



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM: (117) FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT AT THE PLENARY OF THE 66TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 2 DECEMBER 2011

Mr. President

At the outset, Malaysia wishes to associate itself with the statement made by Argentina on behalf of G77 & China.

2. The Secretary General's report 66/126 calls for concerted efforts by all stakeholders to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals as agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals, which have helped to galvanize efforts towards eradicating extreme poverty.

3. Towards this end, the report identified that achieving the Millennium Development Goals requires a stable, equitable and inclusive economic growth. The report further recognized that the international community must continue to make eradication of poverty a priority and to this end, support provided to developing countries' poverty eradication efforts should be conducive to the legal empowerment of the poor.

4. Malaysia concurs with the Secretary General's report that civil registration is an important tool to ensure and protect legal rights of individuals and their access to entitlements. As highlighted by the report, Malaysia has developed civil registration systems over recent decades and the system has proven to be helpful in Malaysia's efforts to provide legal empowerment to its citizens, including the poor.

Mr. President,

5. We are now four years towards the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals targets. While some progress has been made, many developing countries are still far from achieving their development goals. The challenges we face, particularly for the least developed countries, are different from it was many years ago. The current global landscape, financial and economic pressures and environmental issues are hampering countries efforts to achieve the development goals. It is therefore, more important than ever for all member states to re-strategize and adopt a radical change in its approach towards economic and social development.

6. It is clear that specific interventions are needed to mitigate economic inequalities and eradicate extreme poverty. Malaysia concurs with the finding of the report that employment is the most effective way to reduce poverty. Malaysia is also of the view that the efforts to eradicate extreme poverty should also be complemented with improved access to basic infrastructure. Equal priorities should be given to improving access to roads, electricity, clean water supplies, education and health care services. In this regard, it is all the more important for our partners from the developed countries to fulfill their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments.

7. We are mindful of the difficulties presently facing the developed countries in fulfilling their ODA commitments given the current economic and financial challenges. It is therefore pertinent that the United Nations play a more meaningful role in addressing the ongoing financial and economic crisis. It is also important that we take urgent steps to reform the international financial system in order to stabilize the world's economic situation and further ensure that the world is back on track to achieve its outlined development targets.

Mr. President,

8. Last year, in this august hall we had pledged our commitment to ensure the attainment of the MDG targets by 2015. We have asked the United Nations to play a bigger and stronger role in addressing the challenges of the changing global environment. We also acknowledged that a strong political will is needed for Member States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, reach consensus in the environmental negotiations and further promoting sustainable development.

9. The forthcoming Rio+20 Summit in June 2012 is an excellent opportunity not only to reaffirm our political commitments towards sustainable development but also to strengthen the role of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. There is an urgent need to streamline the roles of these agencies, funds and programmes to reduce any overlapping of mandates and expertise, and for the United Nations to deliver as one.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia has been experiencing three decades of commendable economic and social progress. Indeed, Malaysia has reached a defining moment in its development path where significant economic, social and government transformation is imperative to ensure that Malaysia is on track towards attaining its target of becoming a developed nation by 2020.

11. According to the UNDP MDG Report for the year 2010, Malaysia recorded impressive achievements, in aggregate terms, towards the MDGs, including in poverty eradication, universal primary education and child survival. School attendance in Primary Education has also increased rapidly for both boys and girls and is now well above 95%. Malaysia is encouraged by these progresses and has adopted the necessary policy actions to further improve other key areas of development including to reduce the rate of maternal mortality and hard-core poverty particularly in the rural populace.

12. The Government of Malaysia has also established the necessary framework comprising of four (4) pillars as drivers of change. These pillars are firstly, the six (6) National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) as outlined in the Government Transformation Programme; secondly, the twelve (12) National Key Economic Areas (NKEAs) of the Economic Transformation Programme; thirdly, the strategic economic reforms in the New Economic Model; and last but not least, the Tenth Malaysia Plan. These four (4) pillars, which put emphasis on inclusiveness and sustainability, are aimed to propel Malaysia to be a high-income economy by 2020.

13. Nevertheless, most economies are inter-connected and inter-dependent, the developing countries, including Malaysia need a strong and a stable global economic environment to support and complement its national initiatives. Underscoring this connectivity, it is essential that all countries work together towards achieving the targets set in the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you Mr. President.