



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

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MDM. JAMAIYAH M. YUSOF, REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA, ON AGENDA ITEM 110:REVITALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE PLENARY OF THE 63RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 20 NOVEMBER 2008**

Thank you, Mr. President.

It is a pleasure for Malaysia to participate in this debate on Agenda Item 110 on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. It is even more of an honour for my delegation to participate in this year's debate under the stewardship of a PGA who has made the democratization of the United Nations a cornerstone of his Presidency. We hope that in your efforts to democratize the United Nations, Mr. President, you will be able to imbue the General Assembly with renewed vigour and sense of ownership in the issues being discussed.

2. Allow me to take this opportunity to align my delegation to the statement made by Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

3. The issue of the revitalization of the General Assembly has been a subject of plenary debate since 1991. However, it was only two short years ago, in adopting resolution 61/292, that the General Assembly established the ad hoc working group to address this issue. We are pleased to see that the working group has been hard at work in discharging its mandate this past year.

4. In this regard, the work of the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Ambassador Loizaga of Paraguay, and Ambassador Towpik of Poland, must be given due recognition. The Co-chairs were able to circulate, by May 2008, a matrix of all the relevant provisions on the revitalization of the GA. Malaysia welcomes this step forward by the co-chairs. This is the crystallization of what Malaysia – and other NAM members – have requested since the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. With the publication of the matrix, it became much easier to identify which relevant provisions have been implemented, and which yet remain to be so.

5. The matrix itself, however, is merely a procedural aspect to the ongoing deliberations in the revitalization of the General Assembly. Substantive-wise, the General Assembly must re-claim its central role, including in the maintenance of peace

and security as laid down in Article 11 of the UN Charter. Relations between the other organs of the United Nations and the General Assembly must be strengthened, and the meetings which take place between the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should be disseminated to the wider UN membership, for information, if nothing else. As the chief deliberative organ of the United Nations with universal membership, member states of the GA must be kept in the loop.

6. One of the matters which has always been a subject of debate in the revitalization of the General Assembly is the issuance of documentation, or more specifically the late issuance of reports by the Secretariat. After going over this matter again and again, it is perhaps ironic that the Secretary General's report on the revitalization of the General Assembly, contained in document A/62/608, was also late in its issuance. The report was only made available to Member States on 10 January of this year. Malaysia agrees that the late issuance of any report should be accompanied by an explanation, citing specific reasons for the delay. This will help assist Member States in understanding the problem.

Mr. President,

7. Malaysia has always welcomed the holding of thematic debates in the General Assembly. However, we believe that the decision to hold these thematic debates must be done in concurrence with the general membership of the Assembly. This would allow Member States the opportunity to prioritize the thematic debates to be held throughout the year. We understand that all subjects should be equally important, but we also understand that there exists certain priorities when resources are finite.

8. Thematic debates and high-level segments must also be action-oriented in order to ensure that the optimum benefit is derived from the holding of these debates and segments. A lot of effort, publicity and resources go into the holding of these thematic debates and high level segments. It is only fitting, therefore, that these debates end with some form of outcome or proposal.

9. Thematic debates, panel discussions and high level segments are the General Assembly's way of ensuring that it maintains its finger on the pulse of today's fast-paced world. Malaysia welcomes the recent initiative of holding an interactive panel discussion on the global financial crisis. The timing could not have been better.

10. In conclusion, Malaysia looks forward to working constructively within the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly in this sixty-third session. Malaysia believes that there is much potential in this Working Group and is confident that the Group's discussion will further contribute to the process of the revitalization of the General Assembly as a whole.

Thank you.