



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
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 19: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 68th SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
4 NOVEMBER 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statement made by Fiji, on behalf of G77 and China, and Indonesia, on behalf of ASEAN under this agenda item. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for the report as contained in document A/68/321 presented under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

2. In the general debate of the Second Committee held recently, Malaysia stressed that the main task before this Committee, will be to follow-up and implement in a timely and efficient manner, the Rio+20 Conference intergovernmental processes such as the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, and Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, among others.

3. There is a need for synergy, coherence and mutual support among all these processes and other processes that are also relevant for the post-2015 development agenda. We call upon the Secretary-General to work with the UN system to develop a roadmap for accelerating the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the UN system.

4. The Secretary-General's report which provides specific recommendations to further strengthen the high-level political forum as well as the twelve important functions for the forum as set out in paragraph 85 of the Rio+20 outcome document merits our attention. The challenge before us, is to give shape to these functions in a way that allows the high-level political forum to have a mandate, strong enough to monitor, follow-up and implement sustainable development commitments, in particular after 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Let me now briefly share with this august Committee on our national experience in implementing sustainable development in Malaysia.

6. Malaysia's commitment to promote sustainable development has been articulated through its national development plans, including the current Tenth Malaysia Plan, 2011-2015. Malaysia is currently on a trajectory to become a developed nation by 2020. As the country embarks on this important mission, the Government has created a framework comprising four pillars aimed to propel Malaysia to advanced nation status, emphasizing sustainability, inclusivity and high-income.

7. Malaysia aims not only to graduate into the high income category by 2020, but also to shift to a new period of a low carbon economy. The 1974 Environmental Quality Act has been amended to suit the changing realities of regulating pollution from agro-based and manufacturing industries. In energy development, Malaysia's policy framework evolved from a sole focus on fossil fuel supply in the 1970s to a diversification of supply sources, which included renewable energy, by 2000.

8. At the Copenhagen climate change meeting in 2009, Malaysia declared its commitment to voluntary emission reductions of up to 40 per cent by 2020 over 2005 levels, conditional on receiving transfer of technology and finance of adequate and effective levels. In the same year, the National Climate Change Policy was introduced to ensure climate-resilient development and serves as a framework to mobilise and guide Government agencies, industry and communities as well as other relevant stakeholders in addressing the challenges of climate change in a concerted and holistic manner.

9. In April 2009, the green technology portfolio was incorporated into a newly established Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water. The central role of green technology was emphasized by the release of a National Green Technology Policy, overseeing greening in four sectors – energy, buildings, water and waste management and transportation. Malaysia's early success is evident in attracting \$4 billion worth of foreign direct investments to the solar photovoltaic industry in 2011. Green technology also encourages the business sector to invest in environmental protection, a role hitherto played mainly by Government.

10. Malaysia also places greater emphasis on sustainable consumption and production. The Government has established a National Eco-Labeling Programme (NELP) to ensure that businesses make credible claims about their products and to raise awareness among both consumers and manufacturers about environmentally friendly products and services. Over the past few years, cleaner production and energy efficiency auditing have been carried out nationwide. Based on the finding, the Government plans to establish a model 'cleaner production' plant nationwide involving food and beverage industries.

11. Malaysia has also made great strides in promoting sustainable practices in palm oil cultivation. The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is an initiative by the industry to provide a platform for oil palm growers to adopt good practices in their oil palm cultivation.

12. A host of financial assistance and fiscal incentives have been made available to both users and producers in Malaysia to promote utilisation and innovation of green technology and products. Malaysia has introduced the Renewable Energy Act 2011 with a feed-in tariff to encourage the growth of a clean energy industry and facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy. Malaysia aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the fuel mix to 10 per cent by 2020.

13. At the Rio Summit in 1992, Malaysia made a pledge to commit at least 50 per cent of its land as forest cover in perpetuity. We have made good this pledge. Malaysia remains committed to keep at least 50 percent of its land as forest cover, which now stands at 62.4 per cent, a notable figure in comparison with other developed and developing countries.

14. Malaysia also scored very well in the social dimension of sustainable development. Malaysia's overall poverty rate dropped to 1.7% in 2012, compared to 3.8% in 2009, with fall in incidences of poverty happening in both urban and rural areas. Malaysians also enjoyed an annual increase of 7.2% to their average household income over the 2009-2012 period. The Federal Land Development Authority of Malaysia (FELDA), a rural development scheme, has been proven to be successful in elevating the quality of life and bringing social and economic benefits to 177,000 rural families in Malaysia to date.

Mr. Chairman,

15. To conclude, let me assure you of my delegation's full support and commitments in the Rio+20 Conference intergovernmental processes including the upcoming third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and other processes that are relevant to the post-2015 development agenda.

Thank you.