



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE 2013 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION, 1 APRIL 2013, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia extends our warm congratulations to you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the 2013 substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. Allow me also to congratulate other Bureau members on their elections, as well as the Chairpersons of the respective Working Groups on their assumption. My delegation would also like to thank Ambassador Enrique Roman-Morey of Peru for his contribution and efforts as President of last year's Disarmament Commission, during which we were able to adopt the agenda items for this current cycle. Malaysia associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Malaysia, like many other delegations here, recognises the difficulties in realising the disarmament agenda. This perennial deadlock has beleaguered the Disarmament Commission, and the Conference of Disarmament, for over a dozen years now. In spite of this my delegation views these challenges as an opportunity for all of us to reinvigorate this process, and we reiterate our call for all parties to renew their positions, in order to achieve general and complete disarmament with the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

3. In this regard, Malaysia continues to believe in the continuing relevancy of the Disarmament Commission as the sole specialised body with universal membership in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. The all-inclusive and comprehensive approach which the Disarmament Commission provides is important to my delegation, as we seek to achieve an outcome which enjoys the broadest possible support.

4. On that note, my delegation expresses its hope for a more results-oriented session in 2013, and calls on all member States to exercise flexibility and political will so as to rejuvenate our negotiations to move forward on substantive matters and towards a successful conclusion. My delegation also wishes to emphasize that the Non-Aligned Movement will be submitting a working paper on "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", which we hope will provide an impetus for substantive progress this year on this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

5. In a few weeks' time, many of us here will be departing for Geneva to participate in the Second Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. For Malaysia, we believe that this year's Prepcom should continue the momentum towards greater cooperation in achieving the NPT's objectives in nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

6. Malaysia remains concerned on the slow progress in the reduction of strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons, and we are deeply disturbed that the Nuclear Weapon States continue to modernise and upgrade their nuclear arsenals. Malaysia also reiterates its call for the urgent conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances.

7. However, my delegation is particularly disappointed on the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East. This failure to convene the Conference by 2012 may have serious implications in the run-up to the 2015 NPT Review Conference, and even the Treaty itself. In this regard, my delegation joins others in urging the Secretary-General as well as the concerned States to convene the Conference at the earliest possible opportunity, with the active participation of all states in the region.

8. Again, we find ourselves in a situation where we recognise the difficulties faced by all parties in achieving this goal. However, my delegation is convinced that this is a necessary step to take, indeed one of many steps, in the long journey towards peace and stability in that region. As such, it is our considered belief that all states should approach the Conference with an open mind and without prejudice on the different security concerns of others.

Mr. Chairman,

9. In relation to the topic of nuclear weapons free zones, Malaysia continues to believe that such zones contribute significantly to global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. In this regard, we are pleased to note the progress in concluding negotiations between ASEAN and the five Nuclear Weapons States on the Protocol to the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ). My delegation joins others in looking forward to the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty and its related documents as early as possible.

10. Also on developments in the region, Malaysia welcomes the recent ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by Brunei Darussalam. Nevertheless, it is coming to 17 years since the CTBT was opened for signature and yet it still remains non-operational. Malaysia continues to believe that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are two sides of the same coin, and in this regard calls upon all States, particular the Annex II States, to work towards the entry into force of the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,

11. With regard to conventional weapons, my delegation welcomes the successful outcome of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradication the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in New York last year. Malaysia is of the view that the UN Programme will promote and facilitate international cooperation, which will enhance the effectiveness and complement existing bilateral, regional and international agreements to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

12. My delegation reiterates its concern that the danger posed by conventional weapons, in particular when used in conflict situations, is overwhelming in terms of number of deaths and injuries. In this regard, Malaysia will continue to support confidence building measures in the field of conventional weapons at all levels, as this would contribute to strengthening international peace and security.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.