



*(Please check against delivery)*

**STATEMENT BY HE MR. ANIFAH AMAN,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA**

**AT**

**HIGH-LEVEL EVENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
“CONTRIBUTIONS OF NORTH-SOUTH, SOUTH-SOUTH, TRIANGULAR  
COOPERATION AND ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK  
21 MAY 2014**

---

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you for convening this High-Level Event of the General Assembly. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

2. With a growing number of developing countries emerging as new economic powers, the change in the landscape for development cooperation is to be expected. Given the changing global economic order, the discussion on the contributions of North-South, South-South, and Triangular Cooperation to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda is very timely.

3. While Malaysia recognizes that developing countries have the primary responsibility of promoting and implementing economic and technical cooperation among themselves, it is incumbent upon the traditional development partners to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the increasing importance of Triangular cooperation that has greatly facilitated South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training and management of technology and systems as well as other forms of support. In this vein, Malaysia welcomes the opportunities to cooperate with developed countries and other multilateral development agencies in assisting other developing countries in need of technical assistance to implement their post-2015 development goals.

**Mr. President,**

4. The increasing success enjoyed by developing countries in assisting each other's development programmes under the framework of South-South cooperation should not be viewed as an alternative to Official Development Assistance (ODA). We would like to emphasize that ODA remains critical to the needs of developing countries, in particular countries in vulnerable situations, in order to effectively implement the MDGs and post-2015 development goals. We, therefore, urge traditional development partners to go beyond rhetoric and fulfil their ODA commitments without further delay.

**Mr. President,**

5. Malaysia remains committed to South-South cooperation as we strongly believe it can improve the life of citizens of developing countries. It is with this in mind that Malaysia has become an increasingly active international partner for development. We have been sharing our knowledge and experience with fellow developing countries, through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) in areas where we have the comparative advantage. As of 2014, more than 27,000 participants from 143 developing countries have benefited from this programme. Since 1980, the Government of Malaysia has spent over USD200 million for MTCP, a big amount, in comparison to our modest economy.

6. The support of the United Nations system, in particular UNESCO and UNDP to Malaysia's efforts in promoting South-South and Triangular cooperation, is highly commendable. For instance, the UNESCO-Malaysia Cooperative Trust Fund, which was set up in support of the Priority Africa agenda of UNESCO to develop science, technology and innovation policies in all Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, has met with great success. Encouraged by this success, Malaysia will continue to support programmes that would benefit the education and science sectors in the developing world.

7. The encouraging trends of economic activities and overall development taking place under the framework of South-South cooperation is a mark of the solidarity among the South-South nations and is a reflection of the importance of sincerity and mutual respect. It has proven to us that South-South cooperation has gone beyond rhetoric and into the realm of practical achievement. This notwithstanding, Malaysia believes that more needs to be done to understand the dynamics and the evolving nature of South-South Cooperation before we attempt to tamper with its principle of non-conditionality.

**Mr. President,**

8. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a tool that could enhance development cooperation to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable development goals. Recognizing the potential of the ICT, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) initiated the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015 as it gears towards integration under the ASEAN Economic Community

(AEC) by 2015. The ICT Master Plan aims to leverage coordinated investment in ICT infrastructure to foster economic growth and bridge the digital divide across the region. The roll-out plan places an emphasis on information security, intellectual property rights and the use of ICT in education and government.

9. The ICT Master Plan will see the implementation of a six-pronged approach focusing on Economic Transformation; People Engagement and Empowerment; Innovation; Infrastructure Development; Human Capital Development; and Bridging the Digital Divide.

10. In line with the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015, Malaysia is focusing its efforts on upgrading and expanding communications infrastructure to increase accessibility with affordable rates. Malaysia is also extending ICT infrastructure to rural areas to provide more equal digital opportunity between urban and rural areas. The Government has set a target to increase the household broadband penetration to 75% by the end of 2015. This will be achieved through two main initiatives namely the High Speed Broadband (HSBB) and Broadband for General Population (BBGP) using wired and wireless technologies.

11. In order to ensure inclusive and sustainable development, the Government has initiated plans to bridge the digital divide for under-served communities, irrespective of gender and age. Initiatives such as tele-centres which act as points for collective access to the internet infrastructure has enabled the rural and other under-served communities to get access to public banking and other private sector services. Under the Digital Malaysia initiatives, micro sourcing has been identified as a potential mechanism to uplift the income of the population in the bottom 40 percent household income (B40). This programme is intended to provide opportunities for the B40 group to earn additional income by performing tasks made available through micro sourcing mechanism.

12. In the education sector, all schools have been connected to a single managed network service which enables the sharing of education content among all schools, thus further facilitating the liberalisation of learning. Students in both urban and rural schools will get equitable access to information through this infrastructure, thus helping to address the digital divide.

**Mr. President,**

13. To conclude, Malaysia is convinced that the achievement of a development agenda beyond 2015 can be accelerated through strengthened global development cooperation of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation and ICT for development as long as there is political commitment at the highest level.

Thank you, Mr. President.