



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia** ⑦  
*to the United Nations*

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**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA  
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE  
DURING THE 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to associate my delegation's statement with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of NAM and the statement to be made by Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN.

2. On behalf of the delegation of Malaysia, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations and felicitations to you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the First Committee for the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly. My delegation stands ready to cooperate with you. We are convinced that your experience, knowledge and leadership would be essential in steering our work forward.

3. The work of this Committee carries special importance. Its decisions also portend to the larger audience outside our meeting room today our commitment to the disarmament and international security agenda.

4. Malaysia reaffirms that our work should be aimed to achieve the objective of complete and general disarmament through the multilateralism. While we acknowledge that non-proliferation and disarmament are mutually reinforcing processes, my delegation is concerned that progress made on non-proliferation are not matched by parallel commitments on disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

5. This failure to achieve nuclear disarmament is due to the failure of a small coterie of countries to unshackle themselves from an outmoded doctrine; a doctrine that obscures the reliance on nuclear weapons with the attainment of security. The decisions by nuclear weapons states to maintain their arsenals have only escalated the perception of insecurity on the part of non-nuclear weapons states. The group of countries that made a major compromise at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference by forswearing the use of nuclear weapons, on the understanding that the nuclear weapons states would accelerate the pace of their nuclear disarmament efforts.

6. Malaysia remains convinced that the possession of nuclear weapons by some states continues to fuel the desire in other states to acquire or possess such weapons themselves. In this regard, we are also deeply concerned that certain nuclear weapon states are considering making further qualitative improvements to their nuclear arsenals as well as strengthening nuclear-based defense doctrines and strategies. While there is no commensurable progress on nuclear disarmament, there is an increasing tendency by some to focus on strengthening non-proliferation measures.

7. This status quo whereby more effort and attention is focused on non-proliferation, whilst the progress or lack thereof, in disarmament is obscure, cannot be sustained. Both issues need to be addressed simultaneously and in parallel as a loss of balance in implementing the disarmament and non-proliferation objectives of the Treaty will only undermine the confidence among non-nuclear weapon states in the underlying original bargain of the Treaty, leading down a dangerous path of uncertainty - which is hardly encouraging as we embark on a new cycle to build towards a successful 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

8. It is still my delegation's hope that nuclear weapon states will be able to translate their own expressions of serious concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons to effectively address the issue, by demonstrating the necessary political will needed to make headways and progress in disarmament. In this connection, my delegation wishes to recall that at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, nuclear weapon States Parties had unequivocally undertaken to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Treaty. Towards this end, my delegation views the provision of negative security assurances as an important and achievable step towards nuclear disarmament.

9. A practical and achievable way to address the issue of negative security assurances is through the establishment of nuclear weapons-free-zones. At the regional level, Malaysia signed the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) on 15 December 1995, and ratified it on 11 October 1996. Malaysia urges the nuclear-weapon states to become parties to the Protocol of the Treaty as soon as possible. Malaysia believes in the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones as a platform for the promotion of regional disarmament that could enhance the security of all states and ultimately contributing to international peace and security. NWFZ strengthens peace and security as it promotes greater transparency and dialogue among the nations States, eventually leading to the creation of an environment conducive to arms control, obliquely reducing the risk of regional conflicts.

10. In this regard, Malaysia laments the fact that a nuclear weapons-free-zone has yet to be established in the Middle East and my delegation joins the call for the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free-zone in that region without delay. The adoption of the resolution on the Middle East at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference was an essential component of the bargain struck at the Conference, which contributed to the decision of States Parties for the indefinite extension of the Treaty. In this context, Malaysia reiterates the call on Israel, being the only non-signatory to the NPT in the Middle East, to immediately accede to the Treaty, which would be an important confidence building measure and would significantly contribute to enhancing peace and security in the Middle East.

11. Pending Israel's accession to the Treaty, Malaysia would call upon the nuclear weapons states to immediately and unconditionally halt the transfer of relevant nuclear weapons, materials, goods and technology to that country. Malaysia is of the view that such cases whereby a non-party is accorded preferential treatment in comparison to States Parties, constitutes a gross violation of the spirit and letter of the Treaty. It is only to those developing non-nuclear weapon states that have foresworn nuclear weapons which deserve to be accorded preferential treatment to access to nuclear equipment, material and technology over non-states parties; this access should not be accorded to states not party to NPT as it could be diverted to the development of nuclear weapons. In this connection, Malaysia urges the three non-signatory States that remain outside the NPT to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States, with a view to achieve the universality of the NPT.

12. While the strengthening of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and establishment of new zones represents a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament, such steps are not the main prescription in achieving that goal. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only prescription and guarantee against its use or threat of use, and its proliferation.

13. To signify Malaysia's commitment to nuclear disarmament, Malaysia would, for the eleventh consecutive year, continue to introduce the First Committee resolution concerning the "Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*," which underscore the unanimous conclusion of the Court that "there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."

Mr. Chairman,

14. The threat posed by other weapons of mass destruction should also be of concern to us. In this regard, Malaysia calls for the prohibition and total elimination of all other types of weapons of mass destruction, which include biological and chemical weapons. Malaysia supports the universal implementation of and adherence to both the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which would contribute significantly towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament.

15. This year we commemorated the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the CWC, which by all account is a success as it is the first multilateral instrument that is non-discriminatory and provides for comprehensive, verifiable prohibition of a whole category of weapons of mass destruction. The compliance and verification provisions of the CWC are a significant achievement of multilateral negotiations for disarmament. In line with this, Malaysia views that effective verification measures should also be put in place to strengthen the BWC. Having said that, while the provision on verification is vital, we should also promote international cooperation through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical and biological fields, particularly to developing countries. The success of the entry into force in 1997 also marked a less auspicious occasion, since which the Conference of Disarmament has not been able to reach agreement on its annual programme of work. Malaysia remains hopeful that the CD could find a solution to break from this impasse to rightfully pursue its work as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

16. Malaysia is also concerned with the proliferation and excessive accumulation of conventional weapons. The destructive power from the blast of an anti-personnel mine or a shotgun may pale in comparison to the destructive power unleashed by the splitting of the atom or the fallout from chemical agents, however the suffering and pain brought to bear on victims from landmines or small arms attacks are real enough. They can also do grave damage to the economic development of poor communities and countries.

17. Malaysia had completed its stockpile destruction of anti-personnel mines on 23 January 2001. The destruction of this stockpile has made Malaysia the first mine-free country in Asia. Malaysia supports international and humanitarian efforts to ban anti-personnel mines. In this regard, we call on countries, particularly in South East Asia, to become party to the Ottawa Convention. Malaysia also supports efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on all its aspects. Domestically, Malaysia has put in place adequate and stringent laws, administrative procedures and regulations for the effective control over the production of small arms and lights weapons as well as over the exports, imports, transits and re-transfer of such weapons, in order to prevent illegal manufacture and illicit trafficking or their illegal diversion to unauthorized.

18. In conclusion Mr. Chairman, I congratulate you once again on your election and underline my delegation's readiness to work with you, with a view to achieving a positive and successful outcome of this session of the First Committee, in the hope that ultimately, our work here will contribute towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament.

Thank you.

8 October 2007

