



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY MR. SAIFUL AZAM ABDULLAH, DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF
MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 118 ON
THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY
NEW YORK, 28 JUNE 2012**

At the outset, I wish to join others in extending our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this utmost important meeting that allows us to take stock of progress made in implementing the landmark Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006. I also wish to thank the Secretary General, His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, for his report (A/66/762) on the ongoing implementation of the Strategy. Last, but certainly not least, I also wish to pay tribute to the tireless efforts and excellent work of His Excellency Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, the Permanent Representative of Canada, in facilitating consultations on the draft resolution on the third review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

2. At this juncture, I wish to align my statement with that made by the Permanent Representative of Syria on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mr. President,

3. Today, as we celebrate the sixth anniversary of the landmark Strategy, we do so with a sense of pride and accomplishment. For the first time, the international community came together as one to agree to a common Strategy that is all encompassing and addresses the ugly scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and in all aspects and levels. The four pillars outlined in the Strategy allow us to deal with terrorism in an integrated manner. On this, my delegation feels that it is important to deal with the various aspects of terrorism in a balanced way as well - one that gives equal attention to all the four pillars of the Strategy. This is something that Malaysia has always been committed to and is reflected in our efforts to combat terrorism thus far.

4. At the national front, Malaysia has ratified nine of the 13 international conventions and protocols as well as taken various measures to fulfill its obligations that

have been set forth by the General Assembly and Security Council. We are in the midst of amending relevant national laws to enable us to accede to the remaining conventions and protocols.

5. Malaysia established the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT) with the aim of enhancing capacity building and extending technical assistance at the international level. Since its inception in November 2002, the Centre has conducted 96 training courses, workshops and forums attended by 3,038 local and foreign participants. Of late, SEARCCT has expanded collaboration with other international organizations such as the UN's Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Malaysia has also signed bilateral agreements to enhance cooperation on counter-terrorism with many of our partners, be they in the region and beyond.

6. In Southeast Asia, cooperation in combating terrorism primarily takes place within the framework of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC). The AMMTC discusses the framework of cooperation and oversees the implementation of activities to combat the problem, including the sharing of intelligence and working with external partners to counter the threat. In addition, the annual ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) would implement and review the decisions made at the AMMTC as well as to recommend new projects and explore further areas of cooperation.

7. The signing of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT) in Manila on 13 January 2007 by all ASEAN Member Countries has turned it into the primary framework for ASEAN cooperation in combating terrorism. The Convention reflects the commitment and cooperation of meeting the challenges presented by international terrorism.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia believes in the saying that prevention is better than cure. In addressing some of the more common factors that lead people to turn to terrorism, Malaysia has taken various measures to eradicate hardcore poverty in the country and ensured that the population enjoys equitable economic growth. The Government has also ensured that Malaysia's expenditure on education consistently exceeds 20 percent of the annual national budget.

9. Humiliation, despair and a sense of utter hopelessness are another 'well-spring'. In this regard, we believe on the undeniable need to allow those that live under

occupation their most fundamental right to life and liberty with dignity and hope. The international community must do more and act accordingly if we are truly sincere and committed in eradicating terrorism and extremism. We cannot pretend that the problem in the Middle East does not exist, nor can we continue to live in a state of denial of the atrocities that have been committed. So long as there are populations that live in dismal conditions and with despair that neither they, nor their children, have any hope for improvement in their lives, our efforts to eradicate terrorism may end in vain.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia is supportive of interfaith and intercivilizational initiatives such as the UN Alliance of Civilizations. Such initiatives promote greater understanding among all religions and civilizations in the world.

11. While greater interaction and understanding is pivotal in building trust, Malaysia believes that the real problem that exists today is not between peoples of different faiths and cultures. It is rather between moderates and extremists of all faiths and cultures. It is due to this reason that the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia called for the establishment of a Global Movement of the Moderates at the 65th General Assembly in this very prestigious hall. It is essentially a call on the silent majority of moderate people of all faiths and cultures to drown the voices of hate and extremism that have been perpetuated by a mere handful. It is an avenue that supports a voice of reason, understanding, tolerance and respect. What is pertinent is that moderates be seen as occupying the center stage and push extremism and terrorism to the periphery.

Mr .President,

12. While we take a step back and examine progress made, we must also look forward to what lies ahead. On this, my delegation is supportive in efforts to enhance counter-terrorism measures, including the creation of an overall UN Counter-Terrorism coordinator, as proposed by the UN Secretary General. This would create greater coherence in the work of the United Nations in fighting this ugly scourge. Malaysia appreciates that the third review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has brought the international community one step closer to achieving our noble intention to eradicate terrorism. To that, rest assured, Mr. President, of Malaysia's firm commitment to see a world free from terrorism.

I thank you, Mr. President.