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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 SECOND COMMITTEE
OF THE 69TH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 7 OCTOBER 2014

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, on behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I wish to extend our warmest congratulation to you on your election as Chairman of the Second Committee. I wish to also extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of G77 and China, and Indonesia, on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

2. The 69th Session of UNGA is a crucial one for the international community. The onus is on us, to walk through and perform on the stage, set up by the previous UNGA session. While we all ought to look forward, we cannot forget the past, or more crucially the present. The fact is that, not much has changed since we last spoke here in the general debate of the Second Committee last year. The recovery state of the world financial and economic crises remains uncertain. The statistics on future unemployed youth is a cause of concern. The state of the environment has further deteriorated. All these tell-tales signs lead us to accept that the current global development agenda is inadequate to tackle the new and emerging challenges comprehensively.

3. The beginning of this session is the precursor to a more challenging process ahead. The analyses, inputs, consultations, visions and pledges made by governments, its people, and relevant stakeholders were

gathered. It will be synthesized by the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his report before the end of this year. Without pre-judging the outcome of the inter-governmental negotiations next year, it is expected that most of the goals would be directly linked with issues discussed in this August committee. Against this backdrop, it is time for the Second Committee, under your able leadership Mr. Chairman, to rise to this challenge by ensuring that the process of finalizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda is done in a timely and efficient manner.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Malaysia welcomes the recently concluded high-level meetings and follow-up processes related to the work of this Committee namely the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG-SDGs); the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing; the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held under the auspices of ECOSOC; the UN Climate Summit 2014 and the 3rd International Conference for Sustainable Development of SIDS in Samoa. While all these concluded processes will directly contribute to the process of formulating the Post-2015 Development Agenda, member states have a bigger task up ahead, in finalizing the actual goals and targets which should be ambitious but realistic enough to be implemented.

5. In this regard, Malaysia believes that we will have another difficult task next year namely to ensure the success of the upcoming 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) which will take place on July 13-16 2015 in Addis Ababa. We may have a good plan, but more important is to have the means to implement them. Each and every one of us here realized that with the new set of goals or development agenda, we would require additional resources. The question of what?where? when? whom? and how? All needs to be answered before the world leaders gathered here in September 2015 to adopt the new development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

6. In developing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we should keep in mind the interest of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. We should also ensure that the design, structure and choice of the goals are in line with what developing countries want to achieve in the development agenda. Further, the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility” (CBDR) that is enshrined in Rio Principles must be applied in a central way when formulating the sustainable development goals and targets. Hence, it is important that its formulation and implementation are made in full adherence to all Rio Principles,

taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities.

Mr. Chairman,

7. On the issue of climate change, it is important that the Lima Climate Change Conference (COP 20/CMP 10) scheduled on 9 December 2014 makes significant progress for the sake of our planet and the future generations. We look forward for a successful and comprehensive outcome at the Paris Summit next year, and the full implementation of COP19/CMP 9 held in Warsaw in all its aspects, including the achievement of the second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol. The Climate Summit 2014 held here last month, has seen hundreds of political pronouncements made by world leaders. It is our hope, that this noble initiative by the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon would not have gone to waste, and would pave the way for the experts and negotiators to reach a consensus in moving the agenda forward, ahead of the Paris Summit.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Since the inception of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) fourteen years ago, Malaysia has done remarkably well and is on track of achieving and exceeding almost all of the eight (8) goals by 2015. Having achieved most of the targets, Malaysia has now shifted its focus to becoming a high-income nation by the year 2020. In ensuring the achievement of this vision, the Government has created a framework comprising four pillars to drive change. These are the six National Key Result Areas outlined in the Government Transformation Programme (GTP); the 12 National Key Economic Areas of the Economic Transformation Plan (ETP); the strategic economic reforms in the New Economic Model; and the Tenth Malaysia Plan. These four pillars are aimed to spearhead Malaysia's development and propel the country to move towards becoming a developed and high-income nation by 2020, emphasizing on inclusiveness and sustainability. Malaysia is proud of the achievements made so far, but we are also aware of the remaining challenges that must be promptly and effectively addressed. Malaysia is also deeply concerned of the uneven progress of achieving MDGs by other countries, not only within the region of Southeast Asia, but also in Africa, among the Least Developed Countries (LDC), the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) and among the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Mr. Chairman,

9. Malaysia joins other delegations to express our concern over the fragility of the global economic and financial situation which affects the emerging economies. The global financial crises have threatened the world into another economic recession that would have adverse impact on the rest of the world, in particular the smaller economies. Therefore, we wish to reiterate our call for the strengthening of the international financial regulation, monitoring and supervision as well as the implementation of effective fiscal measure, on an urgent basis. The possible repercussions on developing countries, caused by the global financial crises, are always costly and disruptive. It would adversely impact the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development. While there have been some progress in strengthening the international financial architecture, a comprehensive reform of global economic and financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, are yet to see transformative changes, and needs to be implemented expeditiously.

Mr. Chairman,

10. My delegation reaffirms the importance of South-South Cooperation as a vital element of international cooperation for development. It is an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance, contributing towards ensuring the effective integration and participation of developing countries in the world economy. Malaysia remains committed to South-South cooperation and believes that the efforts of developing countries to promote and implement this cooperation should not be viewed as substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation.

11. Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by assuring you of Malaysia's continued support and commitment for the successful outcome of the Second Committee's work.

Thank you.