



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



CANDIDATE
to the
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SECURITY COUNCIL
for the term 2015-2016

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY
MR. RAJA REZA RAJA ZAIB SHAH
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES AND DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 2014 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2014**

At the outset, allow me to take this opportunity to express Malaysia's appreciation to Mr. Herve Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Ms. Ameerah Haq, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support for their respective briefings to the Special Committee, and for their able leadership at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS). My delegation underscores that the works of the two Departments are crucial in providing guidance, effective coordination and necessary field support to all peacekeeping operations. At this juncture, Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statements made by the Representatives of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM and Thailand on behalf of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Madam Chair,

2. The centrality of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security cannot be denied. Security would seed the promotion of a more equitable international political and economic order. Malaysia is of the view that the United Nations and the UN Security Council in particular, remains the principle Organization in shouldering the responsibilities in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the UN and international law.

Madam Chair,

3. As a Member State of the United Nations, Malaysia is proud to play a part in shouldering the responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security. Currently Malaysia has a total of 946 military and police personnel serving in various capacities in seven (7) UN peacekeeping missions. My delegation would like to underscore the importance of the capability driven approach in peacekeeping under the New Horizon proposal by the UN Secretariat. We also share the view that the Global Field Support Strategy would further contribute in support of current as well as future peacekeeping operations.

4. My delegation is of the opinion that the safety and security of the peacekeepers that are deployed in the mission areas remains an important aspect. In 2013, we continue to witness an evolving international security challenges permeating from various corners of the world. While the UN Mission in East Timor has reached its completion, we bear witness to the security challenges in Central African Republic as well as in Mali. These looming crises in various parts of the world demand constant international attention which the United Nations has to respond. Despite our collective effort to support a return of political stability with the deployment of more peacekeepers, we believe that the safety and security of the peacekeepers cannot be compromised. We as Member States are responsible to the morale, safety and security of the peacekeepers and thus, their well-being must be taken care off as top priority.

Madam Chair,

5. The military challenges of peacekeeping today are not similar to those in the 1950s and 60s. Technology has evolved tremendously since then and plays an important role in UN peacekeeping missions today. My delegation emphasizes the importance in the use of modern technology to increase the situational awareness of peacekeepers. Often peacekeepers today continue to experience the daunting challenges in gathering information, intelligence and surveillance to ensure the effectiveness in implementing peacekeeping mandates. In this regard, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles such as 'drones' can improve awareness by identifying armed groups and track their movements. No doubt there are many other gadgets available in the market, we however, believe that priority should be given to the technologies that can beef-up monitoring and surveillance. My delegation opines that such technology would even allow peacekeepers to stay one step ahead in the conflict.

Madam Chair,

6. Malaysia continues to see the importance in the protection of civilians in armed conflict. We feel that there is a need to take stock of the lessons learned, given the lack of successes in establishing an effective regime in the protection of civilians from the scourge of violence in conflict areas. We are of the view that more work must be done in defining a framework on protection of civilians. Such framework would be used by UN peacekeeping missions and its agencies in the field that would assist in the implementation of protection of civilian mandates.

7. Malaysia believes that training is a key element to peacekeepers who will be deployed to conflict areas. Peacekeepers and civilian personnel must be trained through a common module on protection of civilians and peacekeeping prior to deployment. We believe that efforts should also be made to include substantial elements on religion and cultural sensitivities of local people in a common training module for UN peacekeepers.

8. Our commitment to deploy a professional military to UN peacekeeping missions has continued to remain a top priority. To this end, the Government of Malaysia and with the support of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has hosted a training course on Protection of Civilians at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre in Port Dickson, from 9 to 13 September 2013. My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the UN Mobile Training Support Team which was tasked to conduct a module for 26 International and Malaysian military officers.

Madam Chair,

9. In conclusion, we are living in an interesting period where peacekeeping missions are on high demand. As a responsible UN Member State, Malaysia believes that peacekeeping operations is an effective instrument in maintaining international peace and security. In this regard, the work and cooperation of the UN Security Council, the Secretariat and troop and police contributing countries, should be forged in the spirit of partnership and collective responsibility. Thus, it is our deliberations at this Committee, that would be vital in ensuring that the contributions of the soldiers, airmen and sailors to international peace and security are not wasted, but instead contribute to a safer world.

Thank you Madam Chair.