



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE PLENARY MEETING ON AGENDA ITEM 122: QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS, NEW YORK, 9 NOVEMBER 2011

Mr. President,

I wish to thank you for convening this meeting, to continue our deliberations on this long standing and unresolved issue of the reform of the Security Council, with the emphasis on the question of membership of the Council itself. Malaysia is fully committed in its contribution to the debate in ensuring that the question of membership of the Security Council, although a difficult one, will continue to be discussed, as we move to reform the Security Council.

2. I also wish to align my delegation with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. My delegation further wishes to extend our appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Zahir Tanin, the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform, for his stewardship and good work. Malaysia will continue to cooperate and support him in this important task.

Mr. President,

3. The developments that we have witnessed in New York this year, concerning the proposal by some member states on the question of membership of the Security Council, shows that the international community is deeply split and divided on this question. While there is a general agreement that the membership of the Security Council needs to be expanded, we could not come to an agreement on how to move forward towards achieving this, as underlined in the General Assembly Resolution 47/62, adopted on 11 December 1992. We have to admit that the failure to move forward in substance on this pertinent question is symptomatic of the paralysis that has befallen us for years. We continue to argue that reform of the United Nations and in particular, the Security Council, are of utmost importance to member states but we have failed to show flexibility. In contrast, some groups have hardened their positions, and today we are still where we were in 1992. We need to rise above our well known positions and as much as possible, reach out to other groups and member states to ensure the reform, especially on the question of membership of the Security Council, would see some positive developments at this 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Mr. President,

4. Malaysia, since the early days of the debate, has always attempted to bridge the gaps among the many competing voices in the United Nations, on the issue of the Security Council reform. Our views were constructed in a way that reflected today's geo-political and economic reality, a view that we have consistently aired in the discussion of the reform of the United Nations and the Bretton-Woods institutions. Malaysia believes that the Security Council needs a major overhaul, both in its working methods, as well as in the issue of expansion of its membership. Malaysia also supports the expansion of both categories of memberships. More importantly, Malaysia would want to see an end of the veto power among members of the Security Council, as this is

undemocratic. Until such time, Malaysia has and will continue to urge the Permanent Members of the Security Council, which, in their exercise of the veto, to ensure that these actions should be regulated so as to prohibit the action from being used unjustly and more importantly, against the interest of the majority of member states of the United Nations.

5. Malaysia is also amicable to the concept of permanent regional representation in the absence of clear and undisputed candidates for future permanent seats allocated to certain regions. This step would help regions facing difficulties in selecting candidates to represent them at the Security Council.

Mr. President,

6. I would now like to address the question of the size of the enlarged membership of the reformed Security Council. In 1963, through the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 1990 and amendments made to Articles 23 and 27 of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council expanded its membership, admitting 4 more new members, making the 15-member Security Council that we have today. This expansion was against the backdrop of the United Nations having 114 members then. Today, we have 193 member states. The question that has come to rise is what is the right number for a reformed and enlarged Security Council? Malaysia believes that we should look at the number of the UN member states and the corresponding number of the membership of the Security Council then and now and we would be able to determine the optimum size for a reformed and enlarged Security Council. This is not just simple math, but the number will reflect the ability of the Security Council today to represent the interest of all member states, in ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

7. The time has come for all member states to seriously consider areas of reform that we can all agree upon, and move the process forward. We have no choice but to show positive leadership in bringing about a final and agreed text. Flexibility and compromise is the only way forward. We have to work closely to ensure that more brackets in the negotiation text be removed. We owe our people a solution to this prolonged discussion of the reform of the Security Council. Otherwise it will affect the credibility of the United Nations as an affective organization in meeting and addressing the current challenges that we are facing today.

I thank you Mr. President