



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON
REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2 APRIL 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the General Assembly for its 67th Session. I have no doubt that under your able stewardship and with the commitment of all concerned, we will be able to move forward and achieve notable progress in revitalizing the General Assembly. I wish to also extend my appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Georgia and Gambia for their efforts and leadership in steering the Ad Hoc Working Group during the 66th Session of the General Assembly.

2. I would also like to thank His Excellency Vuk Jeremic, President of the General Assembly, for his statement and for making revitalization one of his key priorities during his presidency.

3. On this note, I wish to align my statement with that made by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

4. It is without a doubt that the General Assembly is the chief deliberative policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. It is the highest authoritative body of the United Nations as it represents all 193 member States. Therefore, we must duly accord it the role and authority it rightly deserves.

5. In accomplishing this, my delegation firmly believes on the need to faithfully implement resolutions of the General Assembly. In fact, no other weakness of the General Assembly undermines its relevance or effectiveness more than the failure to implement resolutions.

6. Having said that, we truly appreciate your hard work, Mr. Chairman, and that of the Secretariat in producing an updated inventory of resolutions on revitalization pursuant to resolution 66/294. We would study the contents in earnest so as to better understand the reasons behind any lack of implementation. We hope the Ad Hoc

Working Group could discuss and find ways to overcome problems so as to ensure that the resolutions are duly implemented.

7. Another area of concern that undermines the Assembly's role as the chief deliberative policy-making organ of the United Nations is the continuous encroachment of the Security Council in matters that clearly fall under the prerogative of the General Assembly. All principal organs, especially the leading two organs – the General Assembly and the Security Council, must faithfully respect each other's mandates in accordance with the UN Charter. Both organs need to work together in consultation and cooperation to create a more harmonious working relationship. Encroachment would severely affect, not only the functioning of one organ alone, but the entire United Nations machinery as well.

Mr. Chairman,

8. On the issue of the selection and appointment of the Secretary General, Malaysia firmly believes that the Assembly would need to play a more meaningful role in the process. The selection process would need to be more transparent and inclusive of all Member States as the Secretary General is one that represents all Member States of the United Nations and not merely the Security Council alone. As such, it is important to implement past resolutions on the issue, especially paragraphs 17 to 22 of the Annex of resolution 60/286 for future selections and appointments of the Secretary General.

9. As the role and activities of the PGA have significantly increased over the years, it is only natural that the Office of the PGA be provided the necessary resources to enable the President to effectively and efficiently carry out the duties entrusted upon the Office. While we recognize the benefits of the trust fund established to assist in the funding of the work of the PGA, it is nonetheless, important that funding for the regular budget be increased as to avoid the PGA being dependant on the trust fund and voluntary contributions. In this regard, Malaysia looks forward to proposals to review the budget of the Office of the President of the General Assembly for the biennium 2014-2015.

Mr. Chairman,

10. While we stress on the importance of substantive improvements, we do recognize the need to continuously improve on procedural aspects and the working methods of the General Assembly. On this, we stand ready to look into issues such as rationalization by clustering or joint consideration as well as the biennialization or triennialization of agenda items. All this would obviously need to be done with the consent of the sponsoring State or States. We also look forward to considering other proposals in improving the working methods of the main committees.

Mr. Chairman,

11. We must do our utmost to ensure that the General Assembly continues its role as the principal policy making and norm-setting organ of the United Nations. Due to the number of years this issue has been considered, it is high time that all Member States approach the issue with openness and the necessary political will in order to make substantial progress. Again, my delegation reiterates the absolute need to avoid being awkwardly left with the agenda of 'revitalizing' the revitalization process. In this regard, you can count on Malaysia's commitment in working constructively with you and other members of the Ad Hoc Working Group in the months ahead.

I thank you.