



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY
THE HONORABLE MS. HALIMAH MOHD. SADIQUE
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
ON
AGENDA ITEM 105: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND
AGENDA ITEM 105: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE
OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 6 OCTOBER 2010

Mr. Chairman,

It is Malaysia's position that investment by countries in their basic crime prevention efforts brings about benefits that can extend from the local to the national, regional and even international levels. However, as we expand the scope of this investment, continued international co-operation in the forms of exchange of information, capacity-building, technology-transfer as well as confidence-building measures need to be enhanced to allow countries to gain trust and capability. This will also allow countries to better integrate their work in more practical and operational aspects.

2. In combating transnational crime, Malaysia believes that bilateral cooperation between countries on issues of similar concerns and interests remain an important and effective method. In this regard, the sharing of information, and also intelligence, needs to be done on a needs and reciprocal basis, within the limits of the domestic legislation and regulations of a particular country, and with respect to the sensitivity of that information. Through our experience, bilateral agency-to-agency contact remains the most effective way at sharing information. The challenge for all countries hence is to allow this information to be shared on a wider scale for practical uses. In this regard, legal mechanisms through conventions, treaties, regional arrangements, or bilateral agreements or memorandums of understanding may be required.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The issue of trafficking in persons has received much attention in recent sessions of the Assembly, culminating with the formal launch on 31 August 2010 of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons. As a recent initiative, for the Global Plan of Action to have qualitative added-value in the fight against trafficking

in persons, it needs to complement the existing international framework contained in the Palermo Convention and its Protocol, as well as the Conference of Parties. We recognise that further conceptualisation of this complementary role is needed for concrete results to bear fruit.

4. Malaysia condemns trafficking in persons and we remain committed in combating this problem in an effective and comprehensive manner. The multifaceted and complex nature of trafficking in persons requires international attention and resources beyond the current focus on a criminal justice response, and it needs to address the underlying issues within countries of origin that lead to people becoming vulnerable to exploitation. Malaysia continues to prosecute those found engaging in trafficking in persons, and provides protection for victims, but further initiatives are necessary by the countries of origin to strengthen their own preventive and self-regulation measures.

5. Malaysia is party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; and regionally, we undertake efforts within ASEAN and other mechanisms which have proven useful, practical, and action-oriented.

6. Domestically, since the implementation of Malaysia's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007, which came into full force on 28 February 2008, and up until 26 August 2010, relevant enforcement agencies have rescued 1777 suspected victims of trafficking, and a total of 573 victims are currently housed in gazetted shelter homes. On 3 August 2010, the Parliament of Malaysia approved amendments to the Act. The amendments, among others, widened the scope of the Act by introducing a new section entitled 'Smuggling of Migrants', which in turn, is divided into 10 new sub-sections that specifically addresses the problem of smuggling of migrants. The amendments also include higher fines to offenders of trafficking in persons from the previous RM50,000 - RM500,000 to fines of RM500,000 - RM1 million, and a jail term of up to 20 years.

7. In addition to legislation on trafficking in persons, The National Strategic Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons, for the period 2010-2014, was launched on 31 March 2010. The Plan was developed to provide strategic direction for this period, identifying strategic goals that will drive and steer national efforts to combat trafficking in persons, and outlining the programme areas to support and ensure effective implementations of the strategic goals.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Turning to the issue of drugs, Malaysia remains concerned at the increase in the consumption of synthetic stimulants identified in various reports from the

UNODC and the Secretary-General, especially amongst younger people, and particularly in our region of the world.

9. Malaysia has consistently called for stringent measures to be adopted to curb illicit drug trafficking. Despite our tough drug laws, we have seen an increase in the number of cases of drug trafficking. This is based on the number of foreign drug traffickers arrested in Malaysia, the high volume of drug seizures as well as number of clandestine and kitchen laboratories identified and dismantled. What this emphasizes is that in addition to national measures by individual countries to reduce the demand in narcotics, there is a need for a more concerted international effort to stem the supply and shipment of drugs. Amongst other measures, these include the provision of technical assistance and capacity building to provide alternative sources of income in drug-producing areas and countries.

Mr Chairman,

10. While the international community has had many achievements in combating transnational crime, there are many areas that we need to continue to work on and improve. Malaysia acknowledges the important work done by the UNODC and lauds the work that has been undertaken by the UN, its agencies and member states. Malaysia will continue to give its support, cooperation and commitment in the prevention and fight against all forms of crime and in upholding criminal justice.

Thank you.

