



*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 BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AT THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 63<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AGENDA ITEM 32: "QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION", NEW YORK, 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008.**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to address the Fourth Committee on behalf the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

2. At the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC VII) held on Isla Margarita, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from, 2-4 July 2008, the members of the Non Aligned Movement reviewed the global trends and developments in information and communication. It was noted that the dissemination of discriminatory and distorted information of events taking place in developing countries continues unabated and that the continued situation of lopsided information places the vast majority of mankind at a disadvantage. The Movement reaffirms the need for urgent redress of those imbalances.

3. We call for the responsible use and treatment of information, and encourage media to respect the existing codes of conduct and professional ethics. Media in all their forms have an important role in the Information Society, and Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) should play a supportive role in this regard. NAM reaffirms the necessity of reducing international imbalances affecting the media, particularly as regards infrastructure, technical resources and the development of human skills.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We express our serious concern at the growing digital divide between developed and developing countries. In this regard, we call for the adoption of adequate measures that can bridge this gap and develop programs for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those from developing countries who risk being left behind and excluded from this process.

5. The Movement reaffirms that in order to transform the digital divide to digital opportunities, these activities should ensure the imperative of universal, inclusive and non-discriminatory access to knowledge regarding ICT, and should result in supporting national efforts in developing countries in the area of building, improving and strengthening capacities to facilitate their genuine involvement in all aspects of the information society and knowledge economy. We encourage all the States to contribute actively to ensuring that the Information Society is founded on and

stimulates, respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions and ethical values.

Mr. Chairman,

6. NAM emphasizes the need to make effective use of media and ICT to promote the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with a view to contributing to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, to combat HIV-/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and development of global partnership for development for the attainment of a more peaceful just and prosperous world.

7. The Movement acknowledges that to fully harness ICT in developing countries, it is essential to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and exclusion that prevent developing countries from joining and fully-participating in the Information Society.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The Movement observes that the long history of the struggle for a New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO), notwithstanding the salient objectives is yet to be realised. We reaffirm our common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society.

9. We reiterate our concern that developing countries are still impoverished, not only materially and economically, but in terms of equitable endowments and opportunities in the field of global information and communication.

10. The Movement regrets the continued imbalances and inequalities in the field of international information and communications. This negative situation has serious consequences on our countries and the problem should be counter through relevant international organizations and agencies such as ITU, UNESCO, etc; which should consider this issue and come out with appropriate strategies to reduce these imbalances and inequalities.

Mr. Chairman,

11. The Movement underlines that internet governance, carried out according to the Geneva principles, constitutes a core issue of the Information Society agenda and that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance.

12. We invite all the States, to maximize their participation in decisions regarding Internet governance, in order to reflect their interests in related processes. We reiterate our conviction on the need for enhanced cooperation, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. In this regard, the Movement strongly urges the UN Secretary General to start urgently the process towards enhanced cooperation.

Mr. Chairman;

13. I would like to add the following statement in my national capacity.

14. My delegation thanks the Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information for his comprehensive briefing on the policies and activities of the Department of Public Information. With reference to this matter, my delegation aligns itself with the statement by the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China regarding its support to the works of the Department of Public Information.

15. My delegation also calls on all Members to redouble their efforts towards the elimination of the digital divide and imbalances in the dissemination of information. Malaysia is committed in this endeavour including by our continued support for the NAM News Network (NNN) which was launched in Malaysia in 2003 and we appreciated NAM's decision for NNN to continue with its present infrastructure and headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

16. Finally, my delegation also aligns itself with the statement by the delegation of Thailand speaking on behalf of the ASEAN countries.

Thank you.