



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 99: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 63rd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK 9th OCTOBER 2008

Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation aligns itself to the statements made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC, and that of Vietnam, on behalf of the ASEAN.
2. Malaysia notes that significant efforts have continued to be undertaken in the past year to implement General Assembly resolution 61/40 – “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism” and General Assembly resolution 61/86 – “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”. The Report of the Secretary General [A/63/173] also establishes that Member States and international/regional organizations are undertaking concerted efforts to prevent and fight the threat to international peace and security as a result of terrorist activities in line with Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 1566 (2004) and 1624 (2005).
3. We note also the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 [A/62/37] in particular the outcome of the discussions on the outstanding issues in the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the 12th session convened on 25 and 26th February and 6th March 2008.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Malaysia reiterates its commitment to the international effort to deal effectively with terrorism and emphasizes that the only lasting solution is by comprehensively addressing the root causes of terrorism. While there can be no condoning of extremist actions in any form, where oppression, repression and unjustifiable foreign occupation continue to exist, people can and will be persuaded to resort to actions which are tantamount to criminal acts, including terroristic actions against civilian populations.

5. Much progress has already been achieved through the concerted efforts of the United Nations and its Member States. Despite this, acts of terrorism continue to occur with no sign of waning. The recent bombings in New Delhi, India on 13 September 2008 and in Pakistan on 20 September 2008 are but the most recent examples of these heinous acts.

6. In 2006, Malaysia welcomed the adoption, by consensus, of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, understanding then that in order for the Strategy to remain relevant, it should be consigned as a living document. While we supported the adoption on 5 September 2008 General Assembly resolution 62/272 concerning the First Biennial Review of the Strategy, we feel the need for the strategy to be updated in response to current situation.

Mr. Chairman,

7. A central element to the global counter-terrorism effort is the conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). In this regard Malaysia reiterates its support for the early conclusion of this Convention. Malaysia also reiterates its view that the proposals in the Non-Paper by the Vice-Chairperson and Co-ordinator in relation to draft Article 18 are useful suggestions for a way-forward and seek to address the concerns over the possible grant of impunity to military forces of States.

8. Malaysia further reiterates its support of the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to facilitate the finding of solutions to the broad political issues which underlie the United Nations efforts to combat terrorism and its view that a parallel discussion on related issues should not compromise the discussions on the substantive provisions in the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

Mr. Chairman,

9. Malaysia also takes this opportunity to report progress on some of the measures that it has taken to enhance its domestic counter-terrorism capabilities. The amendments to Malaysia's Penal Code to specifically criminalize acts of terrorism as well as related amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001 to deal with the obligation to enforce the relevant Security Council resolutions came into operation on 6 March 2007. Further thereto, Malaysia acceded to the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism on 29 May 2007. Amendments to Malaysia's Explosives Act 1957 have also enabled Malaysia to accede to the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection on 30 November 2007. Malaysia also participated in and has signed the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT) on 13 January 2007, reference of which has been made in the statement by ASEAN.

10. Malaysia further notes that its domestic legislative framework to comply with Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) is already in place through laws such as the

Sedition Act 1948 and Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 which enables Malaysia to deal with all forms of incitement to violence and public disorder that could jeopardize multi-racial harmony in Malaysia.

11. In relation to international and regional cooperation, the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters among like-minded ASEAN Member States for which Malaysia is the Depository State, is now in force among six parties, that is Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, Lao and Indonesia. This Treaty has also been adopted as the basis for mutual assistance in criminal matters under the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism.

12. In relation to capacity-building, Malaysia continues to do its part at the domestic and regional level through, among others, the South-East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur. Focused training is provided by SEARCCT in collaboration with partners such as the United States, United Kingdom, European Union and Russia.

13. In collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Malaysia also organized the Inter-Regional Workshop on Strengthening International Legal Cooperation between Central Asia and East Asia in Combating Transnational Organised Crime from 14 to 16 November 2007 in Kuala Lumpur. Further, from 7 to 9 April 2008, Malaysia organised a Workshop on Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing and Proliferation Financing in partnership with the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

