



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY
THE HONOURABLE MOHD NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
26 SEPTEMBER 2013, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important and timely high-level meeting. Malaysia associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as statement made on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Let me also express my delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General for his earlier remarks, as well as his tireless efforts towards the cause of nuclear disarmament.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. I stand here today, representing the Malaysian people's desire to live in a world free of nuclear weapons. It is something that we believe is long overdue. The mere existence of such terrible weapons is incompatible with the basic foundations of humanity itself.

3. We do not believe in the doctrine of nuclear deterrence as a means to achieve international peace and security. The existence of nuclear weapons only serves to encourage their proliferation. I want to underline the need for all States to enhance efforts to attain the general as well as complete disarmament of all nuclear weapons, under strict international control.

4. In this regard I wish to also reiterate Malaysia's deep concern on the slow progress in the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons, as well as the modernisation and upgrading of nuclear arsenals. Many of these weapons are on high alert status. My delegation thus urges those states with nuclear weapons on high-alert to decrease the operational readiness of their systems, which we believe is a small but necessary step forward.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons must also continue the forward momentum towards greater cooperation in achieving the Treaty's objectives, including in nuclear disarmament. Therefore it is of great concern to Malaysia that the Conference on the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East has yet to be convened. My delegation believes that all States should approach the Conference with an open mind and without prejudice on the different security concerns of others. In this regard I urge the United Nations Secretary-General as well as the concerned States to convene the Conference at the earliest possible opportunity, with the active participation of all states in the region. This meeting of minds, focusing on initiating a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East, would be the right step towards continued peace and stability in the troubled region.

6. Malaysia, as with many other responsible Member States, has strived to bring the issue of nuclear disarmament to the top of the international community's agenda. However, while we engage in the discourse of disarmament diplomacy, Malaysia is mindful that these negotiations continue to be plagued by impasses in the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission. While this has been the case for many years, I am pleased to note the recent incremental progress in this arena, including in the Open Ended Working Group, to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

7. Serious concerns prevail as the disarmament forum has remained in a state of stalemate for years. The paralysis is further exacerbated by archaic thinking, entrenched positions and outdated approaches towards nuclear disarmament. Perhaps it is time to imbue new thoughts and fresh ideas to move the disarmament agenda forward, by enlarging the stakeholders. Perhaps it is time to include academicians, intellectuals, think tanks and non-governmental organisations in the disarmament discourse. Their views and thoughts may bring forward new ideas and perspectives, which may provide a new outlook for disarmament policy. Hopefully enriched discussions with other stakeholders would not only contribute to the desired conceptual change towards disarmament but also attitudinal change for the disarmament agenda.

8. It is in recognition of new approaches, as well as the general aspiration of the people for a safe and peaceful world and the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons, that Malaysia supports the humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament. Malaysia participated in the 2013 Oslo International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and supports joint statements on the issue at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Meetings.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Before I conclude, I believe it would be timely to recall the Model Nuclear Weapon Convention which Malaysia and Costa Rica first submitted to the General

Assembly in 1997. The model convention proposes legal, technical and political elements for the establishment of a nuclear-weapons free world. It is our belief that this model, while not perfect, is the closest attempt towards a legally binding, verifiable and enforceable instrument, culminating in a comprehensive prohibition and destruction of all nuclear weapons, with effective oversight and controls. Malaysia is ready to work with other Member States on the Model Convention, or on any other proposals with the ultimate aim of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

10. Malaysia will continue to table the annual resolution on the "Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons". As in previous years, this resolution would serve as a basis for negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. It calls on all States to fulfil this obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention at the earliest possible date. I am personally pleased to note the increase of member States voting in favour over the years, and I invite your delegations to co-sponsor and support it in this year's deliberations, both at the Committee and at the Plenary level.

Thank you Mr. President.