



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY
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AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: CONFLICTS IN EUROPE**

NEW YORK, 21 FEBRUARY 2017

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to the Government and the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation, as well as to the family of Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, on his sudden passing. Our Mission had the opportunity to work closely with him, especially in the past two years during Malaysia's membership in the Council, and we will miss his presence and friendship tremendously.

Mr. President,

2. My delegation is grateful to Ukraine for this timely Open Debate, and to the distinguished briefers for their insightful briefings.
3. Over the past century, we have witnessed how European security is very much intertwined with the peace and stability of the rest of the world. The two World Wars had in fact, started in Europe, and the very existence of the UN was a direct consequence of the Second World War.
4. More than seven decades later, fortunately, we have not have seen conflicts in Europe to the scale and level as in the previous world wars. However, the prolonged frozen conflicts and the recent emergence of crises in the region are no less worrying, especially when major powers are involved.
5. The conflicts in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea, in particular, constitute a direct challenge to the very purposes and principles of the UN Charter. It is difficult to imagine that in this day and age, one could blatantly disregard the fundamental principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, and gain territory by illegal use of force, with little consequence.

6. Furthermore, what started off as a conflict in Europe later escalated and affected far-flung countries including Malaysia, with the shocking downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 in July 2014 – a tragic consequence of the Ukrainian crisis.

7. Similarly, the so-called “frozen conflicts” in the Southern Caucasus and the Transnistrian conflict, continue to be a source of instability in the region and may spark off bigger clashes that could threaten international peace and security.

8. Malaysia believes that there is no lack of mechanism – whether regional or international – to address the conflicts in Europe. Instead, what is lacking is political will by the conflicting parties to adhere to the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and various UN resolutions.

9. The protracted conflicts in Europe also exposed the inherent structural weakness of the UN Security Council, especially with regard to the veto power. This predicament will remain unless the Council takes the responsibility to engage in reform, in the interest of global security and the common good, instead of narrow self-interest.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia believes the international community has an important role to play to make it costly for the conflicting parties in Europe to use military means to achieve their political ends. We also need to support the parties to engage in dialogue, de-escalation of conflict, confidence-building measures, and mediation for a peaceful resolution of conflict.

11. Malaysia welcomes the call by Secretary-General Guterres to intensify cooperation between the UN and regional organisations, to work closely together in preventing, managing and resolving crisis under Chapter 8 of the UN Charter. We commend the great stabilising role played by the OSCE and the EU in bringing peace and stability to the region.

12. With regard to the conflict in Ukraine, we call on the parties to fully implement the Minsk agreements in order to facilitate a final, political solution to the crisis. We also urge all parties to fully cooperate with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to enable it to carry out its mandate.

13. Meanwhile, in the Western Balkans, we fully support the crucial role played by the EU and the OSCE in further strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the process of reconciliation, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in Kosovo.

14. Learning from the traumatic experience of the Second World War, Malaysia believes that Europe has a lot to offer to the post-conflict countries in the Western

Balkans, especially on the need to acknowledge atrocities committed in the past and to ensure accountability, in order to make progress towards reconciliation.

Mr. President,

15. Malaysia also views the increasing isolationism, xenophobia, and revisionism in Europe with great concern. Based on past experiences, the international community has good reason to be alarmed when European countries turn inward.

16. We thus, sincerely hope that the countries in the region would remain united in their common values based on respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law, in order to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond.

I thank you, Mr. President.
