



# 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  
AT THE HIGH LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE  
“PEACEFUL RESOLUTIONS OF CONFLICTS IN AFRICA”  
NEW YORK, 26 APRIL 2013  
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Mr. President,

On the outset, I wish to thank you for convening this timely High Level Thematic Debate entitled “Peaceful Resolutions of Conflicts in Africa”. Malaysia is of the view that the debate comes at a critical moment as Africa has seen both developments as well as regression in terms of socio-economic development and peace and security. To Malaysia, the African continent is important, as it is a destination of trade and economic activities with a huge potential to prosper further. As such, Malaysia has always been supportive of peace endeavors through UN Peacekeeping Operations since the 1960s. We have also been supportive and are committed to peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict countries.

2. At this juncture, I wish to align my delegation with the statement delivered by Fiji on behalf of G77 and China. Malaysia also wishes to join other member states in congratulating the African Union, on the auspicious occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its predecessor, the Organization of the African Unity.

Mr. President,

3. The African continent has continued to witness poverty, diseases and famine. While overcoming these challenges remain a daunting task to say the least, several countries in Africa have also political instability and conflict to contend with. In this regard, we are supportive of efforts to maintain and restore peace on the continent through all UN peacekeeping operations in Africa. Despite peacekeeping operations having a total of 96,753 military and civilian personnel, the security challenges in the continent remain a tall mountain to climb.

4. In this regard, Malaysia is of the view that international engagement on Africa must continue, not only in peacekeeping, but in peacebuilding as well. We have seen countries which have experienced conflict transcend from conflict with some form of

success. On the other side of the coin, we have also seen countries, which have achieved interim political stability, relapse into conflict. On this note, Malaysia upholds the important role of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in engaging with countries under its agenda.

5. We also underline the importance of continued political will in sustaining peacebuilding efforts. Without the necessary political will of the international community as well as of host countries, it would be impossible for progress to be made. While the UN and the African Union should learn from instances of relapse, so as to avoid future relapses from taking place, it is also pivotal for all parties to remain steadfast in their desire to realize a peaceful and stable continent irrespective of whatever setbacks they may face along the way.

Mr. President,

6. As a fellow country of the Global South, Malaysia has continued to stand by the ideals and principles in supporting development through South-South Cooperation. Under this initiative, enhancing national capacity through the development of human capital and training have been emphasized. Through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), Malaysia has successfully trained 26,000 officials from all over the world including Africa. We are ready to continue our support in this endeavor.

7. In addition, Malaysia's private sector has also invested heavily through long term and sustainable foreign direct investments in Africa. Malaysian investors ventured into Africa decades ago, opening up businesses, setting up manufacturing plants, establishing financial institutions, creating jobs and facilitating transfer of technologies. These have assisted economic development throughout Africa. According to the Global Investment Trend report published by UNCTAD on 25 March 2013, Malaysia is currently Asia's leading and the world's third largest investor in Africa, with total investments of \$19.3 billion dollars as of the end of 2011. This reflects Malaysia's firm commitment to realize Africa's true potential. Malaysia believes that through sustainable and equitable development and fair wealth distributions in countries in Africa, sustainable stability will eventually prevail.

8. Malaysia is also of the view that international engagement with the countries from the African continent must be premised on the principle of national ownership. Political will would engender seriousness in supporting change and transition, but national ownership would mean those changes and transition would be guided by inclusive political support of the people and the leadership.

Mr. President,

9. One of the main pillars of nation building is development. Africa has long been the focus of the United Nations on the issue of development, as reflected in the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs itself is a major milestone of the multilateral

system. Although some member states have been successful in achieving the MDGs, there are those that still require international support. While we look beyond 2015 when we discuss the development agenda, we must not lose focus on the immediate tasks we have before us. In this regard, Malaysia wishes to highlight the importance of the Special Event dedicated to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the MDGs in September 2013. My delegation agrees that the review of the progress made in accelerating the implementation of the MDGs should be central to discussions at the Special Event. As it stands, we still have thirty-two months to implement the MDGs and, as such, we should make all efforts to successfully achieve the MDGs, especially in Africa.

Mr. President,

10. In conclusion, Malaysia would like to once again commend you on your effort in convening this high level thematic debate. As we can see from the voices of member states that took the floor today, Africa and the United Nations have our full support in achieving the noble vision of a peaceful and more prosperous continent. Malaysia looks forward in further contributing to this cause, as we have always done in the past.

I thank you, Mr. President.