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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
FIRST MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

NEW YORK, 7 JULY 2014

Mr. President,

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank you for convening this Ministerial Meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, which remains one of the most important outcomes of Rio+20 Conference.

2. Last September, we bore witness to a historical event with the launching of the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly where many political leaders at the level of heads of government and states participated.

3. Today, we bear witness to yet another historical event as for the first time the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will be discussing a substantive sustainable development agenda that we will begin anew and embark on a path that would allow us to work together to implement the outcomes of Rio+20 Conference as mandated by our leaders.

4. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished **Permanent Representative** of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

5. The world is faced with multiple challenges that are inter-linked – food, energy, water, climate, finance, jobs, development, and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that we have built for the future must be prepared to address these in a coherent and integrated way in the post-2015 development agenda.

6. The theme of the High-level Political Forum “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals” captures it well to reflect the transition from MDGs to SDGs as we enter into a transition phase towards a more holistic agenda, built around poverty eradication and sustainable development in the post-2015 development framework.

6. Since, this is the first meeting that the Forum is convened under the auspices of ECOSOC, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to share our views on the important elements which the Forum should have to chart the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda:

One, the High-level event with high political involvement of the Forum, should provide the political leadership grounded in solid science and accelerate global decision-making;

Two, the Forum should enable more scientific input into international policy so that the latest scientific findings are reflected in our high-level policy discussions which are crucial in the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals after 2015;

Three, this Forum can be the catalyst for a strengthened global partnership for sustainable development. This is where we count on the strong support of the UN system and other stakeholders of the Major Groups to the work of the High-Level Political Forum;

Four, it should serve as a key platform for examining global challenges in a holistic and integrated manner;

Five, the thematic focus of the Forum would be to reflect the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and consistent with the post-2015 development agenda. It should also coordinate and contribute to the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels;

Six, the Forum must not be just a “talk shop” made up of roundtables or panel discussions, without taking decisions and devoid of decision-making authority. In this regard, the Forum should take a decision on the scope and methodology of the global sustainable development report at the closing session of the HLPF as well as to decide at its future ministerial meetings, on the theme and organization of its meetings.

Seven, the Forum could oversee progress on the sustainable development goals and to make recommendations on how they may be more effectively implemented;

Eight, the key development issues including Means of Implementation (Mol) should be given prominent place in the structures of the Forum and in its priority issues, meetings, and implementation mechanisms; and

Nine, the Forum should take stock from lessons learnt from the Commission on Sustainable Development and build upon the good elements of the Commission. An important lesson that the High-level Political Forum can retain from the Commission on Sustainable Development is to continue the Commission’s openness towards the participation of major groups. Multi-stakeholder dialogues should reflect geographical balance, including think-tanks and research institutions from the South, such as the South Centre and the Third World Network.

Mr. President,

7. The establishment of High-Level Political Forum that will be led by our heads of state and government to oversee the United Nation’s new mandate in sustainable development including in the elaboration and the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda is indeed, a critical starting point. It is our hope that raising the political profile of the institutional framework for sustainable development will lead to greater commitment from governments in the implementation of sustainable development.

9. To conclude, let me assure you, Mr. President, of my delegation’s full commitment and support to the work of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in the years ahead. We look forward to a concise, ambitious and action-oriented HLPF declaration that addresses concerns of all countries.

Thank you.