



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY MS. WONG CHIA CHIANN, REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA ON AGENDA ITEM 107: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND AGENDA ITEM 108: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 5 OCTOBER 2011

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 cooperation in the forms of exchange of information, capacity-building, technology-transfer as well as confidence-building measures need to be enhanced.

2. Malaysia believes that transnational organized crime is a serious global concern that could potentially endanger the stability and security of nations that will consequently threaten international peace. Malaysia fully supports actions and measures to combat transnational organised crime at the national, regional and international level and strongly believes in enhancing international cooperation, especially in sharing of information and intelligence, as well as accurately analysing the effects and danger of crimes on society.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Malaysia is committed to all international conventions and regional and bilateral agreements which it has become a party to and reaffirms its support for the various UN General Assembly Resolutions in combating transnational organised crime. Malaysia believes that the international community should leverage on its knowledge on transnational organised crime and identify tools that could enable governments to effectively combat this menace. Effective legal cooperation should include, among others, the provision of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, assistance in freezing the proceeds of crimes, and extradition arrangements. Malaysia is of the view that it is important for all Member States to achieve a harmonisation of their respective legislation with the aim of combating transnational organised crime in an effective and coordinated way as the incidence of these activities have increased worldwide and has led to an increase in corruption and violence.

4. The issue of trafficking in persons has received much attention in recent sessions of the Assembly, culminating with the formal launch of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons on 31 August 2010. 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.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia condemns trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants' activities and remains seriously committed in addressing these crimes. Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants are multifaceted and complex in nature and concerted and integrated international cooperation are required between countries of origins, transit as well as destination countries in the form of information sharing, cooperative measures as well as capacity building.

6. Bilateral cooperation is also viewed as an effective arrangement to countering trafficking in persons. In fact, the sharing of information through bilateral agencies remains one of the crucial aspects in countering trafficking in persons. Malaysia too is prepared to learn best practices from like minded countries and international organisations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in improving the rehabilitation process for victims of trafficking and smuggling.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Drug trafficking is a serious problem that continue to plague most nations, including Malaysia. It poses threats to the social and economic structures as criminals are never restrictive in their criminal endeavours. The epidemic of drug abuse and its associated problems have spread and affected almost all countries of the world. The problem is considered more challenging in South East Asia, largely due to its close proximity to the Golden Crescent, which is the main opium-producing region. Measures to control illicit drug trafficking is best carried out through concerted international efforts including bilateral and regional arrangements, in view of the transnational nature of the crime.

Mr. Chairman,

8. In Malaysia, there are three major drug related problems; smuggling of drugs into the country for local consumption; abuse of drugs by the local population; and, transit of the drugs through Malaysia for third countries. Combating drug trafficking has been one of the priority areas for Malaysia and the Government has proclaimed it as a threat to national security since 1983. The Government also formulated the National Drug Policy in 1996 to deal with the problems of drug abuse and trafficking. The main objective of this policy is to eliminate the demand and supply of illicit drugs. Besides, the Government has also established the National Anti-Drugs Agency (NADA) in 1997, which focuses on four (4) main areas namely prevention, enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Cooperation among international organisations is vital to control the illicit trafficking of drugs. Malaysia will continue to collaborate with the the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Colombo Plan Secretariat and the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) such as the International Federation of Non-Government Organisation (IFNGO) and the Asian Federation of Therapeutic Communities to stem illicit trafficking of drugs.

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.