



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



CANDIDATE
to the
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
for the term 2015-2016

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON AGENDA ITEM 20: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II) AND
STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)**

**AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF
THE 68TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 28 OCTOBER 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statements made by Fiji on behalf of G77 and China, and Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN.

2. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports on the Implementation of the outcome of the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) as contained in document A/68/332 as well as the report of the Twenty-Fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Malaysia supports the important role undertaken by UN-Habitat in the overall pursuit of sustainable development. A number of significant developments and challenges have emerged, since the last UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996. Activities of UN-Habitat in areas of technical assistance and cooperation at country level are proving to be useful. We recognize the need to promote cities that are environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, economically productive and resilient. The Millennium Development Goal of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 has already been achieved twice over and 10 years in advance. In fact, more than 200 million slum dwellers have benefitted from improved water sources, sanitation facilities, durable housing or sufficient living space in the period 2000-2010.

4. Urbanization is steadily increasing and it is expected that over the next 30 years, approximately two-thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas. Cities are home to more than half of the world's population today. Unprecedented numbers of people are moving into cities in search of better living standard. This has led to rapid geographical expansion of urban settlements, particularly in developing countries. Today, of every 10 urban residents in the world, more than 7 are found in developing countries. By 2035, all developing regions, most notably Asia and Africa, will be more urban than rural. At the same time, the challenges of rapid urban growth and the consequent formation of slums is becoming a common problem not only to developing countries but also to developed countries. UN-Habitat should continue identifying and sharing innovative urban development planning and management approaches and practices that are responsive to the global challenge.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia welcomes the offer made by the Government of Ecuador to host the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016, which aims at strengthening the global commitment to sustainable urbanization. The Habitat III Conference is expected to provide an efficient platform to address new challenges and opportunities faced by the international community on the basis of lessons learnt from Habitat II, and also from other recent international United Nations conferences. This Conference should be built based on the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals. We hope that the Habitat III Conference, including the preparatory process, would ensure the balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection, which are the interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable urban development.

6. Malaysia is committed towards implementing the twin objectives of the Habitat Agenda, namely adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has been designated as the lead ministry to coordinate all international issues related to human settlements. The Ministry is also working with other government agencies, the private sector and NGOs to implement the Habitat Agenda. Programmes for human settlement will be in conformity with the needs of the local community, taking into account all aspects of fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, with full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds, philosophical convictions of individuals and their respective communities.

7. In Malaysia, housing programmes are planned and implemented every five years through the 5-year Development Plans. Housing programmes are formulated based on housing needs, taking into consideration population trends, growth rates, household size, family structures, household income distribution, ability to pay for housing, housing type preferences, construction capacity, availability of resources, financing and the extent of squatter settlements. The Government has prioritised the housing needs of

those in the low and middle income categories. Specific targets include construction and delivery of 78,000 affordable housing units for the urban/semi urban poor and those in the lower income bracket. Additionally, the Government provides house rental assistance for the poor and hard-core poor families in urban areas. For the poor and hard-core poor in rural areas, the Government aims to deliver 50,000 new and restored houses by December 2013.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The Government acknowledges that Malaysia's rapid industrialisation has led to increasing urbanisation as well as increasing financial pressure which constrains the ability of urban, middle-income households to secure quality and affordable housing. In this connection, the Government has established a corporate entity called PR1MA (Malaysia People's Housing Corporation) to plan, develop, construct and maintain affordable housing for middle-income households in key urban centres. The National Urbanisation Policy has been formulated to assist in the planning and implementation of urban services in the country.

9. Malaysia will continue to cooperate with the UN and other international organizations in achieving the aims and objectives of the Habitat Agenda. Human settlements shall be planned, developed and improved in a manner that takes into full account of the sustainable development principles and all their components, as set out in Agenda 21. Malaysia is also committed to the Local Agenda 21 (LA21) which is primarily a local authority programme to build partnerships with the community and private sector to promote sustainable development. The Local Agenda 21 is based on Agenda 21 of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, incorporating the principles of precautionary approach, pollution prevention, and respect for the carrying capacity of ecosystems.

Mr. Chairman,

10. To conclude, Malaysia's development for human settlement will be guided by the quality of life of all people, the economic, social, environmental and cultural factors, as well as the aspirations and needs of the people for more livable neighborhoods, communities and settlements. Malaysia remains committed to implementing its international obligations in order to attain sustainable development. With the support of the developed and developing countries, through exchanges of ideas and knowledge between countries, we shall continue to strive for providing safe and sustainable living conditions for our people.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.