



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE SENATOR PAUL KONG SING CHU
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
ON AGENDA ITEM 80 ENTITLED
“STATUS OF PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949
AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS”
AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 22 OCTOBER 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost, Malaysia wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report A/67/182 entitled “Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts”. The report has allowed us an insight into the measures taken by various Member States and the ICRC on the Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as well as other measures related to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

2. Malaysia believes that the report is a testimony of the growing importance of International Humanitarian Law to Member States so as to minimize the effects of the armed conflicts to the civilian population. However, it is unfortunate that there are those which choose to go against the tide. Israel, as the occupying power of the Occupied Palestine Territory, has failed time and again to ensure that the people of Palestine live free from a life of misery. Israel blatantly disregards international law, including the Geneva Conventions, as well many General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Among the violations that have been committed include the continued expansion of illegal settlements; mistreatment, torture and prolonged detention of Palestinians in Israeli prisons; indiscriminate attacks; demolition of homes; forced population transfer; and, collective punishment in the form of the devastating blockade of Gaza.

3. The international community must do more than merely deplore and condemn Israel for its actions. During the recently concluded High Level Meeting on the rule of law, we reaffirmed that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations. We also committed ourselves to ensuring that impunity is not tolerated for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as for violations of international humanitarian law and gross violations of human rights law. In this regard, the international community has an obligation to use all means available to

it to put pressure on Israel to comply with its obligations under international law including the Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocols.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Malaysia is committed to the maintenance of international peace and security. In fulfilling its commitment, Malaysia also places great importance on the need to adhere to the Geneva Conventions as customary law. This is evident in our endeavors in various peacekeeping operations. In Mindanao, for instance, the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT) sought to ensure that the effect of armed conflict on the people is minimized. Malaysia has also acted as the facilitator for the peace process between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) since 2001. Indeed, we are heartened to note that the two parties have signed a framework peace agreement on 15 October 2012. Malaysia is confident that the agreement will bring an end to the violence, which has claimed so many lives. The agreement will also protect the rights of the Bangsamoro people while preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines.

Mr. Chairman,

5. In our efforts to enhance the level of professionalism within the peacekeeping forces, and to prepare them for new challenges, Malaysia established the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre (MPTC) in 1996. The MPTC's role is to prepare potential peacekeepers from the military, police and civilians, including NGOs, for operational duties in peacekeeping missions. Malaysia believes that the Centre would better prepare peacekeepers to perform their duties more diligently and professionally.

6. Malaysia also established the International Humanitarian Law Committee, or JUKAM in short, which serves as the focal point for the effective implementation of International Humanitarian Law in Malaysia. In this regard, JUKAM works through its four specialized Sub-Committees namely the Ratification of Treaties and Legislative Measures Sub-Committee, the Methods of Warfare Sub-Committee, the Protection of Cultural Property Sub-Committee and the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law Sub-Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

7. While we would rather see disputes resolved peacefully and amicably, the least we can do if conflict does not break out is to ensure that innocent men, women and children do not suffer unnecessarily. Malaysia also believes that respect for and adherence to International Humanitarian Law as codified in the four Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, and under customary international law, can only be achieved if these well-entrenched International Humanitarian Law principles and practices are strenuously upheld by the global community.

I thank you.