



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
AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF
EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS
NEW YORK, 16 DECEMBER 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I wish to warmly congratulate you on your re-appointment as the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters. I also wish to thank you for convening this meeting. We have every confidence in your leadership in steering the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiations and pledge to give our full cooperation to you.

2. This process, which was first initiated on the basis of Resolution 48/26 of 1993 and 62/557 of 2008, has provided Member States an avenue to present their views in a democratic manner. However, as it is plain for all to see, not much progress has been made. In fact, I doubt that there is progress that we can be proud of to begin with. Thus, it is high time now for us to engage in some real and meaningful negotiations. We must begin to take steps forward rather than repeat ourselves endlessly.

3. Malaysia takes note of the decision to establish an 'Advisory Group' to assist the PGA in producing a basis for the start of the Intergovernmental Negotiations to reflect the ideas put forward by Member States thus far in the negotiations. We believe that the Advisory Group has managed to do just that with the Non-Paper that was circulated to Member States on 10 December 2013. The paper has succinctly included all the proposals made by Member States with regard to the five clusters of UNSC reform as reflected in GA decision 62/557. While we reiterate that the Advisory Group should only have an advisory function and no negotiating role, we feel that the Non-Paper could be a useful guide in the formulation of a negotiating text through a Member State driven process in which all Member States can agree on.

4. For Malaysia, text-based negotiations on Security Council reform would be the ideal step forward in this reform process. We support the preparation of a working document drafted by the Chair and with full participation of Member States. Only with a working document encompassing all the different proposals by Member States would we be able to clearly identify areas where differences can be bridged and conduct the negotiations in a transparent manner. We recall that the Chair has undertaken prior efforts to come up with a negotiation text compiling proposals of Member States, with

the latest being the updated third revision (Rev.3) circulated on 12 April 2013 and view that we can consider using this document or previous versions as a basis for negotiations.

5. However, given the lack of progress over the past 20 years, it is perhaps unrealistic for us to expect major breakthroughs in the next few months. In taking a pragmatic approach, we reiterate our proposal to focus on what is within reach – or what my delegation terms as ‘low lying fruits’ - in order to jumpstart real negotiations. We should seriously consider present proposals on the working methods of the Council that do not require amending the UN Charter. Achieving consensus on less contentious proposals could provide the momentum to push forward with further substantial reform. We can take this step by step approach without prejudice to the final outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The reform of the Security Council is long overdue. The world leaders in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit committed themselves to early reform of the Security Council. The difficulties of the Security Council in confronting international challenges, including the present ones, have further underlined the urgent need for reform, which would not only better reflect geopolitical realities of the 21st century, but ensure a Council that is more democratic, efficient and transparent.

7. In light of the fact that eight years have passed since that historic outcome document, and a further 20 years since the initiation of this very process, we cannot afford to drag our feet any further. On this, we must set a realistic timeline in order to measure the progress made. Malaysia feels that 2015 is a reasonable target for Member States to show tangible outcomes that demonstrate our sincerity and resolve for long-lasting reform. Timelines are only artificial if Member States are insincere in their commitments to bring the change needed to restore full credibility and trust to the UN and the Security Council.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Malaysia’s position on the Security Council reform has been well articulated and reflected in numerous statements, including the last one made during the debate on Agenda Item 123 of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 7 November 2013. In this regard, we will continue to engage actively in and contribute constructively to this discussion. We strongly believe that for actual progress to be possible, Member States must be prepared to compromise and show considerable flexibility. This would require all parties to approach the negotiations with an open mind and move away from entrenched national or group positions. Only then do we stand a chance of moving forward with results that we can be proud of.

9. In conclusion, let me assure you of my delegation’s support for your work. Malaysia considers the Intergovernmental Negotiations as an important process through which we all stand to gain understanding and reach consensus on the best ways to reform the Security Council. Let us all approach the issue of reform of the Security Council with openness accompanied by steadfast political will in order to take this process beyond rhetoric and to the next stage.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.