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STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON AGENDA ITEM 134 : IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE 69TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 16 OCTOBER 2014

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me begin by thanking Mr. Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary General for Management for introducing the Secretary General's report on Improving the Financial Situation of the United Nations as contained in document A/69/520 and the briefing to the Fifth Committee on this item on 9 October 2014. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to highlight some pertinent views regarding agenda item 134 on Improving the Financial Situation of the United Nations.

2. Malaysia aligns itself with the statement made by Bolivia, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement delivered by Singapore of behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

3. My delegation takes note that the financial situation of the United Nations remains sound in 2014. The Report indicates that 127 Member States have contributed US\$2.6 billion to the Regular Budget as of 2 October 2014. As an international body that promotes international relations, Malaysia would like to underscore that financing this Organization is an obligation of all Member States. Malaysia takes its financial obligation seriously and we will continue to provide our contributions consistently and on a timely manner.

4. While the financial situation of the UN is sound, Malaysia is also concerned that unpaid contributions totaled US\$1.39 billion in April this year. Let us remind ourselves, that the Regular Budget, the Peacekeeping Budget, the contributions to the Tribunals and Capital Master Plan are important Funds that need our consistent commitment as the lack of funds can undermine the activities of the United Nations. These funds must be given their due attention as without our financial support, the United Nations would not be able to carry-out its mandate effectively as prescribed by Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

5. On another note, my delegation would also like to share its concerns with the status of the US\$2.6 billion in outstanding contributions to the Peacekeeping Budget. Malaysia is aware that the fiscal cycle of the various UN Peacekeeping missions and those of Member States may not synchronize. In fact, Malaysia too has experienced similar complications. Nonetheless, my delegations would take this opportunity to underline that we will shoulder this responsibility as part of our obligation to this Organization.

6. With 16 peacekeeping missions currently deployed with an approved budget of US\$7.06 billion, Malaysia acknowledges that financing peacekeeping operations would signify our serious commitment to international peace and security. The soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians who have been mandated by us, are not pawns, but a demonstration of our noble collective effort to bring peace and stability to the world. It would be imprudent and irresponsible if we, Member States, allow these missions be impaired due to lack of finance and fell into disarray.

Mr. Chairman,

7. My delegation is pleased to see that we have come to the completion of the Capital Master Plan (CMP). We are equally pleased to see that contributions to the CMP is almost full as mandated. As we deliberate today, we bear witness to the completed work on the renovation of the UN Headquarters Complex that is estimated to have cost US\$1.86 billion.

8. Nevertheless, Malaysia takes note of the prevailing financial needs for the completion of the CMP. Issues regarding the associated costs must be addressed. As Member States, we must take an objective decision soon as to ensure the completion of CMP does not leave any issues unresolved and unattended to.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Financing the United Nations is the responsibility of its Member States. The strength of this Organization is only equal to the commitment of the 193 countries. We must recall that the UN is our Organization and thus, it is our responsibility to ensure that the mandate that we have prescribed can be implemented. As such, the financial health of the United Nations is crucial to ensure its effectiveness and thus, we as Member States must meet our financial obligations faithfully. Rest assured Mr. Chairman, Malaysia will do our part in ensuring that this Organization will continue to receive our utmost attention in order for it to remain effective.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.