



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Haniff, Permanent Representative of Malaysia,
on Agenda Item 20: Sustainable Development,
at the Second Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
New York, 08 November 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statement made by Algeria, on behalf of G77 and China, and Indonesia, on behalf of ASEAN under this agenda item. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for the report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development presented under this agenda item.

2. As there are nine sub-items under this agenda item on sustainable development and given the limited time allowed for intervention, I will therefore focus my statement to sub-item (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chairman,

3. In the general debate of the Second Committee held recently, Malaysia had, among others, stressed the urgent need for all Governments to demonstrate their political will at the highest level to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the Rio+20 follow-up process. This is critical, given the deteriorating state of global environment, which is leading to climate change, and in the process, we witness extreme weather events. The development of sustainable development goals, establishment of a High Level Political Forum for sustainable development, strengthening and upgrading of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and developing strategies for sustainable development financing are some of the important areas that we would need to act upon in a timely and effective manner.

4. As you would recall, my delegation has made some proposals on the way forward for the four key areas in question, for the consideration of the Second Committee during the recent general debate of the Committee.

5. In addition, there are also other issues in the Rio+20 follow-up processes that are no less important for us. These are options for a facilitation mechanism for technology

transfer, climate change, food security, water scarcity, energy shortages, resilient to disaster, marine resources, job creation and the decision by the Rio+20 Conference to convene, in 2014, a third international conference on small island developing States. In this respect, we urge the international community to provide the necessary support, to ensure the success of the Conference and its preparatory process.

6. In the follow-up process and implementation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development outcome document the “Future We Want”, I would like to reiterate that the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and equity must continue to remain the overarching framework for any arrangements. These principles have been drawn in the 1992 Rio Summit. All countries should promote sustainable development, but the developed countries should take the leading role in environmental protection, as historically these countries contributed the most to environmental degradation. On the other hand, developing countries particularly least developed countries will need assistance in implementing Rio+20 decisions in terms of financial resources and transfer of technology.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Let me now briefly share what Malaysia has done at the national level to promote sustainable development.

8. Malaysia’s commitment to promote sustainable development has been articulated through its national development plans, including the current Tenth Malaysia Plan, 2011-2015. Malaysia in 2011, introduced the New Economic Model, with its three pillars namely sustainability, inclusivity and high-income, that also take into account the three pillars of sustainable development.

9. Malaysia is currently on a trajectory to become a developed nation by 2020. We plan to get there through planned initiatives including the Economic Transformation Programme and the Government Transformation Programme. These programmes are supported by five-year medium-term development plans, namely the Tenth Malaysia Plan, the Eleventh Malaysia Plan with the New Economic Model, as the framework that is driving us through.

10. Twenty years ago, at the Rio Summit, Malaysia made a pledge to keep at least 50 per cent of its land as forest cover in perpetuity. We have made good this pledge. A large tract of our forests has been gazetted as protected areas whilst ensuring its forest resources continue to be utilised in a sustainable manner through the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). In addition, six large tracts of land have been listed as Ramsar Sites and 44 islands have been gazetted as marine parks. Malaysia remains committed to keep at least 50 percent of its land as forest cover, which now stands at 56.4 percent. Malaysia gives equal emphasis in its economic growth and development, the conservation of its natural resources, and the maintenance of the social and environmental life.

11. On climate change, during the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009, Malaysia offered to voluntarily reduce its emissions by up to 40 per cent in carbon intensity of GDP by 2020 compared with the level of 2005, contingent upon technology transfer and financial support from developed countries. Although this condition remains elusive, Malaysia, with her limited capacity and capability, has taken steps in meeting that voluntary target by enhancing the institutional framework to promote green technology by establishing the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water. A host of financial assistance and fiscal incentives have also been made available to both users and producers in Malaysia to promote utilisation and innovation of green technology and products. In this connection, Malaysia has introduced a feed-in tariff system to promote the use of renewable energy. Malaysia aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the fuel mix to 10 per cent by 2020.

12. Malaysia is currently on track to achieve all the MDGs, in aggregate terms, ahead of the deadline by 2015. The incidence of hardcore poverty declined from 1.2 per cent in 2005 to 0.7 per cent in 2009 and further dropped to 0.2 percent in 2011. Further, child mortality has been reduced to less than two-thirds since 1990. The Malaysian Government will continue its work to ensure that these numbers would continue to decrease in the coming years.

13. The successful implementation of poverty eradication programmes in Malaysia is attributed to the successful power sharing and political stability which Malaysia has enjoyed in the past 55 years. It is also attributed to Malaysia's strategic planning and effective implementation of economic programmes, coupled with continuous investments in physical infrastructure, education and primary healthcare services. Among the prominent poverty eradication initiatives is the rural development scheme implemented by the Federal Land Development Authority of Malaysia (FELDA). This initiative has successfully brought out of poverty citizens involved in the land distribution scheme through planned and coordinated land development and socio-economic activities. This scheme has been proven to be successful in elevating the quality of life and bringing social and economic benefits to 177,000 rural families in Malaysia to date. These families now enjoy household incomes that substantially exceed the poverty line income. In addition, the listing of FELDA Global Ventures Holdings Berhad in the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange in June this year, the second biggest listing in the world after Facebook, has further generated multiplying wealth that would eventually give direct benefits to the FELDA settlers.

Mr. Chairman,

14. Let me conclude by stressing that sustainable development is the best policy for peace, security and prosperity for all mankind, present and future. It is our collective responsibility to take decisive actions for a sustainable future that we all want for our next generations.

Thank you.