



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



CANDIDATE
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**STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE
OF THE 68th SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 9 OCTOBER 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, on behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I wish to extend our warmest congratulation to you on your election as Chairman of the Second Committee. I wish to also extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Fiji, on behalf of G77 and China, and Indonesia, on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Since our meeting last October in this august Committee, a number of important developments have taken place. The recovery state of the world financial and economic crises remains uncertain. Young people could not find jobs. Budgets keep being cut in both the public and the private sectors. The state of the environment has further deteriorated. For the first time in human history, the concentration of climate-warming carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has passed the milestone level of 400 parts per million. The last time so much greenhouse gas was in the air was several million years ago, when the Arctic was ice-free, savannah spread across the Sahara desert and sea level was up to 40 metres higher than today. These conditions are expected to return in time, with devastating consequences for civilisation, unless emissions of CO₂ from the burning of coal, gas and oil are rapidly curtailed. The warning signs made clear that the current global development agenda which was formulated more than a decade ago is not enough to tackle the new and emerging challenges facing the world today.

3. In this regard, the "Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage" which has been chosen as the theme of the 68th session of the General Assembly that placed development issues in the forefront of the upcoming work of the Assembly is very timely. As the President of the 68th session of the General Assembly said in his

acceptance speech, the theme is not a mere slogan but it should be operationalised and lead to concrete action for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. Against this backdrop, the time has come for the Second Committee to rise to this challenge by ensuring that the process of finalizing a new development agenda beyond 2015 is done in a timely and efficient manner.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The main task before us at this Committee will be to follow-up processes to the Rio+20 Conference and other major summits and conferences outcomes relating to economic and social issues. Among them are the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWSDGs); the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing; the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism; implementation of priority areas identified in the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and implementation on outcome of recently concluded High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia welcomes the recently concluded high-level meetings related to the work of this Committee namely the first meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; strengthening of ECOSOC, and the Special Event on MDGs. We also welcome the decision to convene the 3rd International Conference for Sustainable Development of SIDS in 2014 in Samoa and looks forward to its successful deliberations and outcomes.

6. Malaysia support the recommendation contained in the Secretary-General's recent report on "Options for Facilitating the Development, Transfer and Dissemination of Clean and Environmentally Sound Technologies." The High-level Political Forum could launch a mechanism involving the creation and/or scaling up of several initiatives as proposed in paragraph 86 of the report that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

7. In line with the theme that places new development agenda beyond 2015 at the heart of development issues, the work of the Second Committee this year should give greater emphasis in addressing the challenges of three dimensions of sustainable development encompassing economic, social and environmental that are facing the world today. It is now clear that economic, social and environmental efforts need to be reintegrated, and the tracks of discussion currently unfolding under the rubrics of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) need to be thought of as dimensions of the sustainable development paradigm.

8. In developing the SDGs, we should keep in mind the interest of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. We should also ensure that the SDG process is coherent with the post-2015 UN development agenda process in that the design, structure and choice of SDGs are in line with what developing countries

want to achieve in the development agenda. Further, the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility” (CBDR) that is enshrined in Rio Principles must be applied in a central way when formulating the goals and targets. Hence, it is important that the formulation and implementation of SDGs fully respect all Rio Principles, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities.

Mr. Chairman,

9. On the issue of climate change, it is important that the Warsaw Climate Change Conference (COP 19/CMP 9) that is scheduled at the end of this year make significant progress for the sake of our planet and the future generations based on common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We look forward for a successful and comprehensive outcome at COP 19/CMP 9, and emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of COP18/CMP 8 in Doha in all its aspects, including the achievement of the second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Thirteen years ago, world leaders concluded a landmark agreement by adopting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since its inception, Malaysia has done remarkably well and is on track of achieving the MDGs by 2015. In fact, Malaysia has successfully achieved and exceeded almost all the eight (8) goals stipulated in the MDG with the exception of a few remaining targets. Having achieved most of the targets, Malaysia now has shifted its focus to becoming a high-income nation by the year 2020. Despite its national achievements, Malaysia is still deeply concerned of the overall progress of achieving MDGs goals by other countries, not only within the region of Southeast Asia, but also in Africa, among the Least Developed Countries (LDC), the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) and among the Small Island Developing States.

Mr. Chairman,

11. As Malaysia embarks on this important mission, the Government has created a framework comprising four pillars to drive change. These are the six National Key Result Areas outlined in the Government Transformation Programme (GTP); the 12 National Key Economic Areas of the Economic Transformation Plan (ETP); the strategic economic reforms in the New Economic Model; and the Tenth Malaysia Plan. These four pillars are aimed to spearhead Malaysia’s development and propel the country to advanced nation status, emphasizing inclusiveness and sustainability. As a result of these pertinent actions, Malaysia will be well poised to exceed the MDGs and move towards becoming a developed and high-income nation by 2020. Malaysia is proud of the achievements made so far, but we are also aware of the remaining challenges that must be promptly and effectively addressed.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Malaysia joins other delegations before us to express our concern over the fragility of the global economic and financial situation surrounding the Eurozone and US as well as the recent contagion risk affecting emerging economies. The global financial crises in the developed nations have threatened the world into another economic recession that would have adverse impact on the rest of the world, in particular the smaller economies. Therefore, we call for the strengthening of the international financial regulation, monitoring and supervision as well as the implementation of effective fiscal measure, on an urgent basis.

13. The possible repercussions on developing countries, caused by the current sovereign debt crises in Europe, are always costly and disruptive. It would adversely impact development, including the capacity of developing and developed countries to mobilize resources for development. While there have been some progresses in strengthening the international financial architecture, a comprehensive reform of global economic and financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, are yet to see positive changes, and needs to be implemented expeditiously.

Mr. Chairman,

14. My delegation reaffirms the importance of South-South Cooperation (SSC) as a vital element of international cooperation for development. It is an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance, contributing towards ensuring the effective integration and participation of developing countries in the world economy. Malaysia remains committed to South-South cooperation and believes that the efforts of developing countries to promote and implement this cooperation should not be viewed as substitute for traditional cooperation, but rather a complement to North-South cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

15. The time has come for us to move beyond words and resolutions. It is time for concrete actions, and we must deliver.

16. Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by assuring you of Malaysia's continued support and commitment for the successful outcome of the Second Committee.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman