



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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

**ON AGENDA ITEM 119: QUESTION OF
EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND
INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS**

NEW YORK, 12 NOVEMBER 2014

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to thank you for convening this important debate on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters. My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. At this juncture, Malaysia would like to congratulate Ambassador Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica, on his recent appointment as Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations. We trust that his wise leadership and experience, as seen in his stewardship of the First Committee, will steer us forward in our negotiations towards a more equitable and representative Security Council. My delegation also expresses our deepest appreciation to his predecessor Ambassador Zahir Tanin, for his diligence and leadership in presiding the Intergovernmental Negotiations since 2008.

Mr. President,

3. As an incoming non-permanent member of the Security Council for the 2015-2016 term, Malaysia is deeply interested in efforts aimed at a more efficient Security Council. We were elected by the overwhelming majority of member States into this important Council, and we take this opportunity to again thank all delegations for the support. At the same time, we recognise that their voices need to be heard, and their interests recognised.

4. Based on the many views we had heard during the tenth round of Intergovernmental Negotiations, the abundant interest of member States is clear - there is a serious demand for reform of the Security Council. This is not a new demand, nor is it unique. This demand has been reiterated time and again, yet it has remained unanswered.

5. In this regard, Mr. President, we are encouraged by your opening statement during this year's high level debate of the General Assembly. You had rightly called for more progress on Security Council reform, relating this to the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Your letter dated 10 November 2014 further reaffirmed your commitment to this process, when you stated that an early resumption of the Intergovernmental Negotiations was necessary, and appointed Ambassador Rattray as its new Chair.

Mr. President,

6. We are therefore reminded of the efforts of one of your predecessors, namely Ambassador Razali Ismail of Malaysia, who was the President of the 51st General Assembly. In 1997, he had introduced the first ever comprehensive proposal for Security Council reform, dubbed the "Razali proposal", as contained in document A/AC.247/1997/CRP.1. In the days before we had Intergovernmental Negotiations and Advisory Groups, Ambassador Razali took it upon himself to come up with this formulation, after consultations with over 165 delegations and groupings.

7. While this attempt was ultimately unsuccessful, it has since been recognised by many as the closest attempt to achieve progress in the reform of the Security Council. The Razali proposal did manage to encapsulate the various aspects of Security Council reform, in particular on expansion in membership of the Council and improved transparency in its working methods. It also succeeded in providing food for thought, which perhaps has influenced our current deliberations.

8. This bold initiative continues to inspire Malaysia in our unrelenting pursuit of a more representative, democratic, legitimate and transparent Security Council. In this sense, Mr. President, we hope that you may be similarly inspired, and perhaps during your Presidency we may be able to see equally noteworthy progress.

Mr. President,

9. Malaysia's positions on the issue of Security Council reform have been consistent. Allow me to briefly summarise these positions, which we will expand further during the next round of the Intergovernmental Negotiations.

10. We firmly believe there is a need for an expansion of the Council's membership and a better geographical representation in particular for regional groups underrepresented in the Council. The expansion of both categories, namely the permanent and non-permanent members, would be crucial in strengthening the role and representation of the Council. An increase of non-permanent seats would allow more Member States to be elected to the Council, and increase the frequency for Member States to serve in the Council, thus providing for more inclusiveness in the Council's decision-making process.

11. On the question of the veto held by the five permanent members, Malaysia reaffirms our principled position to disagree on its use based on the current structure. The veto should be regulated so as to prohibit it from being used unjustly and against the wishes of the majority. My delegation also joins those which propose for restraint in the use of veto powers, especially in cases of international crimes such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We believe that if all regions are represented by permanent members, then the new permanent members should also be accorded the right to veto, so as to contribute towards a more balanced and representational decision-making process. However, we may need to explore the option that a certain number of vetoes are necessary before a resolution is rejected by the Council.

12. Malaysia strongly supports the view that the overall work of the Security Council should be enhanced and improved. We have put forward several proposals in this regard, inter alia: to ensure that any expansion of membership will allow incoming Council members to continue to have the responsibility of presiding over the Security Council at least once during their term; to formalise the Council's Provisional Rules of Procedure; to increase coordination between the Council and troop-contributing countries; and to have more structured interactions and regular consultations between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

13. With regards to the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council, Malaysia believes that there should be a clear delineation between the work of these two organs, based on their respective mandates. We should be mindful of the need to prevent encroachment of the work of the Council in matters that fall under the prerogative of the Assembly. My delegation also calls for the institutionalisation of monthly consultations between the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council.

14. Going forward, Malaysia would also like to reiterate the importance of text-based negotiations on Security Council reform. We support the preparation of a working document by the Chair and the full participation

of Member States. Only through such discussion, with the participation of Member States, can we identify areas for cooperation and move ahead on negotiations. In this regard, Mr. President, we are pleased with your encouragement for this approach, as outlined in your 10 November 2014 letter.

Mr. President,

15. In conclusion, Malaysia believes all member States have a responsibility to ensure that the United Nations, and by extension the Security Council, are capable of addressing the challenges prevailing today. In order for progress to be made, member States must be willing to move beyond entrenched national and group positions. We have debated long and hard about compromise and flexibility, but we have yet to deliver on this. I wish to assure you of my delegation's firm support and cooperation to work with you and other Member States in this endeavour.

Thank you Mr. President.