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STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

FOR THE JOINT DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 121: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND
AGENDA ITEM 122: REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AT THE PLENARY OF THE 68TH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 4 DECEMBER 2013

Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank you for convening this meeting on an issue that is of particular importance to us. I wish to also express Malaysia's appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Egypt for his tireless efforts and outstanding leadership in steering the Ad Hoc Working Group during the 67th Session of the General Assembly. We appreciate the convening of four separate thematic meetings on revitalization. The discussions undertaken and all efforts by Member States culminated in the report of the Working Group A/67/936, in which we have the Chair of the Working Group to thank for as well. Allow me to also congratulate the Permanent Representatives of Slovakia and Thailand on your appointment as the co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the 68th Session of the GA. On this note, I wish to align my statement with that delivered by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. President,

2. It is without a doubt that the General Assembly is the chief deliberative policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. Representing all 193 Member States, it is the highest authoritative body of the United Nations. As such, we must accord it the role and authority it rightly deserves. Unfortunately, despite the amount of discussions that we have had throughout the years, we have only managed to achieve qualified success in revitalizing the General Assembly. We have seen some improvements in the working methods of the General Assembly. While we welcome these improvements, we must continue to address the actual reasons why there is a need to revitalize the General Assembly in the first place.

Mr. President,

3. My delegation firmly believes that the non-implementation of its resolutions continue to be the biggest stumbling block in enhancing the role and effectiveness of the General Assembly. In fact, no other weakness of the General Assembly undermines its relevance or effectiveness more. Malaysia appreciates the decision for the Ad Hoc Working Group to continue its review of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization and we welcome the updated inventory chart of those resolutions. This has allowed Member States a better understanding of the reasons behind the lack of implementation of such resolutions with a view towards addressing the underlying causes. This is the first step towards the ultimate goal of realizing full implementation of all General Assembly resolutions.

4. Malaysia continues to view the issue of encroachment seriously. We cannot emphasize enough the need for all principal organs, especially the leading two organs – the General Assembly and the Security Council - to faithfully respect each other's mandates in accordance with the UN Charter. Both organs must work together in consultation and cooperation to create a more harmonious working relationship.

Mr. President,

5. We stand ready to look into issues such as rationalizing or clustering the list of agenda items as well as the possibility of biennialization or triennialization of agenda items and resolutions. However, the consent of the co-sponsoring State or States is absolutely vital before any of the measures above are implemented. At the same time, we agree that those who call for biennialization or triennialization of agenda items and resolutions should lead by example for others to follow.

6. Malaysia welcomes the convening of High Level Meetings and Thematic Debates that deliberate on issues that are important to Member States. However, we believe that there needs to be greater coordination with all relevant parties in organizing such meetings so as to avoid or at least minimize scheduling problems for delegations especially during the high-level week of the General Assembly. We look forward to discussing proposals with the aim of resolving the problem of having too many meetings and events during the high-level week, such as exploring the possibility of scheduling such meetings during the early part of the year.

7. Malaysia is concerned over the delay in the election of the Chairs of the Main Committees for this session of the General Assembly. Such a situation, as that faced in the lead up to this session, should not be repeated. On this, we hope that all concerned would respect the practice of having the elections, on the basis of geographical distribution, take place at least 3 months prior to the next session in order to encourage advance planning and preparation of the work of the Main Committees. We also look forward to discussing in greater detail and determining the rotation pattern for the Chairs and bureaus of the Main Committees bearing in mind the expiration of the rotation

mechanism as reflected in GA resolution 48/264. Malaysia believes that whatever rotation pattern that is agreed upon should be adhered to by all Member States.

Mr. President,

8. It is undeniable that the role and activities of the PGA have evolved significantly over the years. The General Assembly presently considers a greater number of issues and agenda items in comparison to just a few years ago. Furthermore, the workload of the General Assembly now covers the entire year and is no longer limited to its main session. Given these circumstances, it is only natural that the office bearer be provided the necessary resources to enable him or her to efficiently and effectively perform the role that has been entrusted upon the Office by the UN Charter.

9. While we recognize the benefits of the trust fund established to assist in the funding of the work of the PGA, it is nonetheless critical that funding for the regular budget be increased as to avoid the PGA being dependent on the trust fund and voluntary contributions. In this regard, Malaysia looks forward to proposals by the Secretary General to review the budget of the Office of the President of the General Assembly for the biennium 2014-2015 pursuant to resolution 66/294.

10. On the issue of the selection and appointment of the Secretary General, Malaysia firmly believes that the Assembly needs to play a more meaningful role in the process. The selection process must be more transparent and inclusive, as the Secretary General represents all Member States of the United Nations and not just the Security Council. Therefore, it is important to implement past resolutions on the issue, especially paragraphs 17 to 22 of Annex of resolution 60/286 for future selections and appointments of the Secretary General.

Mr. President,

11. To conclude, the issue of the 'Revitalization of the General Assembly' has been the subject of the plenary debate since 1991. It is high time that all Member States approach the issue with openness and the necessary political will in order to realize substantial progress. Should the pace of reform continue the way it has over the years, we fear being awkwardly left with the agenda of 'revitalizing' the revitalization process. I am sure that this is something that we can certainly avoid.

I thank you.