



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE APPRAISAL OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION
TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
NEW YORK, 14 MAY 2013**

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to express our appreciation to you and the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representative of Austria and the Permanent Representative of Cape Verde, for their work in preparation of this High-Level Meeting. My delegation believes that the convening of this meeting, is timely and much needed given that human trafficking continues to be a widespread crime, affecting many Member States.

Mr. President,

2. As with the rest of the international community, Malaysia condemns in the strongest possible terms the heinous crimes of trafficking in persons. We are seriously committed and taking every effort within our means to address and eventually eradicate the problem.

3. Malaysia attaches great importance on the implementation of the landmark plan “Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons” adopted as GA Resolution 64/293 in 2010. With the plan, Governments have agreed to take concrete action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, protect and assist victims, prosecute related crimes and strengthen partnership among governmental institutions and all the different stakeholders.

4. On our part, Malaysia has enacted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2007, which was amended in 2010 to become the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007. Amendments were necessary to close loopholes and expand the scope of the law to address the problem of smuggling of migrants.

5. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007 allowed for the establishment of the Council of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants”, which in turn, is responsible for the formulation of policies and the implementation of the 2010 National Action Plan to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The Council meets on a monthly basis and overlooks all aspects in combating the heinous crimes from legislation and enforcement, to protection and rehabilitation, media, publicity and labour trafficking. Not only is the Council made up of government ministries and agencies, but also of civil society organisations. On occasions, diplomatic representations from other countries are

also invited to Council meetings to raise concerns and share ideas on various related features. This allows the Council to act in a comprehensive manner, taking into account every aspect of combating trafficking and smuggling.

Mr. President,

6. Despite our comprehensive approach to the problem, we are faced with a multitude of challenges. Becoming a destination, transit and to a lesser extent, even a country of origin, we have been put in an unenviable position of having to view the problem from a bird-eye's view. Unenviable though it may be, it has its advantages in terms of allowing us to appreciate the enormity of the challenge that lies before us. Through our experience, we have learned that cooperation and coordination with neighbouring countries is essential in our common efforts to combat this ugly scourge.

7. Malaysia thus welcomes the launching of the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012, prepared pursuant to the GA Resolution 64/293. The report would allow us to obtain comprehensive and reliable data on the offenders, the victims, and the trafficking flows throughout the regions in order to combat this ugly scourge more effectively. We are pleased to note that the report is the first of its kind, which shed light on patterns and flows of trafficking in persons.

Mr. President,

8. My delegation remains seriously concerned that women account for almost 60 per cent of all trafficked victims detected globally, followed by children at 27 per cent. While the widespread ratification of the *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* is viewed as a success story, we need to do more. Valuable and all encompassing though the Protocol may be, it is without a doubt that the main challenge that lies before States Parties is in the implementation of the provisions contained therein.

9. As also mentioned in the report, trafficking originating from East Asia remains the most conspicuous globally. Realizing this grave problem, Malaysia is working closely with other ASEAN Member States in addressing the issue of human trafficking. The Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime, which was adopted during the Special Ministerial Meeting on Terrorism on 17 May 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, identified trafficking in persons as one of the eight (8) priority areas where action to address transnational crime was critically needed. The signing of the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane further demonstrated the pledge and commitment of ASEAN member countries to combat the problem regionally.

10. In concluding, Malaysia believes that the international community must be cautious in dealing with the issue so as not to divert resources and attention from addressing the underlying causes to human trafficking and people smuggling. In this regard, we cannot emphasize enough the importance in addressing the factor of supply in countries of origin, in particular, contributing factors such as poverty, underdevelopment and marginalisation.

I thank you, Mr. President.