



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(Please check against delivery)

**GENERAL STATEMENT AFTER ADOPTION BY
MR. MOHD SUHAIMI AHMAD TAJUDDIN
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES a.i.,
PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 72: ELIMINATION OF RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION,
XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE
ON DRAFT RESOLUTION A/73/L.79 – COMBATING TERRORISM AND OTHER
ACTS OF VIOLENCE BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF
NEW YORK, 2 APRIL 2019**

Madame President,

Please allow me to extend my delegation's utmost gratitude and appreciation to Her Excellency Maria Fernanda Espinosa, the President of the General Assembly, for convening today's meeting.

2. Malaysia joins Turkey, Indonesia, Pakistan, Qatar and Kuwait in initiating of the resolution that we adopted today. We thank all member states for the valuable supports and co-sponsorship.

Madame President,

3. The adoption of today's resolution shows that that all of us are united in combatting acts of terror and violence based on religions or beliefs. Such heinous crimes do not have place in this interdependent world and must be rejected as a whole.

4. Looking back at the Christchurch tragedy that happened just over 2 weeks ago, it is no secret that the attacks were made due to rising nationalist sentiments and extreme supremacist ideologies.

5. Malaysia strongly believes the lack of knowledge about other racial and religious communities has undeniably contributed to the growing hatred and animosity. Our differences would be embraced when we learn to accept and appreciate the diversity, distinctiveness, and uniqueness of others. It is, thus, important for us to curb hate speech and curtail the spread of extreme ideologies particularly through social media.

6. Such sentiments could easily influence the general public who may not have the opportunity to learn about other racial, cultural, or religious communities. These sentiments are undoubtedly dangerous as it would make those who are prone to radicalisation become more susceptible to the ideology of extremist groups bent on inciting hatred and provoking violence.

Madame President,

7. In this context, Malaysia lauds the efforts of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in facilitating the universal discussion on living together in diversity, preventing intercultural crises and mobilising broad public support for cultural diversity, tolerance and inclusion to prevent attacks against and guarantee the sanctity of religious sites.

8. Malaysia also calls on all members of the United Nations to seriously promote inter-cultural and interfaith dialogue, which undoubtedly play a vital role in promoting peace, moderation and religious tolerance.

9. New Zealand, under the leadership of Prime Minister Jacinda Arden, has showed us the way. Unity in diversity is the best way to defeat this scourge.

Thank you, Madame President.