



# 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 69(B,C): GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF  
THE 67<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
NEW YORK, TUESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2012**

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Mr. Chair,

I wish to join earlier speakers in expressing appreciation to the various Special Procedures for their participation and presentation as well as to the Secretary-General for his reports to the Committee under this agenda item.

Mr. Chair,

2. My delegation wishes to reaffirm its commitment to supporting the role and the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office (OHCHR). As a current member of the Human Rights Council (HRC), Malaysia is privileged to serve the cause of promoting and protecting human rights at the intergovernmental level, including on the clarification and elaboration of international human rights norms, standards and practices.

3. For these and other reasons, my delegation remains convinced that continued close cooperation and collaboration between the HRC and OHCHR in a mutually reinforcing relationship contributes positively and significantly to advancing the cause of human rights at the global level.

4. Alongside other delegations, Malaysia also remains keenly seized of developments in the ongoing Treaty Body strengthening process and we appreciate the work of the OHCHR in coordinating the inputs emanating from the various initiatives involving a wide range of stakeholders aimed at improving the role and functioning of the UN human rights treaty body system.

5. In this connection, my delegation wishes to reaffirm the importance of the intergovernmental process being afforded sufficient time to comprehensively consider such inputs, to deliberate and ultimately, to decide on the best way forward for the various treaty bodies.

6. Malaysia is also pleased to note that the HRC Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) has very recently concluded the second session of the Second UPR Cycle. My delegation remains strongly convinced of the UPR's value as an innovative and constructive mechanism towards improving human rights situations in all countries. We call upon all delegations to continue supporting the UPR process, including through implementation of the accepted recommendations emanating from the UPR.

Mr. Chair,

7. My delegation shares the view that in certain parts of the world, the human rights situation continues to deteriorate as a consequence of escalating internal conflict as well as due to recent political upheavals, most notably in the Middle East and in certain parts of Africa.

8. My delegation wishes to emphasise that a key component of ensuring the continued exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms such as the right to life, the right to food, health, adequate water and sanitation among others in those areas pertains to the provision of urgently needed humanitarian aid. In this connection, Malaysia calls upon all parties to ensure unimpeded access to humanitarian aid and assistance.

9. Malaysia also calls upon the international community to halt the flow of armaments, particularly small arms and light weapons to the belligerents in those conflicts which in our view not only prolongs the conflict situation but also causes unacceptable loss of life and destruction of property.

10. The human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian and other Arab Territories must surely continue to command the attention of the Committee and the wider international community. For far too long have Palestinians been made to suffer and their rights systematically denied and trampled by the Occupying Power. My delegation takes this opportunity to reaffirm its support for the international community's sustained attention on the human rights situation in Occupied Palestine including through the mandate of the Special Rapporteur who will be addressing the Committee tomorrow.

Mr. Chair,

11. I wish to also take this opportunity to apprise the Committee on a number of measures taken by my Government in the continuing effort to improve the human rights situation at the national level.

12. On 2 April 2012, Malaysia signed the Instruments of Accession of the two Optional Protocols to the CRC, namely the CRC Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and CRC Optional Protocol on Sale of Children, Child

Prostitution and Child Pornography. Accession to the two Optional Protocols underscores Malaysia's commitment to protecting children in the fight against the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and also in prohibiting the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups.

13. In September 2011, the Government announced the repeal of several legislations inherited from the colonial period, which allowed for individuals to be detained without trial based on considerations of national security and public safety.

14. While the repeal of those laws have created a legal and security vacuum which could be exploited, I am pleased to inform the Committee that following consultations with national-level partners and stakeholders, agreement was reached on new legislation which aims to address threats to national security and public safety. This new legislation, which is currently in the final stages of the legislative process, will provide clearer and stronger safeguards on the protection of fundamental freedoms and civil liberties in comparison to the now repealed laws.

15. Being an ethnically diverse nation, Malaysia is fully aware of the need to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all its peoples, including the indigenous population. Since independence, the Government has pursued national integration policies and programmes essentially aimed at situating the indigenous population within the larger national context, including through statutory recognition and protection of their rights and freedoms with a view to achieving sustainable national development.

16. Malaysia continues to believe that such approach is consistent with relevant international human rights standards and is pleased to note the recognition of the centrality of human rights in the context of sustainable development by the recently concluded Rio+20 Summit. In my delegation's view, sustainable development can only be achieved when the rights of all stakeholders are respected and upheld.

17. In concluding, my delegation wishes to reaffirm the importance it attaches to the continued promotion and protection of human rights not only at the national, but also at the regional and international levels. Towards that end, Malaysia will continue to engage constructively and positively with all delegations, partners and stakeholders on the full range of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I thank you for your kind attention.