



MALAYSIA

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**STATEMENT BY
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OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE ANNUAL DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE
PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION AND PEACEBUILDING FUND ANNUAL
REPORTS, NEW YORK,
26 MARCH 2014**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President for convening this important annual debate. Let me also congratulate Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Permanent Representative of Brazil, on your election as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for its eighth session. I would also like to express my delegation's appreciation to Ambassador Vladimir Drobnyak, Permanent Representative of Croatia, for his excellent leadership and chairmanship of the Commission last year.

2. At this juncture, Malaysia wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by Tunisia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

3. My delegation would also like to commend the Peacebuilding Support Office in the preparation of the reports of the Secretary General of the Peacebuilding Commission in its seventh session as contained in document A/68/729 – S/2014/67 and the Peacebuilding Fund as contained in document A/68/722. Malaysia welcomes the insights, findings and conclusions as reflected in the two reports. In this regard, my delegation would like to express our views on some of the pertinent findings contained in the reports.

Mr. President,

4. Malaysia has always been a staunch believer that peacebuilding is an important aspect in the work of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. The reports of the Secretary General play an important role in guiding us on the work of the Commission in post-conflict reconstruction in countries which are emerging from conflict.

5. My delegation concurs with the report on the need for continued advocacy, political accompaniment, resource mobilization and forging coherence as the principle activities of the Peacebuilding Commission. Despite the various progress made by the Commission in its work, my delegation believes that there is room for improvement for the Commission to create awareness and understanding of the concept of peacebuilding.

6. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the decision to convene an annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission. The annual session is an opportunity for Member States to realign the perception of the international community towards the Commission and its work.

7. While the annual session would enable closer interaction and engagement among the relevant stakeholders in New York, it also presents the prospect to identify important issues and challenges of Member States and other international organizations in post-conflict reconstruction. Such interactions and engagements in different themes would bring about awareness and comprehensive understanding of peacebuilding in preventing countries from relapsing into conflict.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia has always believed that economic revitalization is crucial in supporting countries emerging from conflict. On this, attracting investment would require an effective legal framework to protect the concessions of international investors and the rights of the local community. We have supported efforts to revitalize the economy of Liberia through the participation of Sime Darby.

9. Sime Darby employs a total of 3,800 Liberian workers within its plantation estate. The company continues to display its social responsibility through engagements with various stakeholders namely; the Government of Liberia, the local community, non-governmental organisations including Green Advocate and other relevant international partners. Part and parcel of its corporate social responsibility is to strengthen relations with the local community. The company has also embarked on supporting the community's basic needs including building roads, hospitals, schools and providing employment.

10. While Sime Darby has continued to be supportive of economic revitalization efforts in Liberia, it has also experienced various challenges in the country. My delegation is of the view that more work has to be done in harmonizing local land laws in order to protect both international corporations and the local community. We believe that the Peacebuilding Commission is well placed to provide the necessary advice on policy development and legal framework formulation to strengthen administration and rule of law. At the same time, the work of UN-Habitat and the Land Commission on land law and land dispute resolution mechanism in Liberia has to be commended. My delegation is confident that with due attention and continued consultation with relevant

stakeholders, Liberia is on the right track to have a more streamlined land law that would attract and facilitate investment into the country.

Mr. President,

11. The report of the Peacebuilding Commission continues to highlight the importance of resource mobilization in supporting peacebuilding activities. In this connection, my delegation underscores the significance of partnerships with international financial institutions and regional development banks in generating the financial resources needed to sustain peacebuilding efforts.

12. Notwithstanding that, Malaysia is of the view that developing revenue generating capacity of countries in transition is equally important. As such, we believe the Commission should continue to promote credible strategies in the strengthening of governance and public administration of countries in transition with the view to enhance revenue generation.

13. In a similar vein, a greater synergy is also needed between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. The Peacebuilding Fund's role in 2013 is commendable as reflected in the report. Its capital intervention to 14 countries with a disbursement of US\$87.6 million only testify to the important role of the Fund in providing immediate financial interventions to countries in transition. Such immediate interventions have made possible for peace and stability to prevail in conflict situations. Despite that, my delegation would like to see a better alignment of the activities of the Fund with those activities of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. President,

14. My delegation also believes that participation and inclusivity of Member States in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission is essential. We underscore the important role played by the Chairs of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Configurations to facilitate work with countries under the Commission's agenda. My delegation is of the view that such effort remains important in linking the Commission which is based in New York and the countries in transition.

15. Nevertheless, we also believe that the role of resident embassies of the Commission's Member States is an under-explored resource of the Commission. We wish to emphasise that discussion on this matter should continue with the aim of elevating the role of resident embassies in the field. Embassies can support the Commission during field visits and oversee the implementation of the agreement with the host country.

Mr. President,

16. In conclusion, my delegation is of the opinion that the work of the Commission and the Fund has become increasingly challenging with the evolving scenarios in

international peace and security. In this regard, Malaysia calls for greater political and financial commitment from Member States to support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund.

I thank you.