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

ON AGENDA ITEM 68: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 4 NOVEMBER 2013

Mr. Chairman,

The principle of self-determination is clearly enshrined in Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations. Malaysia remains supportive of initiatives involving the implementation of the right of peoples to self-determination while fully respecting the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of States, and non-interference in affairs within the domestic jurisdiction of States.

2. Malaysia continues to promote democracy in the country as a means to form a Government as provided for in the Federal Constitution of Malaysia. We regard the pursuit of democracy as key to the realization of the rights of its people to self-determination.

3. That being said, Malaysia would like to reiterate its unwavering support in the restoration of Palestinians' inalienable right to self-determination, self-rule, right to national independence and sovereignty, right to return to their homes and property from which they have displaced and uprooted.

Mr. Chairman,

4. My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General, which highlights the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

5. Malaysia has always believed in a two-State solution, based on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. Malaysia condemns in this regard, the unlawful Israeli annexation and demographic manipulations in East Jerusalem that had created fundamental threats to the Palestinian right of self-

determination as highlighted by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

6. We are appalled that with regard to the settlements, Israel continues to commit serious breaches of its obligations under the right to self-determination and certain obligations under international humanitarian law, including the obligation not to transfer its population into the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as reported by the independent international fact-finding mission.

7. The fact-finding mission considered that the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, including the right to determine how to implement self-determination, the right to have a demographic and territorial presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the right to permanent sovereignty over natural resources, is clearly being violated consistently and on a daily basis by Israel through the existence and ongoing expansion of the settlements.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The expansion of illegal settlements is tantamount to Israel's encouragement of settler violence against Palestinian people and property. Such unsafe condition is aggravated by the tendency of the Israeli military forces to protect the perpetrators by not investigating and arresting the settlers responsible for violent assault and property destruction. Any form of violence, even on the pretext of ensuring security, would not contribute towards positive developments of any peace process, but rather fuel further violence and reprisals.

9. My delegation strongly believes that the only way forward is to ensure that the Palestinians are afforded their basic rights as human beings, and this include their right to an independent state. Malaysia thus calls for the realization of the Palestinians' right to self-determination through a final solution to the conflict, in support of the creation of the two States that live side by side in peace and security.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.