



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HUSSEIN HANIFF, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 19: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 31 OCTOBER 2011

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of G77&China and by Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN. We would also like to thank the Secretary General for the comprehensive reports presented under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

2. In the general debate of the Second Committee held 4 weeks ago, Malaysia urged the Second Committee to focus its work this year towards facilitating a positive outcome in the upcoming Rio+20 Summit.

3. While prosperity and progress have been made on many fronts, we cannot deny that international meetings on sustainable development has shown that real and meaningful progress since Rio in 1992 has been slow, and that the rate of environmental degradation has increased despite the efforts undertaken by the international community to reverse this trend.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The Prime Minister of Malaysia in his keynote address at the opening of the "First Preparatory Meeting of the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability" held in Kuala Lumpur on 12 and 13 October 2011, proposed for the creation of the World Environment Organization (WEO), to be discussed at the upcoming Rio + 20 Summit in Brazil in June 2012. The new environment body is hoped to address the weaknesses and challenges of the institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD).

5. Malaysia is of the view that WEO should not act as regulatory body and to set standards, similar to the role of World Trade Organization (WTO). This new body should work within the agreed Rio principles. In Malaysia's perspective, the WEO should among others, encompasses the following foundations:

- 1) WEO should be a consultative and facilitative body to assist countries to meet the international commitments derived from mutual arrangements, including a Science-Policy interface on environment;

- 2) WEO should be mandated to work through the 'One UN' system to provide on-the-ground implementation support to developing countries;
- 3) It should have a Universal Membership and universal voting,
- 4) It should become a Specialized Agency that is autonomous but linked to the UN, and given a mandate to promote synergies of existing Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and establishment of new treaties; and
- 5) The WEO should be equipped with a more stable and secure financing for the environment.

6. Equally important, Malaysia also is of the view that the other two pillars of sustainable development should also be strengthened and the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development namely the economic, environment and the social pillars, should be further enhanced, including its institutional requirements.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Since 2009 Malaysia has been focusing on the initial 'adoption edge', working to build greater public awareness of green technologies. The Malaysian Green Technology Policy was also introduced in 2009 to promote a more efficient use of technology that will be less harmful to the environment.

8. The establishment of Ministry of Water, Energy and Green Technology of Malaysia in 2009 is a clear manifestation that Malaysia stands ready to embark towards sustainable development with the use of new and environmental friendly technology, that we hope will translate in the creation of more green jobs and green business opportunities.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Malaysia wishes to reiterate that the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012 present a unique opportunity for the world to lay the foundation towards the attainment of sustainable development. The foundation has to be complemented by a strong political will, in order to enable us to move forward and implement our commitments.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.