



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. SENATOR LIHAN JOK
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
ON AGENDA ITEM 103: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND
AGENDA ITEM 104: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE**

**67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

Crime is of natural concern to us all. Toward installing substantial peace and security at the national and international levels, there cannot be room for complacency in our battle against crime. Malaysia renders tremendous importance to crime prevention, underscoring it as one of our six National Key Result Areas (NKRA). The NKRA on crime reduction encompasses short- and long-term goals to abate crime. The Key Result Area also seeks to optimize resources and capacities, while focusing to topple persistent crimes.

2. Parallel with the recommendations set out in the Secretary-General's Report on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Malaysia believes that transnational organized crime needs to be addressed in a more comprehensive manner. Possible approaches include strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies and enhancing inter-agency cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

3. With regard to terrorism, Malaysia condemns it in all of its acts, methods and practices. Fighting terrorism demands effective international action in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized principles governing international relations and international law.

4. The Global Movement of the Moderates promulgated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia calls on countries to censure and reject extremism and to support moderation. Malaysia believes that the acceptance of the concept of moderation in international

politics would foster among all parties, state and non-state actors, a sense of responsibility to conduct relations in the manner, which helps to diffuse possible tension and conflict.

5. Malaysia is committed to fortifying its regional and international cooperation in combating terrorism. Through our Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Malaysia stands ready to extend cooperation through a variety of means such as capacity building programs, joint research projects, and seminars for public awareness.

Mr. Chairman,

6. As with the rest of the international community, Malaysia condemns in the strongest possible terms the heinous crimes of human trafficking and people smuggling. We are seriously committed and taking every effort within our means to address and eventually eradicate the problem.

7. Malaysia ratified the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children on 26 February 2009. Valuable and all encompassing though the Protocol may be, it is without a doubt that the main challenge that lies before States Parties is in the implementation of the provisions contained therein. On its part, Malaysia enacted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2007, which was amended in 2010 to become the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2010. Amendments were necessary to close loopholes and expand the scope of the law to address the problem of smuggling of migrants.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2010 allowed for the establishment of the Council of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants, which in turn, is responsible for the formulation of policies and the implementation of the 2010 National Action Plan to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The Council meets on a monthly basis and overlooks all aspects in combating the heinous crimes from legislation and enforcement, to protection and rehabilitation, media, publicity and labour trafficking. Not only is the Council made up of government ministries and agencies, but also of civil society organisations. On occasions, diplomatic representations from other countries are also invited to Council meetings to raise concerns and share ideas on various related features. This allows the Council to act in a comprehensive manner taking into account every aspect of combating trafficking and smuggling.

9. Despite our comprehensive approach to the problem, we are faced with a multitude of challenges. Becoming a destination, transit and to a lesser extent, even a country of origin, we have been put in an unenviable position of having to view the problem from a bird-eye's view. Unenviable though it may be, it has its advantages in terms of allowing us to appreciate the enormity of the challenge that lies before us. Through our experience, we have learned that cooperation and coordination with neighbouring countries is essential in our common efforts to combat this ugly scourge.

Mr. Chairman,

10. With regard to the issue of drug trafficking, Malaysia views it as a serious problem that continues to plague most nations, including Malaysia. It poses threats to a country's social and economic structures, as criminals are never restrictive in their illicit endeavors. The problem is considered more challenging in South East Asia, largely due to its close proximity to the Golden Crescent, which is the main opium-producing region. Measures to control illicit drug trafficking are best carried out through concerted international efforts, including bilateral and regional arrangements, in view of the transnational nature of the crime. These should include providing technical assistance and engaging in capacity building programmes to provide alternative sources of income in drug-producing areas or countries.

11. In Malaysia, there are three major drug related problems; smuggling of drugs into the country for local consumption, abuse of drugs by the local population, and the transit of drugs through Malaysia for third countries. Combating drug trafficking has been one of the priority areas for Malaysia and the Government has proclaimed it as a threat to national security since 1983. Malaysia has also formulated the National Drug Policy in 1996 to deal with the problems of drug abuse and trafficking. The main objective of this policy is to eliminate the demand and supply of illicit drugs. Furthermore, the Government has established the National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA) in 1997, which focuses on four (4) main areas namely prevention, enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation.

Mr. Chairman,

12. While the international community has had many achievements in combating transnational organized crime, the scourge remained a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and international cooperation. There is a need for a balanced and holistic approach to combating it through national, regional and multilateral efforts, while maintaining respect for differences in the policies and situations of countries. Additionally, while stressing the need to have a comprehensive

approach involving bilateral and regional cooperation among States, Malaysia believes that the international community must be cautious in dealing with the issue so as not to divert resources and attention from addressing the underlying causes to the problem, in particular, contributing factors such as poverty, underdevelopment and marginalisation.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.