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**STATEMENT BY**  
**H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF**  
**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UN**  
**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ON**

**“ACHIEVING POVERTY ERADICATION THROUGH FULL EMPLOYMENT AND**  
**DECENT WORK FOR ALL IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”**

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS**  
**NEW YORK, 23 MAY 2014**

Mr. President,

I wish to thank you for convening this Meeting of the General Assembly. Malaysia aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia is encouraged that the proportion of people living in extreme poverty on less than USD 1.25 a day has reached new lows in all six developing regions in the past five years. Despite this positive development, much remains to be done as progress has been uneven and there are 1.2 billion people still living on less than USD 1.25 a day, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

3. Malaysia is concerned that the ongoing global economic and financial crisis has led to an increase in worldwide unemployment from 170 million unemployed persons in 2007 to an unprecedented high of 202 million in 2015. We therefore call on the international community to intensify efforts to address the remaining challenges to poverty eradication through employment and decent work for all in the post-2015 development agenda.

4. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has indicated that although two-thirds of Africans are working, they are living in poverty since they have to cope with USD 2 a day or less. Therefore, in providing employment, equal importance should be given to the number of jobs created and the quality of employment. Employment is not only a way out for those living in poverty, but it could also build the social protection that is crucial for countries to enhance the development of its human capital.

5. Hence, cohesive action is urgently needed in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda, in order to boost productive capacities and investments as well as to create more jobs to sustain the incomes of working families, the poor and the vulnerable.

Mr. President,

6. Allow me now to share my country's own experience in addressing the issues of poverty eradication. Since the 1970s, Malaysia has successfully reduced poverty that affected nearly half of the population in 1970, through the implementation of various poverty eradication initiatives and programmes. Notably, Malaysia has achieved the target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on poverty reduction well ahead of schedule by reducing poverty to about 2.8 per cent of the population today.

7. The successful implementation of poverty eradication programmes in Malaysia is attributed to its rapid economic development that is facilitated by the successful power sharing and political stability that Malaysia has enjoyed in the past 57 years. It is also attributed to the Government's strategic planning and effective implementation of economic programmes that include pro-poor strategy, coupled with continuous investments in physical infrastructure, education, human capacity building and primary healthcare services.

8. Among the prominent poverty eradication initiatives is the rural development scheme implemented by the Federal Land Development Authority of Malaysia (FELDA). This land reform programme has successfully brought citizens involved in the land distribution scheme out of poverty. This is carried out through planned and coordinated land development and socioeconomic activities which in turn has created hundreds of thousands of decent jobs. This scheme has successfully elevated the quality of life and brought social and economic benefits to 177,000 rural families in Malaysia to date.

Mr, President,

9. Moving forward, the Government is currently focusing on disadvantaged groups, especially natives of Sabah and Sarawak living in the interior, as well as the Orang Asli (indigenous people) and estate workers in Peninsular Malaysia. There are still pockets of people living without electricity and water supply, and with limited access to health facilities. There are school children who have to make arduous daily trips to schools. The Government has given its assurance that it will address issues of the less fortunate and free them from the poverty trap, and ensure that the prosperity, resulting from the country's development, will be enjoyed by all Malaysians.

10. For this, the Government will intensify the implementation of economic programmes and the provision of basic amenities. The Government is also considering to grant land titles to the Orang Asli and natives of Sabah and Sarawak. This will enable them to benefit from integrated agricultural development programmes through the agropolitan and contract farming approaches. These groups will also be given better

access to infrastructure and public facilities, such as education and skills training, thus creating more quality employment opportunities that will enhance their employability.

11. Those interested to venture into small businesses will be given appropriate access to micro-credit facilities to help them start businesses. This loan scheme will be packaged together with entrepreneurship training to develop their capabilities in areas such as financial management, preparation of business plan, marketing and promotion.

Mr. President,

12. One of the most successful poverty eradication programmes implemented by Malaysia is the 1AZAM programme. The programme provides a balance between direct aid and economic opportunities for the poor to become more financially self-sustaining. This programme provides assistance in four essential areas; job placements, creating small business enterprises, small service providers and opportunities in agriculture. Between January and August 2013 alone, 25,544 people took part in the programme. Out of that figure, 16,470 1Azam participants were women. This is in line with the Government's recognition on the important role women play in Malaysia's socio-economic development.

13. To ensure the effectiveness of the poverty eradication programme, the Government has established the eKasih system, a centralised Malaysian National Poverty Data Bank, which stores information related to poverty. It can be accessed and used by all government agencies and other related parties for purpose of planning, coordination and monitoring of poverty eradication programmes in Malaysia. Notably, this eKasih innovation was awarded the first prize in the United Nations Public Service Awards for 2012, in recognition of its significant contribution to poverty eradication in Malaysia.

Mr. President,

14. Malaysia will continue to share its development experience in the field of poverty eradication with fellow developing countries both at the regional and global levels, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the MDGs. The sharing of our development experience has been implemented since 1980, mainly through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) that forms part of the commitment of the Malaysian Government towards the promotion of the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), under the South-South cooperation framework. Currently, more than 27,000 participants, mainly from the LDCs and Africa, have benefited from Malaysia's sharing of experience and expertise. This programme will continue to further contribute in the upcoming post-2015 development agenda framework.

Mr. President,

15. Let me conclude by emphasizing that poverty is a multidimensional phenomena that extends beyond income poverty. For this reason Malaysia is developing its

multidimensional poverty index as a measure to address the non-income dimensions such as education, health and living standards in our efforts to eradicate poverty in a holistic manner.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the UN  
New York**