



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 63: REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
AT THE PLENARY OF THE 69TH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 17 NOVEMBER 2014

Mr President,

My delegation warmly welcomes His Excellency Ambassador Baudelaire Ndong Ella (Bo-de-lair En-dong El-la), President of the Human Rights Council to address the General Assembly and present the report of the Council. Malaysia appreciates the leadership role played by Ambassador Ella in carrying out his mandate of supporting the work of the Council.

2. Malaysia reaffirms that human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. These basic principles underpin international human rights. Countries should not pick and choose which rights they wish to highlight or how those rights may be enjoyed, nor should they seek to impose onto others differing emphasis and urgency to human rights due to their own domestic political expediency or external pressure.

3. Malaysia is pleased that the Human Rights Council, within the scope of General Assembly's Resolution 60/251 and within its Institution Building Mechanism in its resolution 5/1 has continued to make progress. After almost a decade of its establishment, Malaysia believes that the Human Rights Council has proven its ability and relevance. It is increasingly capable of addressing complex human rights issues and effect changes on the ground through its decisions. The discussions within the Council are in our view, a healthy process towards realizing the highest standards of human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr President,

4. Events around the world particularly in the Middle East and Africa highlighted the magnitude of work that is facing the Council. Notwithstanding the increasing number of

agendas considered by the Council, we have seen that the Council continued its attention on the situation of human rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Territory inflicted by Israel. Malaysia welcomes the deliberation on the subject and urges the Council to continue to press on this issue and to ensure that the Palestinians are afforded their basic rights as human beings including their right to an independent state.

5. This year, the Council had adopted a number of resolutions concerning the situation of human rights of Palestinians, including Right of Palestinian to Self-Determination; Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan; Human rights situation in Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem; Ensuring respect for international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem; and Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. These resolutions reflect the grave situation affecting Palestinians in the Occupied Territory of Palestine.

6. In this instance, Malaysia wishes to reiterate its call for the realization of the rights of Palestinians through a final solution to the conflict, which would see the creation of two States living side-by-side in peace and security based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

Mr President,

7. In addition to the issue of Palestine, my delegation also wishes to briefly touch on a few matters discussed by the Council.

8. Firstly, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR is a primary human rights mechanism, premised upon equal treatment of all countries. In this regard, we are pleased to inform that Malaysia's final UPR report was presented for adoption by the Human Rights Council at its 25th Session on 20 March 2014. After a thorough consideration, the Government of Malaysia had accepted 64.6% or 150 out of 232 recommendations made on various human rights issues. In this regard, Malaysia's commitment to the UPR process is reaffirmed through our efforts to implement accepted recommendations received.

9. Secondly, we wish to reiterate our belief that right to development remains an important cornerstone of human rights and urge the international community to place particular consideration on the right to development in the elaboration of the post-2015 Development Agenda. Collectively, we must acknowledge the need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level.

10. Thirdly, the increasing work of the Council had driven a tremendous growth of activities mandated to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). We have also witnessed a remarkable surge of demands from Member States for the support and expertise of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of late.

However, only 45% of its resources for 2013 came from the Regular Budget. In this regard, we reiterate our call, made together with 54 other delegations in July this year, for the development of options to allow Member States to gradually increase the resources available for the human rights pillar and better align OHCHR-mandated activities with adequate funding through the regular budget.

11. The final point we wish to highlight today is on the process of strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. In view of the complexity of human rights issues, Malaysia believes that the intricate responsibility to promote and protect human rights necessitates deeper cooperation among stakeholders. While human rights treaty bodies are in place to keep a check and balance over State Parties' compliance and efforts to improve related human rights situation, it is apparent that there are still significant issues to be addressed to assist human rights treaty bodies to fulfil their objectives. Malaysia remains committed to continue supporting efforts aimed at strengthening the human rights treaty bodies.

Mr President,

12. To conclude, we wish to acknowledge that the Human Rights Council has in many aspect been successful, and this positive development has continued under the leadership of the current President. We hope the Council will carry on with its good work in promoting and protecting human rights for all. We would also like to underscore that despite the many achievements to date, Malaysia believes that more can be done to enhance and uphold the rights of victims of human rights violations. Malaysia is committed to this end and will continue to strongly support the work of the Council.

Thank you, Mr President.