



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 67th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
ON AGENDA ITEM 25 (b) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: SOUTH-
SOUTH COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT
NEW YORK, 15 OCTOBER 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statement made by Algeria, on behalf of G77 and China, and by Viet Nam on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

2. My delegation would like to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on **The state of South-South cooperation** in response to resolution 66/219. It highlights the economic emergence of the South, and its expansion of the middle class group, connectivity and knowledge as promising new assets for developing countries to harness, in renewed efforts to achieve sustainable human development.

3. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the report which also emphasizes on the role of the United Nations system in South-South and triangular cooperation. The funding by Malaysia, through UNESCO, to implement a five-year programme to build South-South capacities to improve education and science was also highlighted in this report. The main beneficiaries of this programme are the least developed countries and Small Islands Developing States, where UNESCO-Malaysia Cooperative Trust Fund was set up in support of the Priority Africa agenda of UNESCO. Through this trust-fund, UNESCO is working to develop science, technology and innovation policy in all Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. Malaysia would continue to support programmes that would benefit the education and science sector in the developing world.

Mr. Chairman,

4. My delegation also welcomes the report by the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system”. This report reviewed the existing United Nations institutional arrangements in support of South-South and triangular cooperation. The report also made recommendations on the ways and means of enhancing system-wide contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation, addressing issues of mandates, frameworks and policies, intergovernmental processes, structures, financing and coordination. Several recommendations were made, and was supported by the Secretary-General of the United Nations through his note (A/66/717/Add.1). My delegation supports the recommendations to be implemented fully.

5. In this connection, Malaysia welcomes the decisions adopted by the Seventeenth Session of the High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation last May, which reaffirmed the mandate of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and renamed the Unit as United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation with a view to strengthen its capacities. The decision also suggested several measures to strengthen the Unit, and my delegation looks forward for these measures to be implemented effectively.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The encouraging trends of economic activities and overall developments, taking place in the framework of South-South cooperation as reflected in the report, has proven the solidarity among the South-South nations and served as evidence to the importance of sincerity and mutual respect. On this note, my delegation would like to share some key points of Malaysia’s experience in promoting South-South cooperation:

First, Malaysia joins other delegations before us in reaffirming the importance of South-South cooperation as a vital vehicle of international cooperation for development. Malaysia also wishes to express its renewed commitment to the future enhancement of South-South cooperation;

Second, while Malaysia welcomes the strong economic growth across the global South, my delegation is also concerned with the unequal and uneven progress towards the achievement of the MDGs with the possibility that many South countries might not meet the targets by 2015;

Third, Malaysia believes that one of the cornerstones in enhancing South-South cooperation is the human capacity building, through sharing of expertise and experiences. Since its inception in 1980, the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) has seen more than 25,000 participants from 140 countries benefitting directly from the programme. This is not a small contribution considering the size and economic development level of Malaysia. It clearly reflects Malaysia’s continued commitments to South-South Cooperation. In this connection, Malaysia, does not subscribe to the term of “new donor” or “emerging donor”. We prefer to be seen in the context of being a strong supporter of South-South Cooperation, and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit;

Fourth, cooperation with Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) under South-South Cooperation has become more significant. Indeed, Malaysia has initiated the Capacity Building Programme for the OIC countries. The initiative saw a new dimension to the South-South Cooperation which aims at involving the private sectors of the more advanced members of the OIC in exploring the economic potential and collaboration with the less developed members, leveraging on the funds made available by the MTCP and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB); and

Finally, Malaysia welcomes and views positively the increasing importance of triangular cooperation as part of the South-South cooperation framework, and therefore welcomes the opportunities to cooperate with our developed partners and other development agencies in providing technical assistance to third parties. On this score, Malaysia has worked with development partners, collaborating through funding of participants from developing countries to attend short courses under the MTCP programme. In 2012 alone, 16 short courses have been earmarked to be held under the triangular cooperation with international development partners. This is an example of the MTCP's collaboration with international development partners in our efforts to increase the outreach of our programmes.

Mr. Chairman,

7. In closing, Malaysia wishes to reiterate 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. And we hope our developed partners would continue to substantively cooperate with the less developed economies, even in these difficult economic times.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.