



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM 69: RIGHTS OF PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION
OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE
NEW YORK, 3 NOVEMBER 2014**

Madam Chair,

Malaysia has been a strong supporter of the rights of people to self-determination which is clearly enshrined in Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations. We view that the rights of people to self-determination is an integral element of respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedom anywhere in the world. It is binding, universally accepted and is a recognized norm of international law.

2. Malaysia remains supportive of initiatives involving the implementation of the right of peoples to self-determination while fully respecting the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of States, and non-interference in affairs within the domestic jurisdiction of States.

Madam Chair,

3. My delegation welcomes the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967. Above all, both reports highlighted the need for legitimate action to be taken by the international community to protect the rights of the Palestinian people bearing on the sanctity of their territory and the underlying right to self-determination.

4. In this regard, Malaysia would like to reiterate its unwavering support in the restoration of Palestinians' inalienable right to self-determination, self-rule, right to national independence and sovereignty, right to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and uprooted.

Madam Chair,

5. Malaysia has always believed in a two-State solution, and support the establishment of a sovereign state of Palestine living side-by-side in peace and security with Israel, based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. As we speak about justice, rule of law and legitimacy, we believe that a two-State solution is the only just way moving forward. Malaysia condemns in this regard, the unlawful prolonged annexation and demographic manipulations in East Jerusalem which created fundamental threats to the people of Palestine's rights to self-determination as highlighted by the Special Rapporteur.

6. We are appalled with the demographic manipulations by the Occupying Power, including through the imposition of an apartheid regime, implementation of segregation wall and policies and the recent siege of Gaza, reflecting a clear systemic violations of Palestinian human rights. These acts are designed to corner the people of Palestine to involuntarily relinquish their rights to self-determination and eventually leave their homes.

7. We are aware that in recent months, Israel had announced new expansions of illegal settlements in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem. Consistent with the aim of segregation policies and demographic manipulations, the expansion would also subject the people of Palestine to forced displacement. Ultimately, this would lead to the deprivation of the rights of Palestinians to self-determination, including rights to a demographic and territorial presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the right to permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

Madam Chair,

8. It is clear that the international community had failed to address the persistent and flagrant violations of international law, international humanitarian law, UN Resolutions and Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice by Israel. While this Committee works towards solution of ending impunity on many issues, including on violations and abuses of human rights, the blatant illegal actions of Israel continues unabated.

9. As members of the international community, we should never accept such injustice. Malaysia believes that resolute action is required to increase greater global political will to justly and peacefully resolve the conflict. The goal has long been established before us, and we call on the international community to collectively shoulder the responsibility and adopt the framework for a time frame to end the Israeli occupation.

10. We also wish to express our support on recent decisions taken by Palestine in its aim to attain their long denied right to self-determination. The Palestinian decision to accede to various international conventions and treaties earlier this year, including the four Geneva Conventions is not only to be welcomed, but commended. It illustrates

Palestine's determination to be a responsible member of the international community, bound by the rules and norms of international law, in spite of its struggle to end the indefensible colonization by the Occupying Power. We believe the decision is one of the telling factor in rallying greater political resolve to end the occupation.

11. Malaysia is encouraged by the recent announcement of the Swedish Government to recognize the state of Palestine and the motion to give diplomatic recognition to Palestine passed by the British Parliament earlier this month. We applaud these historic decisions as we believe it will light the path for other countries to replicate the move for the sake of peace, stability and above all, justice. Malaysia also hopes that the act of recognizing Palestine as a state is a prelude towards its people attaining their right to self-determination.

Madam Chair,

12. My delegation strongly believes that the only way forward is to ensure that the Palestinians are afforded their basic rights as human beings, and this include their right to an independent state. Malaysia thus calls for the realization of the Palestinians' right to self-determination through a final solution to the conflict, in support of the creation of the two States that live side by side in peace and security.

I thank you Madam Chair.