



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Haniff,
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations,
at the Security Council Open Debate on
“Maintenance of International Peace and Security”
New York, 19 November 2012**

Mr. President,

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate India as President of the Security Council for the month of November. I wish to also align Malaysia with the statement just delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia is of the view that this debate is timely indeed, as it allows all Member States the opportunity to address an issue that has plagued most Member States. On this note, I wish to reassure Malaysia's support towards the Council's efforts in addressing piracy as a global threat. In this debate, my delegation would like to highlight some of our concerns on the threat of piracy, in particular in the situation off the Coast of Somalia and also the Gulf of Guinea.

3. On the problem of piracy off the Coast of Somalia, Malaysia welcomes the report of the Secretary-General S/2012/783. We are heartened to note that there has been a sharp decline in pirate attacks and hijackings so far this year as compared to 2011. The sharp reduction of attacks and hijackings confirms that the international community is certainly on the right path in our common goal to effectively overcome the threat. Nevertheless, we cannot agree more that piracy continues to pose a serious threat, not only to seafarers, but also to international trade. In this regard, Malaysia believes that we need to be cautious so as not to be complacent in the success that we have seen towards combating piracy. We must continue to have mechanisms of naval forces enforcement, an improved implementation of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) guidance and industry-developed Best Practices for Protection against Somali-based Piracy, better application of self-protection measures, the prosecution of suspected pirates and the imprisonment of convicted pirates.

4. For its part, Malaysia has been involved in the global effort in combating piracy off the Coast of Somalia. Since 3 September 2008, the Royal Malaysian Navy has sent 5 war ships to the Gulf of Aden, in stages, to provide precautionary escort to Malaysian ships while traversing the Gulf of Aden. In the course of escorting Malaysian ships, the Royal Malaysian Navy also assisted the foreign flagged ships by providing safe passage for seafarers and these vessels.

5. In this connection, we commend the role of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia in facilitating discussions and coordination of actions among Member States and organizations to suppress piracy off the Coast of Somalia. As a trading nation, Malaysia will continue to follow the work of the Contact Group closely.

Mr. President,

6. As you might be aware, two ships belonging to the Malaysian International Shipping Corporation (MISC) namely, Bunga Melati Dua and Bunga Melati Lima, one Malaysian-flagged tugboat (Masindra 7) and one Malaysian-flagged cargo ship (MV Albedo) were captured by pirates off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden from 2008 to 2010. MV Albedo till today is still under the control of the pirates. Malaysia, too, arrested 6 Somali pirates that tried to hijack a Malaysian vessel in the Gulf of Aden in January 2011. These 6 pirates have been dealt within the framework of the Malaysian legal system.

7. Turning back to the Gulf of Guinea, we are encouraged by the adoption of Resolution 2039 of 29 February 2012, which welcomed the report S/2012/45 of 18 January 2012 regarding the assessment mission on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. Malaysia wishes to express our concerns on the growing incidence of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea despite implementation efforts undertaken by the relevant regional and international enforcement authorities. In this regard, Malaysia is of the view that it is pivotal for the law and order to be in place, which would lead to economic development in the region. With better economic prospects, the incidents of piracy could be brought down to minimum.

8. Malaysia has been actively ensuring that our maritime zones, which include the Straits of Malacca, are safe and secure for international navigation. The relevant authorities and enforcement agencies, which involve the Royal Malaysian Navy, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (APMM), the Royal Malaysian Police and the Marine Department, are constantly undertaking enforcement of the relevant regulations, direct protection and surveillance of its maritime areas.

9. It is evident that the overall improvement of maritime security in the Straits of Malacca is a reflection of close cooperation among the littoral States. A comprehensive arrangement for maritime security in the Straits of Malacca has been achieved through Malacca Straits Coordinated Patrols (MSP) in 2004, between Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. In this connection, I am happy to inform the Council that the incidents of armed robbery in the Straits of Malacca have dropped drastically, from a high of 9 incidents in 2011, to only 1 incident so far in 2012.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia will continue to support the call for strengthened international efforts against piracy in the concerned areas. It is our hope to see a more vigilant and forward-looking mechanism in place to address these security threats. Having said this, we believe that the regional and international cooperation should not impinge the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the affected states, in all aspects. Malaysia also welcomes the capacity-building cooperation, as well as exchange and sharing of information and intelligence on the issue of piracy. This regional cooperation, for Malaysia, takes place in the frameworks of the Malacca Straits Sea Patrol (MSSP) and the Eyes-in-the-Sky (EiS) air patrols.

11. I would like to assure the Council that Malaysia will continue to support any efforts to ensure the safety and security of the international maritime waters. We look forward for enhanced efforts to be called by the Council in strengthening international mechanism to combat piracy at the regional and global level.

12. Before concluding, I wish to also call on the Security Council to act on this urgent issue of the Israeli attack on Gaza and call on the Council to take appropriate action as soon as possible. In this regard, I wish to inform the Council that the Malaysian Parliament is going to adopt a motion to condemn the attacks and request the Council to intervene in order to further avoid civilian casualties and provide necessary humanitarian assistance. This motion will be submitted to the President of the Security Council and Secretary-General of the United Nations in due course.

I thank you, Mr. President.