



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE PLENARY MEETING ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL, NEW YORK, 13 MARCH 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to commend you, Mr. Chairman, for your efforts in convening today's informal plenary to further examine and debate the proposal of the L 69 group, on how a reformed United Nations Security Council should take shape. The proposal of the L 69 has its merit and further discussions and deliberations are needed in order for the proposal to garner more support from member states.

Mr. Chairman,

2. In principal, Malaysia favors the expansion of both categories of the membership of the Security Council. Malaysia also sees the merit in the provision of more seats for the developing countries and consideration for equitable geographical representation in the enlarged membership. More importantly, this proposal by the L 69 is meant to address the imbalance in the membership of the Security Council, where L 69 is proposing that island and small states are given greater representation. Small and medium sized states, including island states, represent 59% of the membership of the United Nations today. For far too long, we have failed to harness the full capability of this group of countries to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. In this regard, Malaysia hopes that the wider membership could seriously consider this part of the L 69 proposal, in order for the Security Council to be seen as more representative of the real character of member states of this august body.

3. Malaysia also believes that the expanded membership should reflect the realities of today's world. We have seen developing countries prosper and these countries are ready and willing to contribute in a more significant manner in the maintenance of international peace and security. We have also witnessed major economies being at the forefront in situations of conflicts, contributing troops and military assets, and ensuring that our peace keepers are well funded, in order for them to effectively restore peace and political stability in troubled nations. We can't continue to ignore these realities. We should move ahead to expand the membership of the Security Council, both in the permanent and non-permanent categories.

4. The working methods of the Security Council is an issue that majority of us, member states, would want to see immediate improvement. The Security Council, while being the master of its own working methods, should move with times where openness and member state wide consultations and participation in its work are the only way forward. This is one major area of reform that can be concluded at the earliest opportunity; if we, collectively, have the political will to do so.

5. A reformed Security Council, in terms of membership expansion, needs a review mechanism, as proposed by the L 69. Malaysia agrees with this provision of a review mechanism, as the issue of membership expansion and the working methods of the Council itself would continue to be debated for a long time to come. Nothing is cast in stone in the United Nations. We should endeavor to continuously improve the United Nations as a whole, to ensure the outcome of our work would positively benefit the peoples of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

6. In closing, I wish to reiterate Malaysia's position for an early conclusion of the reform process of the Security Council. We can't afford to continue bickering on the form of the reformed Security Council, as we have spent 20 years in doing so. We should be responsible enough to bring this discussion to an early conclusion, and not leave it to the next generation to resolve such an important issue, due to our failure to do so. Let's move forward with more flexibility, and ensure that the Security Council regains its credibility and legitimacy.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.