhere to our set commitments in order to move forward in a progressive and sustainable manner.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.