



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE
OF THE 67th SESSION ON THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
NEW YORK, 9 OCTOBER 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Second Committee. I wish to also extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau. Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statement made by Algeria, on behalf of G77 and China, and Indonesia, on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Since our meeting last year in this august Committee, many important developments have taken place. The world financial and economic crises continue to worsen. The state of the environment has further deteriorated with global temperatures continue to rise and more violent weather recorded due to the impact of climate change. We cannot go on testing the capacity of the planet to sustain us. We must act in concert now. We need to change our way of life, beginning with how we relate among us human beings, and moving to the future that we want, and to the ecosystem that supports us.

3. Our mission in this Committee is to reflect on and formulate action plans that would urgently address the worsening state of the world economic, social and environment. This is no small feat as there is a lot of work in store for this Committee under the various agenda items. These include follow-up to Rio+20, post-2015 UN development agenda, strengthening of ECOSOC, the preparations for the forthcoming Doha climate change conference, the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), and the challenges of countries under special situations in achieving the MDGs by 2015, to name a few. For them to succeed, we must all demonstrate political will at the highest level to ensure that we can move beyond rhetoric.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The convening of the Rio+20 Conference last June to renew our political commitment and address gaps in implementation of sustainable development clearly show us that more need to be done to fully implement our commitments. It is clear, the gaps in implementation

of sustainable development are not due to the lack of ideas or plan, but rather the lack of political will. We therefore call for all countries, in particular our developed partners, to muster the much needed political will in order for us to move forward and implement the Rio+20 outcomes in a timely and effective manner.

5. Much work needs to be done in the Rio+20 follow-up processes within these one to two years, covering four important areas, namely: development of sustainable development goals; establishment of a High Level Political Forum for sustainable development; strengthening and upgrading of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and developing strategies for sustainable development financing. The time has come for us to set aside the differences between the North and South and act in a collective and responsible manner in order to ensure successful implementation. Hence, we would like to make the following proposals:

- First, we call upon countries which have indicated their interest to be part of the Open Working Group on SDGs to exercise flexibility in the allocation of seats between the five regional groups, with the principal of equity in mind, in order to ensure that the work of the Open Ended Working Group could commence immediately;
- Second, to ensure that the development of sustainable development goals takes into account of the need for integration into the post-2015 UN development agenda and not to undermine the achievement of MDGs by 2015 which is vital for the Least Developed Countries;
- Third, the establishment of a High Level Political Forum for sustainable development that will subsequently replace the Commission on Sustainable Development should lead to the fulfillment of sustainable development goals and contribute to the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development as well as the strengthening of ECOSOC as the United Nation's principal development organ;
- Fourth, the universalization of UNEP must be accompanied with secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the UN and voluntary contributions;
- Fifth, we call upon developed countries to demonstrate their political will at the highest level in order to ensure the development of strategies for sustainable development financing. This will be vital for developing countries to implement the sustainable development agenda in a timely manner; and
- Finally, we call upon the UN system to provide full support to developing countries in order to help them implement the Rio+20 outcomes in a timely and efficient manner.

6. There are also other issues in the follow up process that are no less important for us. These include options for a facilitation mechanism for technology transfer, climate change, food security, water scarcity, energy shortages, resilient to disaster, marine resources and job creation.

Mr. Chairman,

7. On the issue of climate change, it is important that the Doha Climate Change Conference (COP 18/CMP 8) that is scheduled at the end of this year make significant progress for the sake of our planet and the future generations based on common but differentiated responsibilities. Malaysia looks forward for a successful and comprehensive outcome at COP 18/CMP 8, and emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of COP17/CMP 7 in Durban in all its aspects, including the achievement of the second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the successful conclusion of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA)

Mr. Chairman,

8. Like other delegations, Malaysia is deeply concerned over the fragility of the global economic and financial situations, especially the financial turbulence that have hit the advanced economies. We worry that this economic and financial malaise would severely impact those in vulnerable situations, including women and children. The possible repercussions on developing countries, caused by the current sovereign debt crises in Europe, are costly and disruptive. It would adversely impact development, including the capacity of developing and developed countries to mobilize resources for development. While there have been some progresses in strengthening the international financial architecture, a comprehensive reform of global economic and financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, are yet to see positive changes, and needs to be done expeditiously. The current global fall out, holds the potential of further aggravating poverty and threatens the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Twelve years ago, world leaders concluded a landmark agreement by adopting the Millennium Development Goals. Malaysia, as a country, have successfully achieved and exceeded almost all of the goals stipulated in the MDG, since its inception. Malaysia is deeply concerned of the overall progress of achieving these goals, not only within the region of Southeast Asia, but also in Africa, among the Least Developed Countries (LDC), the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) and among the Small Island Developing States. Certainly, there is a lot more need to be done, in accelerating the progress of achieving the MDGs, for countries that are off track or struggling to maintain the momentum towards enhancing the livelihood of the peoples, especially the poor.

10. The world should have learned its lessons by now. Numerous factors, inter-alia, the lack of political will, global economic and financial crises and our collective failure in fulfilling pledges and commitments, had hampered our own chances of getting the more desirable outcomes. The international community must start walking the talk, especially in the agenda for development. In this context, Malaysia wishes to call on all member states, to put in more efforts in fulfilling our international obligations, in ensuring a more action-oriented approach to support the achievement of the MDGs by the year 2015. The world should not just be mere watchers, as the year 2015 is fast approaching; and the UN has started planning for beyond 2015. In this regard, Malaysia wishes to reiterate its support in shaping the Post-2015

Development Agenda and we will participate actively in the relevant processes of formulating and integrating the Sustainable Development Goals. It is in our best interest to see the success of both, for the betterment of the humankind.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Malaysia recognizes the importance of the ECOSOC in guiding system-wide coordination of UN activities and programmes in the economic and social fields. We wish to emphasize the need to further strengthened coordination between and beyond the United Nations system, in addressing all internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs and the upcoming SDGs. The role and the capacity of the UN development system to assist countries in achieving their development goals requires continued improvement to make it more effective, efficient and coherent , while facing the challenges in mobilizing resources. The fundamental characteristics of the UN operational activities for development must remain, among others, universal, voluntary and grant- based, neutral and multilateral, as well as having the ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner. The operational activities should be carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own national policies and national priorities for development. In this regard, we look forward to a successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the United Nations Operational Activities (QCPR) that recognizes the needs and priorities of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

12. My delegation has reiterated the importance of the solidarity dimension of the South-South cooperation. The importance of South-South cooperation in light of the fragility of the current global financial and economic situation cannot be overemphasized. The efforts of developing countries to promote and implement South-South cooperation should not be regarded as a substitute for traditional cooperation with our developed partners, as its premise, conditionality and expectation, are totally different.

Mr. Chairman,

13. As we meet here, the world is experiencing global volatility and uncertainty. Economies are teetering. Inequality is growing. And global temperature is rising. The sign of a catastrophe in the making is clear. The time to act is now. Or we only have ourselves to blame for not doing enough for the sake of our future generations.

14. Let me conclude by wishing the Second Committee a successful work ahead.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.