



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 GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
FIRST COMMITTEE
DURING THE 69TH SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER 2014

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of Malaysia, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to you, on your election as Chairman of the First Committee, as well as to the other members of the Bureau. My delegation is confident that with your vast experience and leadership you will be able to guide these proceedings to a successful conclusion.

2. Malaysia associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the statement delivered by the Philippines on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

3. Despite the noblest intentions of the international community, we have yet to see quantitative improvement in the field of disarmament and international security. The lack of political will continues to plague efforts towards reaching consensual and productive outcomes in the various machineries dedicated towards disarmament. Obligations and bargains which had been agreed upon in the past remain unfulfilled.

4. We do acknowledge that in certain fields, such as chemical weapons and conventional arms, there has been some noteworthy progress. But it is still a sad reality that nuclear disarmament - the highest priority of the international community - is still a long way away from being fulfilled. As

such, we in the First Committee have a lot of work ahead of us if we are to ensure a secure and safe future for coming generations.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia supported wholeheartedly the decision to dedicate 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Following the landmark High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament held in 2013, we were pleased that this important cause was given due recognition. My delegation also hopes that the annual commemoration of the International Day will continue to increase public awareness and knowledge, on the threat posed by nuclear weapons to mankind.

6. Indeed, my delegation places importance on this need for greater public awareness and knowledge on this issue. At the rate that the disarmament policymakers are progressing - or not progressing, as is the case - perhaps it is time that we pay more attention to the calls of civil society, and consider fresh perspectives and innovative approaches. By enlarging the stakeholders in our disarmament discourse, there may be more opportunities for us to achieve the desired conceptual and attitudinal changes.

7. Notwithstanding new and innovative approaches by civil society, we as governmental representatives must live up to our commitments. On our part, Malaysia reaffirms our commitment to pursue a world free of nuclear weapons. Underlying this pursuit is the basic bargain embodied in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

8. The discussions in the recent 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee meeting in New York have shown us that much work is still required, given the diverging views and approaches with regards to the three pillars of the Treaty. The coming NPT Review Conference in 2015 must show substantive developments, otherwise the Treaty regime, as has often been said, will not be sustainable.

9. On this note, Malaysia wishes to emphasise the urgent need to convene a Conference on a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East. We welcome the efforts made by the facilitator of the Conference, Ambassador Jaakko Laajava, in particular the series of informal consultations with the concerned States, on the agenda and modalities of the Conference. We hope that this will lead to the expeditious implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Malaysia's commitment to a nuclear weapons free world also underpins our participation in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). The CD, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, must reconquer its relevancy. For too long we have seen other disarmament treaties and agreements being drafted and concluded outside the CD's ambit.

11. In order to overcome the long-standing stalemate in the CD, my delegation would like to briefly highlight two points. First, we must rationalise our priorities on the issues under the CD's agenda, and not make one issue a precondition on another. Second, we should not be fixated on the consensus rule, and we should instead focus our efforts on constructive proposals on how to improve the CD's working methods.

12. As the final President of the CD for 2014, Malaysia will present the report and the draft resolution on the CD to the First Committee during the cluster on disarmament machinery. We look forward to the adoption of the resolution by consensus as in previous years.

Mr. Chairman,

13. While the CD continues to work to overcome its impasse, Malaysia remains convinced that a convention on nuclear weapons is long overdue. I wish to recall that in 2007 Malaysia and Costa Rica submitted to the General Assembly a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, as contained in document A/62/250. This Model Convention proposes legal, technical and political elements for the establishment of a nuclear-weapons free world. My delegation stands ready to work with other Member States on the Model Convention, or on any other proposals with the ultimate aim of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

14. In addition, Malaysia will be submitting its traditional resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons". We will be introducing this year's resolution, which will incorporate technical updates, during the cluster on nuclear disarmament. While we will be elaborating further on the resolution at a later stage, at this point I would like invite all member States to support this resolution, and to consider joining the growing number of States as co-sponsors.

15. Aside from the issue of legality, my delegation believes that it is essential that Nuclear Weapons States provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. As such, and together with our ASEAN neighbours, Malaysia looks forward to the

signing of the Protocol to the Treaty of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) at the earliest possible date.

16. Our call for a nuclear ban treaty is also related to the ongoing narrative on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Malaysia firmly subscribes to this approach, and we are encouraged by the momentum seen in the increasing recognition of this cause. In this regard, we also welcome the convening of the third international meeting on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, to be held on 8 to 9 December 2014 in Vienna.

17. My delegation continues to support the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as a significant element to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Malaysia, as the current Chairman of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBT Organisation, was honoured to associate ourselves with the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the seventh CTBT Ministerial Meeting on 26 September 2014. We urge countries, especially those listed in Annex II, to sign and ratify the treaty at the earliest opportunity, to ensure the Treaty's entry into force. Nuclear testing must remain in the annals of history, and Malaysia reaffirms our commitment to this goal.

Mr. Chairman,

18. The need to address through the multilateral framework the threat posed by other weapons of mass destruction is just as important to that posed by nuclear weapons. Malaysia strongly supports the universal implementation of, and adherence to, both the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

19. My delegation believes that effective verification measures should be put in place to strengthen the implementation of the BWC. At the national level, Malaysia is also currently finalising its national Biological Weapons Bill, which will form part of our legislative framework in line with Article IV of the Convention.

20. As part of our commitment as a State Party to the CWC, this year Malaysia collaborated with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to organise technical assistance programs with Myanmar and Sudan. These programmes allowed us to share our experiences in implementing our CWC obligations, including the activities required of CWC National Authorities.

21. In this connection, Malaysia also welcomes the total removal of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile, which was done under an unprecedented timeframe and under uniquely challenging conditions. We

also welcome the decision on the destruction and verification of the remaining chemical weapons production facilities.

Mr. Chairman,

22. Turning to conventional arms, Malaysia is encouraged that the momentum gathered by the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) will lead to its eventual entry into force in December this year. As a signatory State, we hope the upcoming Conference of States Parties will lead to a balanced and effective implementation of the ATT.

23. Malaysia also welcomes the successful outcome of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects, held in June this year. We reaffirm our belief in the PoA mechanism as an important forum where confidence building measures on SALW can be consensually agreed upon.

Mr. Chairman,

24. In conclusion, Malaysia underlines our readiness to work with you, with a view to achieving a positive and successful outcome of the First Committee, in the hope that ultimately our work here will contribute towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.