



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E MR. HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON THE SITUATION IN TIMOR-LESTE 23 FEBRUARY 2010

Mr. President.

My congratulations to you and France for assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of February 2010. We have no doubt that under your able leadership, the Security Council will continue to deliberate and take action on those most pressing questions regarding the maintenance of international peace and security.

2. Malaysia has always followed with avid interest the progress of its newest neighbour, Timor Leste. Our involvement with Timor Leste began on the eve of the country's independence itself, and Malaysia is proud of the progress this young nation has made in a mere eight years, outstripping many of her peers. It gives me great personal pleasure to welcome back to New York an old colleague who has gone on to greener pastures, H.E Jose Luis Guterres, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

3. We thank the Secretary General for his most recent report S/2010/85, on the UN Integrated Mission in Timor Leste, and the briefing provided by Ms. Ameera Haq, the SG's Special Representative. In this regard, allow me, in this Chamber, to congratulate Ms. Ameera Haq on her recent, yet well-deserved appointment to the post.

Mr. President,

4. The 9 October 2009 elections at the level of the local authorities were yet another milestone in Timor Leste's path towards nation building. Given the encouraging signs thus far, Malaysia has every confidence that future elections at every level will be ably handled in a fair and transparent manner by Timor Leste.

5. The encouraging security situation augurs well for the ongoing work on the resumption of policing responsibilities by the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) through a phased approach. Recognising the Secretary General's report last year on this matter, there is a need to ensure the PNTL's ability to meet the criteria mutually agreed to between the Government of Timor Leste and UNMIT. UNMIT, its turn, must remain committed to the principle of national ownership, particularly with regard to the comprehensive review of the security sector, and an agreement between the two parties must be finalized if things are to progress in due course.

6. Malaysia believes that adherence to the rule of law is crucial in ensuring the respect of the people towards its own security forces. Accountability for criminal acts must not only be

seen to be paramount, but must also be so, as the cornerstone of trust in the system. Malaysia takes heart of the continued commitment of the Government of Timor Leste in ensuring accountability of its security forces through the mechanisms introduced.

Mr. President,

7. Stability and prosperity are two sides of the same coin. One cannot sustain the first without the other. If poverty is left unchecked, it will, sooner or later erode the foundations of stability within a land. This is why Malaysia welcomes the move of the Government of Timor Leste in addressing the high rates of unemployment and poverty among the Timorese population, in particular efforts to finalize the National Strategic Development Plan. Malaysia also lauds the closing of all the camps for the internally displaced persons (IDPs), and welcomes the establishment of the Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion Department in Timor Leste. We hope that the Department will realize its full potential and live up to the promises inherent in its creation.

8. While the dispersement and resettlement of IDPs is a welcomed progress, there must also be – accompanied with this resettlement – a means for these former IDPs to sustain a livelihood in the area from whence they came. We understand that the resettlement of IDPs is more than just a physical process, since it would also involve financial considerations. On the part of the IDPs, if the resettlement takes place in an area where they used to reside, they would need to come to terms with the loss of their former property. Over and above that, communal life must also be taken into account since IDPs are often resettled into communities. Thus, the acceptance of the local community is imperative. Malaysia recognizes that the Government of Timor Leste would be cognizant of these problems, and hopes that solutions will soon be found to overcome the matter.

9. In an effort to assist the people of Timor Leste in these economically-challenging times, Malaysia would urge the international community to explore ways to invest in Timor Leste with a view to creating employment opportunities for the people. In this regard, Malaysia undertakes to encourage its own businessman to consider Timor Leste as a viable business partner.

10. As part of Malaysia's commitment to Timor Leste, Malaysia reaffirms its continued support and cooperation to the country, both at the multilateral level through UNMIT and Malaysia's involvement in UNPOL, as well as at the bilateral level through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). The fourth largest contributor of police personnel in Timor Leste, Malaysia is proud to be part of the nation-building process of this neighbour.

Mr. President,

11. It was the Secretary-General's finding that the security and justice institutions in Timor Leste remain fragile, with the distinct possibility of being unable to withstand another major crisis of the magnitude of 2006. With this in mind, Malaysia is of the view that Timor Leste still requires the robust presence of UNMIT. Malaysia supports the extension of the mandate of UNMIT for a further year, to be reviewed on a yearly basis. UNMIT continues to be relevant in

its work to promote cooperation of all parties in Timor Leste to engage in political dialogue for the rebuilding and development of the country.

12. Malaysia, for its part, will continue with its effort to provide training to the Timorese security personnel. In addition to the training for defence forces of Timor Leste under the Malaysian Defence Cooperation Programme, Malaysia, together with Australia, is in the process of organizing a peacekeeping training workshop in the later part of this year for the Timorese security personnel.

13. Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to the peace and stability of the region as a whole, of which Timor Leste is undoubtedly an integral part. We are confident that the strong political commitment of the people and Government of Timor Leste, together with the support of the international community, will only help the country rebuild and prosper that much quickly.

I thank you, Mr. President