



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

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**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE ALEXANDER NANTA LINGGI, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA ON AGENDA ITEM 31: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, AT THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 25 OCTOBER 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

As this the first time my delegation is taking the floor, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this committee. We are confident that under your guidance and able leadership, you will steer the work of this committee to a fruitful conclusion. My delegation will extend our full cooperation to you, Mr. Chairman; in assisting you meet this objective.

Mr. Chairman,

2. My delegation takes the floor today with extra pride, honour and passion as Malaysia joins a handful of countries that has sent its citizen into outer space. For a developing country like Malaysia, which only recently celebrated 50 years of independence, this is an important achievement. We are proud that we are able to prove to ourselves, and to the rest of the world, that a dream could be turned into reality if we remain committed and work hard towards meeting our goals. We are now more confident and convinced that with determination, commitment and hard work, we can achieve anything that we want, even into the outer space. Our recent endeavour also proves that exploration to outer space is not limited to only a certain group of countries and that it is possible for developing countries such as Malaysia to venture beyond our planet's atmosphere if we are serious to contribute to the wellbeing of our human race. We can now speak with much passion on this subject that not only have we proven ourselves of our ability, we have also shown our conviction and commitment to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space through which during the eight days that our astronaut, Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor spent on the International Space Station, he collaborated with other scientists and conducted several experiments including on the effects of microgravity and space radiation on cells and microbes, as well as experiments with proteins for a potential HIV vaccine. These are major steps in the medical field that would benefit the world population at large.

3. Malaysia will continue to develop the required infrastructure to enhance its capability in space technology development. We will also continue to contribute to regional initiatives for space cooperation in order to meet the goals of sustainable development. While willing to share our experience and knowledge in this field, we look forward to cooperate with suitable partners who are interested to work together in developing technology transfer, science missions and training programmes in space-related education and industries.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Malaysia's commitment towards international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space stems from the belief that it is our shared responsibility to use our outer space frontiers for the good of mankind and our world. We remain convinced that peaceful uses of outer space is an important factor to bring about international cooperation and further progress in the global effort to ensure the continued wellbeing of humanity including the protection of the planet's environment and management of its resources. We are mindful of the potentials of outer space technology that could benefit us all, in particular the developing countries, in many important areas including sustainable development, tele-communications, disaster management, management of natural resources and protection of the environment. In this regards, Malaysia has been actively involved in regional cooperative endeavours through collaborative fora such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), the ASEAN Subcommittee on Space Technology and Application (SCOSA), and Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER). We remain committed that the United Nations should act as the focal point and play the central role in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

5. In aligning my delegation with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Thailand who spoke on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), there are a couple of issues that we should take notice of and act accordingly. The issue of space debris remains a cause of concern to Malaysia. We urge space faring countries to give serious attention to the potential problems created by the collision of satellites and other launched space objects with space debris. Apart from this, we should remain mindful that any weapon or space equipment, in particular those with nuclear power source destroyed while in orbit, would leave a persistent cloud of debris with serious repercussion to us especially with the possibility of their re-entry into our planet's atmosphere. The introduction of weapons in outer space would not only exacerbate the already increasing threat of new debris in space but would seriously undermine international efforts to ensure the continuation of peaceful uses of outer space. In this context, greater efforts must be made to prevent the weaponization of outer space, in particular by drawing up an international legal agreement to prevent an arms race in outer space and to prohibit the deployment of weapons in outer space.

6. Our experiences off late relating to climate change and natural disaster compels us to be further convinced on the need to strengthen international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space. Malaysia reiterates the need for the international community to seriously strengthen international efforts and cooperation in predicting, monitoring and mitigating natural disasters in the future. We must continue to invest and seek greater applications of more efficient use of space technology for disaster management, so that early warning could be issued in time to prevent lost of lives from natural disasters, as we unfortunately experienced during the recent tsunami in Indonesia and earthquake in South Asia.

7. In relation to this, Malaysia hopes to launch our second earth observation satellite, RazakSAT, in the nearest future. This satellite could serve beneficial for environment monitoring applications such as forest fires, haze movements and disaster monitoring, particularly to countries within the equatorial region.

Mr. Chairman,

8. In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Malaysia's commitment towards international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, in particular through the work of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPOUS) and its sub-committees. We are particularly honoured and pleased that Malaysia had been given the opportunity to Chair the Forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of UN COPOUS, which further showed Malaysia's strong interest to contribute to the development of space activities. We will continue our active participation in UN COPOUS, particularly on the implementation of the recommendations from the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). We are committed to continue to seek new areas where space technology could be use to bring the benefit of outer space for peace and wellbeing of the people on this planet earth.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

