



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RAMLAN IBRAHIM,
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**SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY CAUSED BY TERRORIST ACTS**

1000 HOURS, THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2016

Mr. President,

Let me thank you for convening this very important meeting and for the clarity of purpose in the concept note. I thank the Secretary-General for sharing with us the growing concerns on the increasing terrorist acts in many trouble spots and its capacity to lurk unsuspectedly in many parts of the world. We look forward to the upcoming review of the UN's Global Counterterrorism Strategy and our discussion today is useful to articulate our common concerns on why we need to act together to face this scourge to humanity.

We align ourselves with the statement, the delegation of Iran will deliver on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

2. Since 1972, the United Nations had invested much resources and attention devoted to address the challenges to international peace and security posed by terrorism and perpetrators of terrorist acts. We have witnessed the many faces of international terrorism and their perverted cause.

3. Our response over the years – whether by this Council, the UNGA or other Organs – have resulted in a solid and meaningful corpus of international law, norms and standards. These include the many legal and other instruments ranging from declarations, conventions, resolutions, strategies and plans of action; not to mention establishment of and the ongoing work undertaken by institutions and structures such as CTITF, CTED, UNCCT and the Council's own 1267, 1373 and 1540 committees, among others.

4. These international level efforts are increasingly mirrored at the regional level. Particularly, in Southeast Asia, ASEAN saw the necessity for the region to act collectively as one and has in place its own convention on counter-terrorism which is an integral part of the region's legal and normative framework.

5. Despite all the focus and attention that we have given and the positive momentum we have created to provide the framework for international and regional cooperation, terrorist attacks and instances of violent extremism have unfortunately risen in recent years. It is increasingly disturbing that many recent attacks indicate evidence of greater degree of sophistication, complexity and coordination on planning and execution of attacks but also with regard to recruitment and radicalization activities by the terrorists. Terror has become a horrifying enterprise.

Mr. President,

6. We do not need to be reminded of horrifying barbarity perpetrated by known terrorists such as Al-Qaeda, Da'esh and Boko Haram and their affiliates and supporters in parts of Africa, the Middle East, in Europe and even in Southeast Asia. We saw their capacity for destruction of our common heritage. We saw their abuse of human dignity and rights. We saw their heretical belief and apocalyptic vision. And we had seen enough.

7. Our focus on combatting and eradicating this menace must be our collective resolve through shared responsibility and joint, coordinated efforts at all levels. We must deconstruct their narratives and we must not help them to provide air time for terror. Our response must be robust, it must be targeted and in doing so we must not be lured into their ideological turfs or provide reasons for them to win more recruits. Our response must be premised on the full respect of international law including human rights and international human rights law. We must also deny them the source through which they fund their activities.

8. Although it is not the intention to dwell into a theological debate, it is unfortunate for the majority of Muslims, that we are unjustly and wrongly misrepresented by these heretics who claimed that their actions are sanctioned by Islam – a faith of peace and compassion – which ironically, they purport to profess. It is gratifying to note that the world is not persuaded by their outrageous misrepresentation of the faith that many peace loving Muslims profess.

9. It is therefore of utmost importance that peace loving Muslims and moderates from the Muslim world should begin to work in earnest to provide the right narratives to the vulnerable and disenchanted youth and address the root causes in order to stem terror groups' recruitment drives of both local and foreign terrorist fighters. The path to salvation is through righteous deeds and not through harnessing miseries and self-annihilation.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia's fight on terror began during our formative years as a nation. In the early pages of our modern history, Malaysia had some experience to share particularly in countering the political or ideological aspects of terrorism. From 1947-1989 during the insurgency, Malaysia was embroiled in an ideologically driven conflict perpetrated by unspeakably brutal terrorists seeking to impose their unacceptable political construct to the peace loving multi-ethnic and multi-racial Malaysians.

11. Against such threat, Malaysians of all races and creeds had to quickly learn hard lessons in resilience and unity, in order to triumph over terror. In the early years of the conflict, the Government was especially mindful and sensitive to the needs of the population who – through no fault of their own – were caught in the middle of an essentially political conflict characterized by violent extremism, not unlike what we are seeing in parts of the Middle East and Africa today.

12. In Malaysia's experience, peace was ultimately won through the Government's approach of seizing the moral high ground from the terrorists primarily by providing safety, security and opportunity for socio-economic development. Additionally, no effort or resources including through international assistance were spared in supporting the Government's commitment to ensure a better future for all Malaysians – a common space for all under the Malaysian sunshine.

13. Moreover, any claim to legitimacy or popular support by the terrorists was ultimately denied due to their own brutality and despicable actions. I am justifiably proud that Malaysia stands out as an example where the strategy of "winning hearts and minds" was scrupulously pursued and successfully implemented. Clearly, in order to provide an effective response and enjoy wide support and legitimacy among those we seek to protect, utmost care must be taken so as not to play into the terrorists' hands. This would require political wisdom and dexterity.

14. In conclusion, Malaysia remains committed in our fight of global terror and international terrorism and will continue to play a constructive role to prevent terror groups from becoming a menace to our society. We will spare no efforts in this collective endeavour to challenge, expose and unmask the terrorists for the vile criminals and violent extremists that they are. God willing, together - we shall prevail.

I thank you.