



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Haniff, Permanent Representative of Malaysia,
on Agenda Item 21:**

**Implementation of the outcome of the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
at the second committee of the 67th United Nations General Assembly,
New York, 1 November 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Representative of Algeria on behalf of G-77 and China, and Indonesia, on behalf of ASEAN.

2. We thank the Secretary-General for his report on the Implementation of the outcome of the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) as contained in document A/67/263.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Malaysia supports the important role, which the UN-Habitat plays in the overall pursuit of sustainable development. A number of significant developments and challenges have emerged, since the last UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996. Activities of UN-Habitat in areas of technical assistance and cooperation at country level are proving to be useful. We also recognize that UN-Habitat plays an important role in enhancing the living conditions of the urban poor with the aim to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

4. Urbanization is steadily increasing and it is expected that over the next 30 years, approximately two-thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas. Cities are home to more than half of the world's population today. Unprecedented numbers of people are moving into cities in search of better living standard. This has led to rapid geographical expansion of urban settlements, particularly in developing countries. At the same time, the challenges of rapid urban growth and the consequent formation of slums is becoming a common problem not only to developing countries but also to developed countries. UN-Habitat should continue identifying and sharing innovative urban development planning and management approaches and practices that are responsive to the global challenge.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia welcomes the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) aimed at strengthening the global commitment to sustainable urbanization. This Conference should be built based on the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals. Malaysia supports the Resolution 66/207, which decides to consider the scope, modalities, format and organization of the Habitat III, in a most efficient and effective manner before the end of 2012.

6. We hope that the Habitat III Conference, including the preparatory process, would ensure the balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection, which are the interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable urban development. Malaysia concurs with the Secretary General's report that the preparatory process should be carried out in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner. The Habitat III Conference also expected to provide an efficient platform to address new challenges and opportunities faced by the international community on the basis of lessons learnt from Habitat II, and also from other recent international United Nations conferences.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Malaysia believes that by end of 2012, the governance review process of UN-Habitat would conclude in order to continue on its path towards the improvement of its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness. We will continue to support the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for 2008-2013 and financing operations in support of pro-poor housing and urban development. We also hope that this plan will provide renewed impetus to coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and improve the living conditions of the urban poor by achieving targets of Millennium Development Goal 7.

8. In supporting the UN-Habitat initiatives to improve the living conditions of the poor and slum dwellers, Malaysia, at the national level, has launched a Housing Assistance Programme to provide 50,000 new and restored houses for the poor and hardcore poor in the urban areas, with the aim to eradicate urban poverty by 2013. House Rent Assistance is another programme launched for this group based on the applications through the United Nations award winning, **e-Kasih** system, which was established in June 2008, to plan, implement and monitor poverty eradication programs. The **e-Kasih** project is a national poverty databank system, which was created in order to plan the provision of aid to the poor. It is used by relevant agencies to ensure fair distribution of assistance and to avoid overlapping aid programmes. The **e-Kasih** system was awarded the first prize in the United Nations Public Service Awards for year 2012 under the category of "Advancing Knowledge Management in Government for Asia and the Pacific", in recognition of its significant contribution in poverty eradication.

Mr. Chairman,

9. In conjunction with the celebration of the World Habitat Day, Malaysia organized the **House Build Project** as a people-centric programme since 2009. This project is focused on the repairing and rebuilding houses of the poor with aim to help them lead a comfortable, safe and quality life. In 2011, the Malaysia's Committee of World Habitat Day unanimously agreed the House Build Project for year 2011 and beyond would be implemented through the Private Sector driven Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme, with coordination and general supports from the government. This year, the Government has invited Malaysian Government Linked Companies (GLC's) and the corporate sector to contribute in cash or kind in rebuilding and repairing the homes of the less fortunate.

10. Safe and secure living environment are important facets for quality urban living. In this regards, Government of Malaysia also launched the **Safe City** programme in 2004. "Safe City" is a concept, which involves the removal of all crime opportunities through crime-proof designs and constant surveillance. This initiative towards creating violence and crime free cities is expected to benefit 70% of the urban population. The backbone and strength of the Malaysia's **Safe City** program lies in a strong partnership led by local law enforcement agencies, in partnership with resident's associations and civil society.

Mr. Chairman,

11. We are confident that Malaysia is on track to meet the on going MDG targets on poverty eradication by 2015. In 2009, the poverty rate in Malaysia decreased to 3.8% from 16.5% in 1990. Since 2010, over 90,043 low-income families have benefited from the **1AZAM** anti-poverty programme. The programme provides employment opportunities to people who are categorized as hardcore poor and poor. The progress made in the course of achieving the MDGs has encouraged Malaysia to further improve other key areas of development in the rural populace, through the adoption of effective policy actions.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Malaysia remains committed to implement its international obligations in order to attain sustainable development. With the support of the developed and developing countries, through exchanges of ideas and knowledge between countries, we shall continue to strive for providing safe and sustainable living conditions for our people.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.