



# 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 DEBATE ON THE SITUATION IN TIMOR-LESTE, NEW YORK, 22 FEBRUARY 2012**

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by congratulating you as President of the Security Council for this month, and to thank you for organizing this debate. I wish to also thank H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations for his report on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste – UNMIT. By the same token I wish to welcome the presence of H.E. Jose Manuel Ramos-Horta, the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and thank him for his statement. I also wish to thank Ms. Ameerah Haq, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, for her comprehensive briefing.

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia is very much encouraged by the progress achieved in Timor-Leste. We wish to congratulate the leaders and people of Timor-Leste, which with the assistance of UNMIT and other international partners, have been successful in maintaining peace and stability in the country. The encouraging security situation is a testimony to the capability of the judicial and security institutions of Timor-Leste, especially the national police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) in carrying out its policing responsibilities. In this regard, we call for the continuous efforts in strengthening the security and judicial institutions; and the implementation of the Joint Transition Plan and the recently announced Strategic Development Plan.

Mr. President,

3. Malaysia is pleased to see the progress made by the Government of Timor-Leste towards democratization and good governance. The upcoming elections are important and we call on all parties to respect the outcome so as to ensure that stability continue to prevail. We are prepared to consider sending election observers to monitor the elections, if there is a formal invitation from the Government of Timor-Leste.

4. Malaysia supports the Secretary General's recommendations for the extension of UNMIT's mandate until 31 December 2012. As the withdrawal of UNMIT is nearing, Malaysia calls for an early discussion on the long term UN engagement in Timor-Leste. We believe that the post-UNMIT presence in Timor-Leste is necessary. We are always prepared to assist in promoting law and order in Timor-Leste. Malaysia stands ready to support post-UNMIT presence in Timor-Leste, as part of our contributions towards development and rebuilding of its neighbour.

5. Malaysia fully supports Timor-Leste's application to become a full member of ASEAN. In the recent ASEAN Coordinating Council meeting held on the 17 Nov 2011 in Bali, Malaysia reiterated its position that Timor-Leste's application should be favorably considered, in line with Article 6.2 of the ASEAN Charter and the fact that Timor-Leste meets the geographical criteria stipulated in the said article. We look forward to welcome Timor-Leste as a full member of ASEAN soon.

Mr. President,

6. Malaysia has been actively participating in Timor-Leste since 1999 and to date, Malaysia has a total of 230 police personnel and 2 Military Observers serving in the country. At the request of the UN, Malaysia has approved the deployment of additional 20 police personnel to UNMIT, bringing the total to 250. Currently, Malaysia is the top police contributor country in Timor-Leste. In November 2011, UNMIT requested Malaysia to consider extending the tour of duty of 20 Malaysian UN police officers until December 2012, which we have agreed to do so. These officers are part of the core group that is directly involved in the capacity building activities of UNMIT. Our active participation in UNMIT is a manifestation of Malaysia's long term commitment in Timor-Leste's development.

7. Malaysia is continuously committed to assisting Timor-Leste in its nation building efforts. We have provided substantial assistance to Timor-Leste, especially through the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP) and the Malaysian Defense Cooperation Program (MDCP).

8. Since 2001, Malaysia has provided assistance to Timor-Leste in the area of human resources development through various training programmes. As of November 2011, a total of 350 officials from Timor-Leste have been trained through the MTCP in the areas of Public Administration; Crisis Management and Diplomacy; Training of Trainers for the Timor-Leste Police Academy; Airport Management; Micro-finance; Prison Administration and Management; Community Nursing; Road Construction and Management; and Agriculture. Commencing 2008, Malaysia, with third party funding, mainly through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has also provided technical expertise in the fields of agriculture, procurement, macro economics and statistics.

9. Since 2002, a total of 43 officers from the Timor-Leste Armed Forces have attended the MDCP programmes. Courses that have been offered included Ship Diver's

course; Language training; Law of Armed Conflicts; Joint Warfare and UN Military Observers. In 2003, Malaysia contributed USD2.56 million as part of its efforts to assist Timor-Leste in developing its defense forces. Malaysia has also extended bilateral assistance in capacity-building programmes and training for the PNTL personnel at the Malaysia Police training centres since 2001. Malaysia has also conducted training programmes for participants from Timor-Leste with the joint financial assistance from Australia.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia is pleased with the excellent state of relations it has with Timor-Leste. Malaysia is strongly committed to working closely with Timor-Leste to expand this relationship by harnessing the right synergies for the mutual benefits and prosperity of our two countries and peoples.

I thank you, Mr. President