



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY THE HON. DATUK ANIFAH AMAN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA AT THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA, NEW YORK, 25 SEPTEMBER 2009

Mr. President,

I would like to first congratulate you on your leadership of our group for the past year.

Mr. President,

2. There has been a discernable change in the tone of discussions for the past few days, across a whole spectrum of issues. The tone is now cooperative rather confrontational. The G77 must seize this moment of to strengthen and promote a constructive and positive agenda for the betterment of our peoples.

3. To be sure, the challenges are formidable:

- 3.1 Half of the world's adult population own barely 1 percent of global wealth;
- 3.2 1.2 billion of the world's poorest suffer from the debilitating effects of neglected tropical diseases such as malaria;
- 3.3 Ironically, the same amount – 1.2 billion people are still stuck in the poverty trap;
- 3.4 The rights of millions of women are trampled on, often as a matter of routine;
- 3.5 While some progress has been made in achieving the MDGs, such as that related to poverty eradication, we are unlikely to attain the other targets.

4. Addressing formidable challenges such as these require that we articulate a positive and constructive agenda consisting of the following elements:

- 4.1 Firstly, improving global governance structures by promoting linkages with decision making processes such as the G-20;
- 4.2 Secondly, fostering the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGS;
- 4.3 Thirdly, strengthening synergies between developed and developing countries.

Mr. President,

5. Even as we speak, leaders of the G20 are meeting in Pittsburgh, discussing issues, and taking decisions that are affecting us all. Of course there continue to be questions regarding the legitimacy of the G20, given its exclusive and informal nature. Of course we believe that as the only truly universal body, the UN has a special and important role to play on the issues addressed by the G20. Of course unequal power relations exist in the dynamics of the G20 given the disparities in size and wealth of its membership.

6. Having mentioned the drawbacks, I would like to turn to what I believe to be pertinent issues:

- 6.1 One, it seems that the G20 process is here to stay;
- 6.2 Two, the G20 is far more representative and inclusive as compared to the G8. The G20 includes members of our own group;
- 6.3 Three, given present growth patterns, the voice of the developing countries who are members of the G20 is likely to grow; and
- 6.4 Four, many of us are also represented by our regional groupings such as NEPAD and ASEAN.

7. Bearing these in mind, I would like to make some proposals in order to strengthen the linkages between the G77 and the G20, aimed at achieving mutual benefit:

- 7.1 We invite the host of the G20 to address the our Group before and after their major meetings;
- 7.2 Work towards strengthening linkages between the G20 and the UN through the UN Secretary General and ECOSOC;
- 7.3 Communicate to the host of the G20 Summit as well as members of the G20 by letter articulating our concerns.

Mr. President,

8. We are far from achieving the internationally agreed development goals. As developing countries, we have resource constraints. Based on this, it only stands to reason that we should focus our energies on what is critical. I would therefore venture to suggest that we devote our energies to those issues that make a difference.

9. I do not believe that producing reams of resolutions constitutes a good utilization of resources. At present our group produces more than three quarters of resolutions in the second committee of the General Assembly. They are too many, too lengthy and add little value to the lives of our people. We should focus our energies on the specialized agencies, the Funds and Programmes of the UN, whose presence in our countries are extensive and indeed in many instances, critical.

10. We should monitor the fulfillment of commitments made by the developed world and take steps to ensure that the aid provided is for the benefit of our peoples, rather than serve the vested interests of those in the donor community. We can establish a working group for this purpose who would report to us their findings on an annual basis.

11. We need to establish close relations with evaluation mechanisms of the UN, whose work we have under-rated for too long. These are the people who know the weaknesses of the multilateral development system. The results of this can also be reported to us the Ministers, so we in turn can make an assessment of our own. Everywhere around the world, governments, including my own are focusing on results and performance. The G77, the collectivity that represents us all should do the same.

12. This effort needs time and expertise. But if implemented well has a better chance of producing results as compared to reams of paper.

Mr. President,

13. The prevailing model of development based on intense use of resources is unsustainable. We there therefore cannot follow the same developmental pathway pioneered by the developed world. We must find our own pathways.

14. To do that, we need to learn from their mistakes and cooperate with them on new and better ways of achieving sustained and sustainable development. This requires that we look beyond traditional North-South cleavages and focus on synergies.

15. Of course if views diverge, then we must do all to defend our interests. We should not have to apologise for that. But I believe that our reflex must be to cooperate, rather than to confront. That is the spirit that will animate Malaysia's Presidency of ECOSOC next year. We hope to be able to count on your support.

Thank you.

