



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

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**Statement by the Hon. Dato' Razali Ismail, Representative of Malaysia on Agenda Item 54: Sustainable Development: (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, (c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind, (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, (f) Convention on Biological Diversity, (g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session, (i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, at the Second Committee of the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 29 October 2007**

Madam Chair,

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for all his reports submitted under this agenda item. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam Chair,

2. My delegation is pleased to note from the report of the Secretary-General that progress has been made in pursuing sustainable development over the past years. Nevertheless, my delegation does not see the honest integration of environment in development as we had hoped for. Instead, the environment has been deteriorating in terms of global warming, biodiversity loss, water crisis, hazardous technologies and worsening desertification while unsustainable consumption continuous unabated. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's call on Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and major groups to continue expediting progress in implementation of sustainable development agenda by exchanging lessons learned and best practices as well as integrate environment concerns into overall development process.

3. My delegation is also of the view that there is an urgent need to reinvigorate the commitment of the international community at the highest political level to achieve the goals of sustainable development. North-South partnership should be further strengthened in which my delegation believes will result in a higher level of international solidarity for the accelerated implementation of Agenda 21 and the promotion of sustainable development.

Madam Chair,

4. We now witness the unprecedented momentum in the struggle to mitigate and adapt ourselves to climate change. Our quest for sustainable development is very much related to our ability to address climate change. In this regard, my delegation views that the success of the 13th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bali this December will reflect our sincere ability to address climate change and sustainable development issues. For that reason my delegation urges all parties to ensure the success of the conference in Bali.

5. Bali's outcome must maintain the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. A post-2012 agreement needs to build upon the architecture and other fundamentals of the Kyoto Protocol where there should be absolute emission reduction targets for developed countries, expanded mechanisms that facilitate contributions from developing countries as well as special provisions for the least developed countries and small island developing states. Apart from this, my delegation firmly believes that ongoing national or regional initiatives to deal with climate change must not compete with, and should instead complement, the negotiations under the United Nations framework.

Madam Chair,

6. With regard to the strategy for natural disaster reduction, my delegation recognizes that a majority of developing countries lack the capacity as well as the financial resources needed to minimize the impact of disaster on its local population. In this regard, my delegation urges relevant organizations of the United Nations to further strengthen their work and coordination with member states to ensure that international engagement in disaster management is sustained in the long term. Close cooperation between countries with relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations would ensure member countries' preparedness to deal promptly with emergencies and natural disasters whenever and wherever they occur.

Madam Chair,

7. The increasing exploitation of biologically-diverse resources demands serious attention be given to the issue of preservation and conservation of the environment. My delegation believes that developed countries should provide funds and facilitate transfer of technologies as developing countries would not be able to make substantial progress in the world's ability to address the loss of biological diversity. In this regard, my delegation urges developed countries and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to take a more proactive role to provide financial support for capacity building in accordance with the identified priority needs of developing countries and to assist them to ratify and implement the protocol on biosafety.

8. On bio-piracy, my delegation is of the view that an equitable solution should be developed among those with abundance biodiversity resources and those with the financial means, scientific knowledge and technological expertise, in order to maintain the integrity of the ecosystem.

Madam Chair,

9. Malaysia is convinced that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is an important multilateral environment agreement which offers an avenue to combat desertification and allows governments to review action programmes regularly by tapping into the experiences of other member countries. My delegation believes that desertification can be reversed only if far reaching changes are made at both local and international level. Countries affected by the problem should continue to be assisted to implement programmes that lead to sustainable land use.

10. On United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), my delegation is of the view that UNEP should be enhanced through better coordination between UNEP and other UN agencies, and together with the various Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs). This could be done through concerted efforts of all environmental and environment-related agencies to exchange and share information and know-how. This will lessen duplication which will lead to more efficient use of resources. Greater transparency and cooperation may reduce wastage. My delegation believes that a strengthened UNEP could be a central coordinating mechanism in the UN to provide leadership to assess the state of the global environment and to contemplate methods of avoiding or reducing global environmental risk and working out joint norms for sustainable development.

11. My delegation takes note that the Secretary-General's report emphasizes the importance of renewable energy in the future world energy mix. As a developing country, Malaysia is highly dependent on energy for its growth. While demand for fossil fuel continues in key energy consuming sectors, there is a need to plan for long term and flexible energy supply strategy to leverage on technological evolution, especially in the development of new and renewable energy sources. Malaysia will promote greater use of renewable energy for power generation by industries. The transportation sector is also expected to begin using biofuel to reduce dependence on petroleum.

12. We will also encourage more R&D activities on renewable energy as it has been identified to be the enabler towards strengthening our economic growth. We will diversify the sources of fuel which is expected to reduce our dependency on petroleum. Along this line, my delegation supports the recommendation by the Secretary-General that local, national and international efforts should be increased to ensure renewable energy is well positioned in our quest for sustainable development. We share the Secretary-General's view that we should continue to create awareness, facilitate technology transfer, develop capacity building, mobilize the necessary means of implementation, including financial resources, technology transfer and investment in order to ensure renewable energy play a significant role in sustainable development process as well as assist in reducing greenhouse-gas emission.

Madam Chair,

13. Sustainable development must be integrated in all our economic activities. In doing so, we will continue to benefit from the available resources of our planet for our present need and future generation.

Thank you.

