



# Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ON 'STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT, ADVANCING THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON  
CULTURE OF PEACE: THE WAY FORWARD' AT  
THE HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE  
CR 2 (NLB) OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK, 14 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Mr. Moderator,

I wish to congratulate the President of General Assembly for convening this High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace. I would like to also thank you and distinguished panelists for your invaluable views on the way forward to further the agenda of a culture of peace.

2. My delegation agrees with many that the Declaration and Programme of Action is the most profound blueprint for peace ever adopted at the UN. It is a universal document, one that will surely grow in prominence in the years to come. On this note, my delegation wishes to add some of our views on the way forward in advancing a culture of peace.

3. Malaysia has been active in many initiatives on interfaith and intercivilizational dialogue. One thing that active participation in these events has thought us is that all religions and faiths deplore violence and extremism. Despite this, violence and extremism continues to flourish. It is perpetuated by a few. Yet these few have managed to hold the world at ransom and instill fear in the hearts of the majority.

4. It is because of this that at the general debate of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, Malaysia's Prime Minister made a clarion call to rally the moderates, the majority of peace-loving people from all over the world, to stand for what they believe in to counter and drown the voices of the extremists. The Prime Minister called for a 'Global Movement of the Moderates' or GMM, in short. In essence, this was made on the belief that the future would not be one between the East and West; between

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developed and developing countries; nor between different faiths. The future would be one between the moderates and the extremists of all religions and beliefs.

5. During the ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh in April 2012, ASEAN leaders unanimously endorsed and adopted the initiative on GMM. GMM would be one of ASEAN's positive contributions in achieving global peace. For us, moderation is about balance, mutual respect, understanding, dialogue, compromise and justice. While it is a highly esteemed value in various religions and philosophies, the focus of GMM is not on religion alone. It is a common approach and a guide for action in all areas and can be applied at various levels, be it domestic, political, economic, social and international level.

6. I am pleased to inform that Malaysia had successfully hosted the inaugural International Conference on Global Movement of Moderates in Kuala Lumpur in January this year. The theme for the conference was fittingly enough: "In Pursuit of an Enduring and Just Peace".

7. Throughout the Conference, various international and local speakers presented their views on moderation from different aspects such as the economy, socio-politics, religion and foreign policy. Over 500 participants attended the conference from all over the world, consisting of government leaders, academicians, international organizations, corporate leaders, religious leaders and think-tanks.

Mr. Moderator,

8. The GMM certainly complements the 1999 Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. As such, Malaysia wishes to invite all to support the GMM and looks forward to cooperate in promoting moderation to counter extremism in all its forms. Nevertheless, we do not doubt that the road ahead will be long and arduous. There will be detractors along the way. But in the end, the moderates will prevail and our victory will hopefully usher in a period of global peace and prosperity for all.

I thank you.