



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
ON
AGENDA ITEM 12: GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY CRISIS
OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 19 APRIL 2012**

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to express our appreciation to the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations regional commissions and other partners of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration for presenting a thorough and comprehensive report on “Improving Global Road Safety” as well as the recommendations contained therein to achieve the goals of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020).

2. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I would also like to thank the Russian Federation for spearheading the resolution “Improving Global Road Safety” to assess the progress achieved during the first year of the implementation of the Decade, providing new impetus and outlining priorities of further global road safety cooperation. Malaysia is pleased to be a co-sponsor of the draft resolution A/66/L.43.

Mr. President,

3. Malaysia has been actively advocating road safety issues for many years. Realizing the urgency to address the issue in a systematic and planned manner, the Government of Malaysia in September 2004, set up the Road Safety Department under the Ministry of Transport, as a one stop agency to coordinate, monitor and implement road safety programmes.

4. Furthermore, under the Ministry of Transport, a 'Road Safety Plan 2011-2020' was drafted to provide guidelines and initiatives for road safety in Malaysia by providing 6 road safety strategies. This 10 year road safety plan also gives an overview of Malaysia's vision as well as the challenges and risks that needs to be overcome in order for the plan to achieve its goals.

5. To further save lives in Malaysia, the Government formulated a long term policy called the 'Zero Fatality Vision' which is a safety policy and philosophy that covers all aspects of safety including the driver, the vehicle, roadway infrastructure, and environment safety. The ultimate aim of this Vision is that no one should be killed or seriously injured within the road environment due to road traffic accidents that could have been prevented.

Mr. President,

6. Malaysia has also established various platforms such as the "Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS)" as a one-stop centre for the dissemination of road safety information through print media and a concerted training programme. The Malaysia Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS) carries out studies and evaluates current procedures on road safety to generate information that will form the core of its evidence-based intervention programmes to enhance road safety.

7. Additionally, "Malaysians Unite for Road Safety (MUFORS)", a community driven project that was established in September 2009, empowers Malaysians to voice out their thoughts and concerns on road safety in the country. More importantly, it also serves as a platform for every Malaysian to think about how they can play their part to improve road safety and save lives.

8. The Malaysians Unite for Road Safety (MUFORS) has been instrumental in giving road safety advocacy a fresh approach, by involving Malaysians from all walks of life to take ownership of road safety. Over the period of two years, the Malaysians Unite for Road Safety (MUFORS) has initiated various programs to get more and more

Malaysians to be involved in creating better attitudes and safer roads for everyone. In short, the Malaysians Unite for Road Safety (MUFORS) is a movement of the people, by the people, for the people.

9. To make a difference for safer roads, Malaysia has implemented the International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP), a charity active in more than 70 countries worldwide and with the vision for a world free of high-risk roads. The iRAP Malaysian programme has the potential to prevent almost 32,000 deaths and serious injuries over 20 years.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia is proud to have a fellow Malaysian, Hollywood star, Michelle Yeoh as the Global Ambassador for the Make Roads Safe campaign. Michelle Yeoh has led the campaign's Call for Decade of Action prior to the first UN Conference on road safety in November 2009, and addressed the UN General Assembly in 2010 as it proclaimed the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety.

Mr. President,

11. Every day, more than 3,500 people are killed in road traffic accidents worldwide and nearly 1.3 million people in the world die each year of these accidents. Road trauma is a serious and rapidly worsening public health crisis. This crisis affects developing countries in particular, where nine out of 10 road deaths and injuries occur. Road traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for young people aged 10 to 24 worldwide and a global killer, similar to the scale of malaria or tuberculosis deaths.

12. Road safety is indeed one of the most important issues that would continue to affect each and every of us in one way or another. Road traffic accidents, in most cases, are predictable and therefore preventable. Malaysia thus will continue to promote and introduce road safety initiatives and programmes for members of the public to create an awareness and safety culture amongst them. Malaysia also wishes to

reiterate that the UN should continue to play a major role in addressing this highly preventable but deadly public safety issue.

Thank you Mr. President.