



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. HUSSEIN HANIFF,
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THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL
COUNTER-TERRORISM COOPERATION**

**SESSION IV: ROLE OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN
COUNTER-TERRORISM COOPERATION
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Mr. Chairman,

Let me first join other delegations in extending our appreciation to His Excellency Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the UN, for organizing this symposium. We believe that the convening of this symposium today is timely as it allows us to take stock of our activities and efforts to date in countering the menace of terrorism.

2. As with all present here today, Malaysia hopes to see a world that is free from the ugly scourge of terrorism. For that day to become a reality, terrorism must be addressed in all its hideous forms and manifestations and at all levels, be it at the national, sub-regional, regional and international level.

Mr. Chairman,

3. A specific region or sub-region often shares similar traits especially in terms of political, economic, social, cultural and historical conditions, which is different from that of other regions. It also shares certain realities as well. In Southeast Asia, for instance, poverty, unequal economic development, natural disasters and illegal migration are just some of the myriad of problems that affect the region. Thus, all these problems, including that of terrorism, must also be looked at within a regional and sub-regional context.

4. Malaysia, on its part, established the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) under the purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2003, the centre has been active in conducting research and capacity building programmes, as well as raising public awareness in the region. In this regard, it hopes to continue existing cooperation with its partners and also looks forward to expand collaboration with other international and regional centres in our common endeavor against terrorism.

5. In the region, ASEAN has implemented various measures to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation, including working and sharing intelligence with external partners. At the same time, the issue of counter terrorism has been a permanent feature of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). It has also been continuously discussed at different

meetings of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) especially in terms of the dangers of terrorism to trade growth and economic development.

6. Without a doubt, regional cooperation has contributed immensely in countering the menace of terrorism including terrorism financing; cyber-security; aviation, maritime and transportation security; as well as, rehabilitation. All this has led to deepening cooperation between law enforcement agencies; improving intelligence sharing; greater research; and, capacity-building for states in the region. It is due to these regional efforts that Malaysia has been fortunate enough in that the country has been able to enjoy peace and stability.

7. Indeed, we have come a long way in terms of progress made. Yet, despite all the discussions, coordination and cooperation on confronting extremists and terrorists, we are still nowhere near to where we hope to be.

Mr. Chairman,

8. There is much work to be done. Greater emphasis must be given to the unique factors and underlying causes that lead people of a particular region to turn to terrorism and extremism. We have repeatedly called for this at the international level and identified poverty and lack of education as root causes. However, every region or sub-region is unique. There cannot be a 'one glove fits all' type of approach but rather we must endeavor to undertake more studies and research in different regions. We must address those unique factors, formulate counter measures and apply the necessary remedies accordingly.

9. Therefore, while we look back at our progress and accomplishments, we must also look forward to what lies ahead, and what action is necessary to further enhance regional and sub-regional cooperation to firmly address and, eventually, confine the threat of terrorism to the annals of history.

Thank you.