



(Please check against delivery)

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

ON AGENDA ITEM 64: REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 13 NOVEMBER 2013

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to join earlier speakers in welcoming His Excellency Ambassador Remigiusz Archilles Henczel, President of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) and express my delegation's appreciation for his comprehensive presentation to the Committee. Malaysia welcomes this opportunity to engage with Ambassador Henczel on the important work of the Council.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Malaysia continues to attach great importance in promoting and protecting human rights at the national, regional and international levels, including on the clarification and elaboration of international human rights norms, standards and practices. For these reasons, Malaysia remains convinced that continued close cooperation and collaboration between the Human Rights Council, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Member States in a mutually reinforcing relationship contributes positively and significantly to advancing the cause of human rights at the global level.

3. Malaysia wishes to reaffirm its support for this agenda item to also be discussed at the Third Committee for its consideration and further actions on the recommendations of the Human Rights Council, including those related to the development of international law in the field of human rights. This measure would allow a more holistic and comprehensive treatment of the various issues, situations and concerns under the rubric of human rights.

4. On that note, my delegation is encouraged to note that the work and functioning of the HRC has continued and developed in a manner consistent with the agreements and understandings reached at the conclusion of the HRC review process and as contained in GA Resolution 65/281 and HRC resolution 16/21, among others.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The HRC report has provided us with reality check on various issues that require undivided attention and concerted efforts. These challenges, would constantly remind us on the need to further strengthen and enhance our cooperation in promoting and protecting human rights issues. Therefore, we have to constantly remind ourselves that these efforts in promoting and protecting human rights should always be based on the principles of cooperation and through dialogue, without practicing selectivity as well as double standard.

6. In considering the report of the Human Rights Council, my delegation notes that alongside the regular recurring initiatives, Malaysia wishes to share the observation that in certain parts of the world, the human rights situation continues to deteriorate as a consequence of escalating internal conflict due to recent political upheavals as well as the continuation of serious violations of the rights of the people under foreign occupation. We therefore reiterate the call of our Prime Minister during the General Debate in September for the international community to embrace moderation and refrain from taking any unilateral action to resolve these conflicts. Malaysia is also of the view that while there remain a number of country-specific situations that require full attention of the Council, greater emphasis should be given on thematic human rights issues.

7. With regard to the on-going concerns on economic and financial situation globally, Malaysia recognizes that the crisis continues to pose serious economic and social challenges and further affected the vulnerable groups. In addition to the economic crises, global warming also leads to natural disasters, soil quality deterioration and increased of population which resulted to food insecurity. Therefore, Malaysia reiterates its support to the call for Member States to formulate their respective economic policy with a view of advancing the realization of economic and social rights as well as to renew our commitment to the right to food.

Mr. Chairman,

8. To conclude, Malaysia wishes to echo its support to the President of the Human Rights Council in his closing remarks at the Human Rights Council 24th session on 27 September 2013: on his continuous efforts to strengthen and preserve the credibility and universality of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the importance of equal treatment to all Member States under review. Malaysia views the UPR as a more credible, transparent and constructive mechanism in comparison to the sometimes selective “naming and shaming” methods preferred by some States, particularly through the “country-specific resolutions”; and on the issue of respect and dignity, where he called all who participated in the Council’s work to discuss human rights issues with appropriate level of dignity respect, and adhered to the accepted framework.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.