



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 ITEMS 14 AND 117: INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED
IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE MAJOR
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND RELATED FIELDS; AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE
MILLENNIUM SUMMIT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/66/763),
AT THE PLENARY OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY,
NEW YORK, 4 JUNE 2012**

Mr. President,

First and foremost, I wish to thank you for holding a debate on human security. At the same time, I wish to thank the Secretary General for the submission of his report A/66/763 entitled "Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 64/291 on human security", which provides a summary of discussions on human security at the General Assembly, as well as, attempts to forge a common understanding on the concept.

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia approaches the notion of human security rather cautiously as there remains to be an agreed definition to it thus far. As such, we believe that it is necessary to continue to try to find an agreed definition based on paragraph 143 of the World Outcome Document. Paragraph 143 also commits all of us to further discuss and define the notion of human security – something that my delegation is committed to. While we can accept a general and broad understanding, working towards an agreed definition that is accepted by all can only help in allowing the notion to be further developed and applied in the future.

3. On the same basis, should there continue to be a lack of a conclusive definition or even having an abstract definition, one's understanding of human security may differ significantly from others, bearing in mind the difference in culture, historical background and levels of development and capacity between various countries.

4. In going through the report of the Secretary General, we welcome the outline in Chapter 7 of a common understanding on human security. We appreciate that the outline takes into consideration of various views of member States. At this juncture, allow me to present our views on some of the elements contained in the outline concerned.

Mr. President,

5. Among the core values that are important to ensure greater acceptance of the concept is that human security would need to be guided by the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Human security should also not replace State security. We agree that governments should retain the primary responsibility for ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people and population. Malaysia also believes that human security must be based on local realities as the political, economic, social and cultural conditions vary significantly between one country and the next. Thus, national ownership is of utmost importance in the advancement of human security to the people of a country. The international community should complement the efforts of governments, based on the request of the latter, to enhance the ability to respond to threats, especially those that are multidimensional and cross-cutting and require assistance from others.

6. We also take note that the notion of human security is distinct from the responsibility to protect. However, the distinction should not only be confined to the application of the notion, but should also shun the possibility of using force or the threat of force on a State or its people. Malaysia firmly believes there is a need to rule out any possibility in resorting to humanitarian intervention or even harmful sanctions. The

application of sanctions goes against the very notion of human security as it only hurts the people. It brings us further away from freedom from fear or freedom from want. It prohibits the ability of people to live in freedom and dignity, and only causes greater poverty and despair. Such action would only create greater insecurity rather than promote human security. We cannot accept the paradox of creating insecurity in the name of human security, which would only defeat the purpose of the notion itself.

7. Malaysia also believes that there should not be any double-standards and selectivity nor should there be manipulation in the application of human security. It should be applied equally to all problems and threats that beset the peoples of the world.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia's own national development experience has always taken into account the elements of economic and social development, with the welfare of the people consistently at the forefront of policy considerations. At the heart of those policies is the need to distribute the benefits of economic growth equitably in order to overcome potentially dangerous national rifts. As such, Malaysia would continue to advocate a comprehensive approach to threats posed by, among others, disparities in economic opportunities; infectious diseases; illegal migration; environmental pollution and degradation; illicit drug production and trafficking; human trafficking and smuggling in persons; and, international terrorism.

Mr. President,

9. While Malaysia acknowledges the notion of human security, we are concerned on its broad application, which makes any operational use for the notion difficult and complex. In this day and age, there are a number of threats that individuals face depending on the situation in the country and in the region. Often, even solutions to certain threats are by themselves under threat as well. For instance, the problem of

climate change and post-conflict peacebuilding require greater financial and human resources to overcome. However, resources are difficult to acquire especially in light of the global financial and economic crisis facing almost all governments, be they from developed or developing countries. Therefore, we would appreciate further clarification on the application of human security.

Mr. President,

10. We look forward to hearing more on the aspect of operationalizing the concept of human security. At the same time, we also look forward in efforts to formulate what constitute the concept that would be acceptable to all.

I thank you, Mr. President.