



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DATO' HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON
AGENDA 2: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
AT THE 2011 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UN-WOMEN
NEW YORK, 5 DECEMBER 2011**

Madame President,

At the outset, allow me to thank the Executive Director of UN-Women for her presentation on the Institutional Budget Estimates for 2012-2013 and the Report of the ACABQ and thank you for your leadership in steering our work.

2. Malaysia has studied carefully the Institutional Budget Estimates, and welcomes the Management Response to the Report of the ACABQ which includes proposal of new country presence. Although the list of countries has yet to be finalised, we welcome that the level of development would be one of the criteria used in establishing presence. We support that the principal priority for the biennium 2012-2013 is to deepening the engagement of UN-Women at the country level. However, in strengthening its capacity and work in the field, the programmes and activities that will be undertaken should be focused, so as not to spread resources too thinly. Quality should always takes precedence over quantity. Moreover, we need to always keep in mind that while change needs to be on the ground, at the country level, transparency and accountability are equally essential.

3. Additionally, Malaysia looks forward to the regional architecture review, which examines the regional structures of UN-Women and how regional activities can ensure value. We take note that the report will be presented during the Annual Session of UN-Women Executive Board in June 2012 and look forward to the recommendations on budgetary assessments that will be made resulting from the regional architecture review. We believe that the review is crucial to ensure that UN-Women continues to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness of programme delivery and to place the Entity on a transparent and sound institutional footing.

Madame President,

4. The Government of Malaysia is fully supportive of UN-Women and committed to the overall goal of gender equality and the advancement of women. In line with this, I am pleased to reaffirm our pledge of increasing the amount of our traditional annual voluntary contribution of USD 10,000 to USD 50,000. While the amount itself is modest, we will continue to take

efforts to support work related to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international level within our available resources and capacity. We will consider further contribution in the near future.

5. Malaysia also recognizes the high expectations on UN-Women. Such expectations emanate from different stakeholders at different levels, whether these are women and girls who are beneficiaries of a project, the national government of a programme country, civil society, regional organisations, donors, or the overall membership of the United Nations. Such expectations also come from this Board. In all cases, UN-Women is required to deliver, and Malaysia is pleased to note progress is moving in this direction. Although the environment for resource mobilization is particularly challenging due to prevailing global economic conditions, Malaysia is encouraged to know that unearmarked contributions are expected to have doubled from the preceding year since the first year of UN-Women's existence. It illustrates that the international community gives high regard to gender equality and women's rights and that they are at par with other global imperatives, such as eradicating poverty, hunger and combating climate change. As outlined in the report, the achievement of the latter goals is dependent on gender equality and the empowerment of women and this require scaled up resources.

6. Finally, I would like to reiterate Malaysia's support to the approval of the Institutional Budget Estimates for the biennium 2012-2013.

Thank you Madame President.