



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR RAMLAN IBRAHIM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 24: ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND
OTHER DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

**AGENDA ITEM 24 (A): IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS
DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY**

AGENDA ITEM 24 (B): WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

AND

AGENDA ITEM 24 (C): HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

**AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE
70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 13 OCTOBER 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to associate itself with statements made by South Africa, on behalf of G77 and China, and Cambodia, on behalf of ASEAN. Malaysia is confident that under your able stewardship, the Committee will complete its work successfully. We also would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on this agenda item.

2. We welcome the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/70/281 which stated that levels of poverty have dropped in all regions. Nevertheless, in spite of significant strides that have been made, progress has been uneven. Among seven Asian least developed countries (LDCs), poverty dropped from 64.4 percent in 1990 to 31.9 percent in 2011. Among Africa's LDCs, however, poverty has been reduced from 66.6 percent to 50.4 percent in the same period, denoting a shortfall of the MDG target. In this regard, we support the recommendations in paragraphs 73 (a) to (f) that promote holistic and inclusive policies on addressing poverty and related development issues. We would like to highlight some of the initiatives undertaken by Malaysia in line with these recommendations.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Currently, only one percent of households in Malaysia were living under the Poverty Line Index (PLI) in 2014. Malaysia's initiatives include the "1AZAM" programme that was launched in January 2011 to emphasise the development of financial skills and capacity-building of those in need. Apart from that, eKasih – a database to collect disaggregated information of the poor launched in January 2011 – was used to ensure that financial aid was channelled to the neediest of people. Between 2010 and 2014, six out of ten Malaysians that were registered under the national poverty database, have elevated out of poverty due to these efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Malaysia recognises that the maximum participation of women in economic activities is vital to the nation's development and continues to strive to address women's concerns to reflect the changing socioeconomic roles of women of today. Legal and institutional frameworks have also been in place to safeguard women's rights and further improve their status. Being a signatory to CEDAW, Malaysia is committed to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Women and girls in Malaysia have enjoyed equal education opportunities. Enrolment of women for first degrees in public universities has also been consistently above 62 percent between 2009 and 2012. The Government has continued to take measures to increase the participation of women in the work force. We are confident that we will achieve the target of 55% participation rate by the end of 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia continues to make strides in terms of improving human capital development and has been recognised by the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s first global human capital index (HCI) as recording significant improvement in developing and nurturing healthy, educated and able workers. Malaysia continues to invest in human capital development. Under the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016-2020), it is one of the major thrusts in ensuring sustainable growth and global competitiveness.

Mr. Chairman,

6. In closing, Malaysia remains fully committed to achieving the goals and targets on poverty eradication and the development of women and human capital. Malaysia also fully supports the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We reiterate our pledge to the full realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.