



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
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
At the Fourth Interactive Dialogue on Harmony with Nature
New York, 22 April 2014**

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate the President of the General Assembly for organizing this Fourth Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, and panel members for their excellent presentation which has further enriched today's discussion. I also would like to thank the Plurinational State of Bolivia, whose initiative has brought to this interactive dialogue.

2. The theme of today's dialogue emphasizing the importance of adapting a balanced approach to pursue development that is harmonious with our ecosystem is very timely as we embarked on our mission to increase global awareness of economic, social and environmental impacts of sustainable development activities on the planet which resonates well with the United Nations new development agenda beyond 2015.

3. Malaysia ranks 21st globally in absolute diversity. Malaysia has protected over 23 per cent of its territory, exceeding a global target of 10 per cent. Mangrove and inland swamp areas are listed as priority protection areas. These are brief facts on Malaysia's efforts to promote harmony with nature through the preservation of its rich biodiversity.

4. In a lighter vein, we can all in a small way, contribute to protect the environment by going green.

5. To begin with, we can make a simple sacrifice by pledging for a "greener" world. "Going green" is not as hard as many people think. It is amazing how simple and everyday things can make a huge difference in caring for Mother Nature. Being environmentally-friendly is not just a good deed but it is also a good way to save money.

6. Every year we seem to be confronted by price hikes that many people will be in need of tightening their budget. In Malaysia, for example, the increase in electricity and toll prices alone this year, trigger a need for Malaysians to make some small lifestyle changes in adapting to the price hikes. For those worried about the electricity hike, a

great way to reduce their electricity and water bills are to install solar panels and rainwater harvesting systems. Although it may be slightly pricey, it is a great investment in the long run, while at the same time a great way to preserve mother nature.

7. Also, going more "green" will not only help us to save costs but will also play a small part in reducing landfill waste, cleaning the air and preserving our environment.

8. We can make small changes in our everyday life, such as taking shorter showers, switching off the lights and fan when leaving the room, or taking the stairs rather than the elevator, to make a difference.

9. In a highly consumerist society, we often could not go a day without buying anything. But when we do buy our groceries or products, try to make a green choice by choosing products which last longer, are energy efficient, and biodegradable.

10. We should also think twice before throwing things away. Before throwing something in the trash, try to think of creative ways how we can reuse it. A quick search through the internet will show us how we can use things like old bottles, tin cans, cardboard to make amazing new things.

11. The same goes for old furniture, electronics, clothes, and other household items. Items we may initially think of as rubbish can be transformed into a whole new item with a "do it yourself" makeover, and if not, we can always donate our unwanted items to the less fortunate. We must not forget that our trash may be someone else's treasure.

12. One may not think that their green pledge means much, but if they implement these practices every day, they will accumulate into saving us quite a substantial amount of energy or products. And with every individual that takes this pledge, they are making an impact in their own way. Every little bit matters, so keep that in mind as we celebrate to commemorate the International Mother Earth Day.

To conclude, I wish you all "Happy International Mother Earth Day."

I thank you, Mr. President.