



# Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Haniff, Permanent Representative of Malaysia,  
on Agenda Item 38: The Situation in Afghanistan,  
at the Plenary of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly,  
New York, 27 November 2012**

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to extend my delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General for his latest report on the situation in Afghanistan, as contained in document A/67/354.

Mr. President,

2. The year 2014 would see two significant events taking place that would shape the next stage of Afghanistan's future. One, would be the complete withdrawal of the International Stabilisation Assistance Force (ISAF). Second, would be the presidential elections. Both events are equally important and should be looked at as two sides of the same coin.

3. On one side, security in Afghanistan is a prerequisite for the success of the entire political and economic reconstruction and transformation processes. In this regard, Malaysia is encouraged that there have been fewer security incidents and insurgent attacks earlier in the year as compared to 2011. However, the figures are certainly not encouraging enough. The killing of civilians and the targeting of prominent individuals remains a concern. The international community must look at ways to counter such incidents. In doing so, it must take special care not to give further reasons for people to turn away from the transition process and join the insurgents. Civilian deaths resulting from military operations by international forces must be avoided at all costs. In fact, any civilian casualty would create resentment and fuel anger among the people, which would make the efforts to ensure peace and security that more difficult.

4. On the flip side, fair elections that are inclusive and free from external interference would ensure a competent Government that enjoys the support of the population. The Government could then concentrate on efforts to establish good governance, promote justice, human rights and respect for the rule of law, and equitable social and economic development in the country. This, in turn, would plant the seeds for lasting peace and stability from within Afghanistan itself.

Mr. President,

5. Malaysia appreciates the continued support rendered by UNAMA to the work of the High Peace Council as well as to the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration programme. We welcome the appointment of Salahuddin Rabbani, who has emphasized the need to improve inclusiveness in the High Peace Council. Malaysia is heartened to note that the effort of the Government of Afghanistan in engaging with insurgents to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society has borne fruit. We believe that the rehabilitated insurgents can assist the Government in its effort to create peace through their active participation as local community leaders.

Mr. President,

6. Malaysia is of the view that inclusiveness would also need to be extended to women. By getting the support of women, the Government would, in effect, further marginalize those who are out to create instability in the country. Furthermore, women would contribute immensely to development efforts. As such, neglecting such a huge percentage of the population would only be under-utilizing the potential human capital available in the country. This, Afghanistan certainly cannot afford to do.

7. Malaysia understands the need to take into account the cultural and traditional sensitivities in Afghanistan, which are based on religious beliefs. It is the same for Malaysia. We continue to take various measures towards achieving gender equality and women's development through various policy frameworks, legislation and capacity building and entrepreneurial programmes. Malaysia wishes to emphasize the importance of women's education and healthcare as well as the need to change the widely accepted stereotypical roles of men and women in society. All this is done while taking into consideration the need to protect the sanctity of Islam. In this regard, we believe that Malaysia has much to offer and we are willing to share our experience.

Mr. President,

8. In the run-up to 2014, many impediments remain. It is obvious that the Afghan Government would need the assistance of the international community in its efforts to forge a better future for its people. In this regard, we are pleased to note the success of the Tokyo Conference last July, which saw the international community pledging 16 billion dollars in development aid over the next four years. The number of high-level representatives and the financial commitments made at the Conference sends a clear message to those that intend to derail the transition and transformation process that Afghanistan would not be abandoned and would enjoy the support of the international community.

9. On our part, Malaysia would identify the appropriate areas of assistance and cooperation with particular focus on capacity building and human resource development, that we would be able to extend to Afghanistan and its people within the Malaysia Technical Assistance Programme.

10. In addition, 40 members of the Malaysian Armed Forces Medical Contingent for International Security Assistance Force (MALCON-ISAF), which includes women doctors and nurses, were deployed to provide medical, dentistry and healthcare services as well as capacity building programmes to the Afghan people in the Bamyan Province. The team has been extending these services since July 2010. The team has managed to provide healthcare services while taking into consideration local socio-religious sensitivities.

11. Malaysia has also been providing assistance to the reconstruction of Afghanistan over the last 10 years through various bilateral technical training and capacity building programmes in a broad range of areas. We are pleased to note that a number of Afghan officials have benefited from the many technical courses that Malaysia has offered. In 2011 and 2012, Malaysia has contributed a total of nearly USD 14 million in humanitarian assistance and capacity building programmes to Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

12. Malaysia is cautiously optimistic of the situation in Afghanistan. We recognize that the next few years would be crucial for the future of the country. While we support in full Afghan leadership and ownership, the international community must take steps to ensure that when ISAF leaves, the foundations have been put in place to allow Afghanistan to move forward. The international community must also ensure that the transition of power to the next president is done smoothly.

13. In concluding, progress has been made and we should capitalize on this. Afghanistan cannot afford to fall back into the despair of war. Malaysia would do its utmost to support Afghanistan's reconciliation and reconstruction process. We look forward to continue playing a meaningful role in Afghanistan's development towards a lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

I thank you, Mr. President.