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STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON AGENDA ITEM 111 ON “REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE
WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION”
AT THE PLENARY OF THE 68TH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 9 OCTOBER 2013

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on the work of the organization, reference number A/68/1. The report, which covers a wide range of issues, is a testimony to the centrality and importance of the United Nations in addressing the myriad of challenges that beset the international community. The challenges are interconnected. While we try to isolate them in order to conjure up specific remedies, we must keep in mind that they are interconnected in so many ways. I wish to associate my statement with that delivered by Brunei Darussalam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Allow me to also present some of Malaysia's views regarding a few of the key issues highlighted in the report.

Mr. President,

2. As the 2015 deadline looms, Malaysia together with the rest of the international community is making the final push towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We wholeheartedly agree with the Secretary General that 2015 is not the finish line in our quest to ensure balanced and inclusive global development. Rather, we will begin another chapter, as we continue on our journey to build upon the successes of the MDGs and fill in the gaps where we have fallen short.

3. Malaysia is fully supportive of the theme of this year's General Assembly, “*Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage*” which is apt and timely. We trust this theme will provoke serious discussion on the path forward in international development. In Rio de Janeiro last year, the global community reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development and adopted a comprehensive framework for action. With

almost one billion people still living in extreme poverty and income inequality rising, sustainable development will need to be inclusive and take special care of the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. The support expressed by all Member States in coming up with a comprehensive post-2015 development agenda has been overwhelming. Member States should build on this momentum and find the best possible development framework for every one of us.

4. Malaysia is following closely the progress of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as mandated by the Rio+20 outcome document *The Future We Want*. In formulating the SDGs, we should keep in mind the interests of developing countries, especially the least developed countries. The SDGs should not be only for developing countries to undertake as a kind of conditionality or a set of new obligations that apply only to them. The goals should be universally applicable to all countries, including developed ones. Hence, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR) enshrined in the Rio Principles must be applied in a holistic way when formulating the goals. We should also ensure that the SDG process is coherent with the post-2015 UN development agenda process. The design, structure and choice of SDGs should be in tandem with what developing countries aspire to achieve and supported by our partners in the developed countries through the provision of technology and finance.

5. We wish to emphasize that SDGs should not in any way undermine the achievements of the MDGs by 2015. We believe that MDGs and SDGs are not competing concepts. The SDGs, if correctly formulated, would accelerate the continuation of work begun under the banner of the MDGs. It should strive for greater economic and social inclusion and emphasize the integration and balance among economic, social and environmental aspirations. Thus there should be a unified, people-centered development with sustainable development at its core and under the umbrella of world peace.

Mr. President,

6. Economic growth and social development can only flourish under conditions of peace, security and stability. Unfortunately, the international community continues to stand witness to the devastating effects of conflict and instability on the civilian populations of various countries, including in Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). We must strive harder towards finding concrete solutions to end the violent conflict and create the right environment for nation-building and peace-building initiatives.

7. Malaysia reiterates its call for a Syrian-led inclusive political process to resolve the situation in Syria. We are against unilateral action to resolve the conflict and support resolution efforts through transparent dialogue and mutual cooperation. We join our voices to the international community in condemning without reservation the use of chemical weapons and call on all stakeholders to intensify their efforts to explore all possible diplomatic options for peace under the auspices of the UN.

8. Malaysia regrets that another year has passed without any resolution for the people of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Day after day, month after month, year after year, the people of Palestine continue to see their lands seized to make way for illegal settlements. They continue to see their families, including their children, displaced and forced from their homes. The plight of the people of Palestine must remain a top priority and we fervently hope that the recent resumption of direct talks herald progress towards a viable Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. President,

9. We express our strong support for international mediation efforts in bringing about a just, lasting and peaceful solution between disputing parties. Malaysia is a firm believer in the resolving conflicts through the peaceful means and has played the lead mediating role in resolving conflicts and disputes peacefully in our region.

10. In relation to this, Malaysia believes that the principle of moderation is an important approach that can be applied in mediation. The application of moderation can contribute towards bridging differences, facilitating dialogues, resolving disputes, sustaining development and stability as well as creating harmonious relations. Moderation calls for mutual respect, tolerance, understanding, dialogue, compromise and justice. Therefore, we trust that moderation can be a valuable tool in conflict resolution, national reconciliation, peace building and power-sharing arrangements.

11. Malaysia is also committed to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission as a member of its Organizational Committee. We fully support UN efforts to pool all available and relevant resources with a view to assisting countries in their post-conflict peace-building, recovery, reconstruction and eventually development. To this end, Malaysia stands ready to provide capacity building assistance such as through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), under which we have trained over 4,000 participants from 14 post-conflict countries to date.

Mr. President,

12. Malaysia continues to support the strengthening economic development and political governance in Africa. We commend the efforts made by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and its partners, including the UN, in guiding the socio-economic transformation of the region. Malaysia will continue to actively engage and explore potential partnerships in the African region in forums such as the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) and the Global Smart Partnership Dialogue. Malaysia also has strong trade, investment and capacity building links with the African continent and looks forward to enhancing these ties further in the years to come.

Mr. President,

13. As long as nuclear weapons remain in existence, our collective safety and well-being hangs in the balance. I reiterate the call made by our Prime Minister here on 26 September 2013 for a nuclear-weapons free world during the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament. As pointed out in the report of the UN Secretary General, it is ironic that an issue as prominent and critical as nuclear disarmament remains at an impasse in international negotiations under the Conference on Disarmament. The paralysis must be brought to an end and we reiterate the proposal by our Prime Minister for new perspectives to be taken into account in the disarmament discourse, including the views of academicians, intellectuals, think-tanks and non-governmental organizations.

14. Malaysia views the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as a significant milestone in international efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of conventional arms. The Prime Minister of Malaysia signed the Treaty on 26 September 2013 cementing our commitment to binding international standards that would contribute to reducing armed conflict and misuse of arms. We call upon Member States to accede to or ratify the ATT in order to rapidly bring the treaty into force.

Mr. President,

15. Malaysia is encouraged with the Secretary-General's continued commitment to ensure that the UN is able to deliver in spite of scarce resources. We agree that staff members are assets and their development would undeniably assist in preparing the Organization in facing evolving challenges we are confronted with in this day and age. Enterprise risk management, Enterprise Resource Planning also known as UMOJA, International Public Sector Accounting Standards or IPSAS, are not mere words or abbreviations for us to remember. They are important administrative and management projects that would enhance management and efficiency of the Organization as a whole.

16. My delegation acknowledges that there are limited human, financial and material resources available to the Organization due to the world economic situation. With these limitations and an ever-increasing mandate given to the UN, Member States would continue to demand for greater transparency and accountability. In this connection, Malaysia would like to see the completion of the Capital Master Plan on time as well as within budget. This is important, as the Capital Master Plan would enhance the coordination and effectiveness of the United Nations through modernization in communications and improvement in the working environment for staff members.

Mr. President,

17. To conclude, it is true that much has changed ever since the UN was conceived. Despite the changes and problems that we face, Malaysia continues to remain a firm believer in multilateralism and consistently subscribes to the centrality of the UN, which

has allowed the evolution of rule-based interaction among States, thus creating a predictable and stable international order. We sincerely hope that this session of the General Assembly would allow all of us to move forward in a concerted effort to address the various problems and challenges that lay upon us. You have Malaysia's firm commitment in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. President.