



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

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**STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE MR LEE CHEE LEONG, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA ON AGENDA ITEM 31: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL ITS ASPECT, AT THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 63RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 28TH OCTOBER 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by expressing our appreciation to Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and Ms Susan Malcorra, Under-Secretary General for the Department of Field Support, for their comprehensive presentations on UN peacekeeping operations. We commend the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) in fulfilling their responsibilities and efforts at finding ways to improve UN peacekeeping activities.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

3. This year marks the sixtieth year of UN peacekeeping operation since it first started in 1948 with the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Since then, the UN has been involved in over 60 peacekeeping operations throughout the world, keeping peace where there is peace to be maintained. We note that currently the UN is involved in 18 missions with more than 140,000 personnel including military as well as police, supported by a budget of about \$7 billion. Over these years, we have noted that the UN peacekeeping operations have expanded its role from traditional peacekeeping operations to a more multi-dimensional role, from helping to build sustainable institutions of governance, to human rights monitoring, to security sector reform, to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. Peacekeeping is now seen as one of the core function of the UN and constitute a critical step towards achieving sustainable peace. Despite the multi-dimensional role, my delegation wishes to reiterate that all peacekeeping operations should be consistent with the mandate given as well as the agreed principles, guidelines and terms governing peacekeeping.

4. The immense wealth of experience of the UN that it has garnered over the past sixty years in the area of peacekeeping would be useful as we face more complex and multi-dimensional challenges in this area. We should be mindful of the expectation and increased responsibility placed on the UN to secure durable and sustainable peace in conflict affected areas. But the UN's ability to meet this expectation and fulfill this responsibility is only as good as the support and commitment extended by Member States. In this regard, it is therefore pertinent that Member States continue to provide firm and unwavering support especially in the area of human, financial and logistical resources to ensure the timely and successful implementation of peacekeeping operations.

5. Beginning with our first participation in the UN Operation in Congo (UNOC) in 1960, Malaysia has since participated in 20 peacekeeping missions and 2 UN-mandated-NATO-led PKOs, and is currently contributing a total of 483 military and 269 police personnel in 8 missions. This reaffirms our commitment and strong support to peacekeeping operations as one of the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, which is crucial for economic and social progress. The UN peacekeeping operation is an indispensable instrument that has contributed immensely towards the resolutions of many armed conflict, both inter-State as well as intra-State.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The UN has to continuously be prepared to meet current as well as emerging challenges in the field of peacekeeping. There had been much discussion on the restructuring of the DPKO, which eventually saw the creation of a new Department of Field Support, the establishment of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the DPKO, Integrated Operational Teams and a number of new shared mechanisms. This restructuring was intended to streamline peacekeeping activities in order for a more effective and efficient delivery, in line with the increase in the number of missions and personnel deployed in missions all around the globe. My delegation hopes to receive feedback regarding the effectiveness of this restructuring and how it has benefited the organization in particular peacekeeping operation. In the meantime, to ensure the efficiency and effective delivery of its multi-dimensional task in the area of peacekeeping, the UN and in particular the DPKO has to:

- 6.1 Continue to create and refine synergies within the UN system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental entities;
- 6.2 Maintain the primacy of disseminating information to troop contributing countries (TCC). TCCs must be informed and kept in the loop in matters on all developments particularly when the personnel of these TCCs are involved on the ground;
- 6.3 Preserve and ensure the unity of command at all level; and
- 6.4 While maintaining within its pool, high quality personnel, ensure geographical balance on the representation of personnel and troop contributions particularly at Headquarters.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The Secretary-General in his report on the work of the Organization (A/63/1) alluded that the success thus far of peacekeeping operation is challenged by two key issues:

- 7.1 One, a number of unacceptable cases of sexual misconduct by some peacekeepers; and
- 7.2 Two, mismatch between mandates and resources.

8. My delegation shares the concern of the Secretary-General on cases of sexual misconduct by peacekeepers. We see this sexual misconduct as an act of betrayal on the people the peacekeeper in the first place is obliged to protect. Necessary action including disciplinary or even criminal action must be met on those responsible. At the same time, we call on the contributing bodies including UN as well as TCCs to ensure that credible personnel are selected in peacekeeping missions to ensure credibility of UN peacekeeping operations remains untarnished. Malaysia reiterate our commitment to zero tolerance policy on all forms of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuses by any of the UN personnel. In this regard, Malaysia will work constructively with other Member States in ensuring the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on peacekeeping operations. In this regard also, we request the DPKO to be more forthcoming with the dissemination of information whenever there are any incident involving peacekeepers. Information provided must be timely with sufficient details provided.

9. As regard the resources for the mandates, we reiterate the need for Member States to provide firm and unwavering support especially in the area of human, financial and logistical resources to ensure the timely and successful implementation of peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman,

10. We are concerned and at the same time sadden to learn that since UN involvement in peacekeeping operations, a total of 2,518 lives have been lost. In 2008, up until 30 September, we noted that there have been 93 fatalities, one of which is a Malaysians. One live lost is one too many. We honor and pay our respect and tribute to those who have made their supreme sacrifice in the service of the United Nations and for the noble cause of peace. Their sacrifice should be our constant reminder on the need for us to continue to perform our work to ensure the success of our mission.

11. My delegation is concern at the increasing threat to the security and safety of UN peacekeepers serving in conflict areas. While it is expected that in these missions they are always in harms way, it need not necessarily be the case if all concern understand and respect the role these peacekeepers are meant to perform. We condemn in the strongest terms the killing, targeted attacks and all acts of violence on UN peacekeepers. These acts of violence must be checked and the

perpetrators must be held accountable for their actions. At the same time, we request the DPKO to make a thorough study and investigation as to the reasons behind these attacks in order for us to be more prepared in our attempt to avoid any mishap and reduce the unnecessary casualty.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Let me before ending, reiterate Malaysia's commitment towards the collective attainment of global peace through our unwavering support to the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. We remain ready to work with other Member States under the peacekeeping banner of the United Nations toward meeting this objective.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.