



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
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE
70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 14 OCTOBER 2015

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of Malaysia, allow me 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 pledges its full support and cooperation to the Chair and its able bureau. We trust that your wisdom will guide the Committee's work and we look forward to a successful conclusion of these proceedings.

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

Mr. Chairman,

3. Despite the challenging start earlier in the proceedings, let us not forget what we have come here to do. We have to collectively remind ourselves of the need to overcome being caught in a web of unproductive machineries dedicated to disarmament. Real, consensual and productive outcomes towards total disarmament remain few and far between. Developed with great care over the years, existing disarmament machineries that had led to unfulfilled obligations must be reviewed and reignited. This gives hope for tangible outcomes in the field of disarmament and

international security in danger of entering a perilous stalemate.

4. We cannot deny the reality that we face in the work of our Committee and the only way forward is to prevail over regressive steps that our collective efforts have caused. The stalemate, sometimes affect our overall priority towards achieving nuclear disarmament. Hence, we in the First Committee have a lot to do in the weeks ahead. Let us have a clearer perspective on our obligation to ensure a secure and safe future for our future generation.

5. On a positive note, we welcome the adoption of the Security Council resolution that led to the historic agreement and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in July between Iran and P5+1. We should build on this positive momentum to move forward and remove old habits and negative mentalities that led to an impasse in the field of disarmament and international security.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Malaysia deeply regrets that the Conference of Disarmament (CD) has been deadlocked for almost two decades. The impasse calls for us to reinvigorate efforts in rationalising our priorities on issues under the CD's agenda, instead of being fixated on preconditions for commitment or on the rule of consensus to achieve progress, and thereby, compromise the high ideals that we have set. Our delegation hopes that a step in that direction is a consideration of a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

7. It is simply disconcerting that despite marking the 20th year of striking a deal during the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference among State Parties of the NPT, we failed to agree on the final document at the 2015 Review Conference, rendering the outcome decidedly lacking. Malaysia is unwavering in its conviction that, the pillars guiding the NPT namely disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy must continue guide to our vision towards total and complete disarmament. We believe all States have obligations to enhance efforts to comprehensively address these three pillars in a balanced manner. On this note, we

call on NPT State Parties to reaffirm and strengthen the three pillars of the Treaty.

8. Our delegation look forward to welcome growing support on outcomes related to the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and hopes to continue seeing meaningful actions taken to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons. We believe that the humanitarian approach would add value towards broadening the international discourse on nuclear disarmament, and is ready to work with Member States on proposals aiming at total elimination of nuclear weapons. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the successful convening of the Conferences on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo, Norway, Nayarit, Mexico and Vienna, Austria towards this cause.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Malaysia also welcomes the progress of the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty on 24 December 2014 and the convening of the First Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty in Cancun in August this year. Building on the momentum of the success in Cancun, we remain committed to work towards acceding to the Treaty as effort is underway to ensure harmonisation of the Articles in the Treaty with existing domestic legislation. It is our hope that the Treaty will continue to enjoy strong support of Member States, in particular, in the Southeast Asian region, in effort to stem illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the region.

10. As part of our continuing commitment to the Biological Weapons Convention, Malaysia will co-organise at the national level a series of technical cooperation programmes in December 2015, to enhance national implementation of the Convention, as well as develop cooperation on safety working practices, accurate techniques and procedures for assessing risks for biological misuse. We are confident that the shared knowledge, awareness and values for universal adherence to BWC and compliance with its provisions would contribute to strengthen implementation of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Malaysia, on behalf of ASEAN, will also introduce the biennial resolution on the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANFWZ) Treaty during the agenda item on General and Complete Disarmament. The introduction of the resolution is timely, as we commemorate the 20th anniversary of signing by ASEAN Member States of the Treaty in December this year. Malaysia believes that the resolution is another positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament and is essential in the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones.

12. My delegation believes that, resolving all outstanding issues in the strengthening of the existing Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, together with our ASEAN neighbours, affirms our commitment to preserve Southeast Asia as a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We look forward to deliberate on elements for incorporation into the resolution in the coming days.

13. As in previous years, 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. On this note, my delegation wishes to invite all member States to support this resolution, and to consider joining the growing number of States as co-sponsors.

Mr. Chairman,

14. In concluding, Malaysia stands ready to work with you, in ensuring that we register much greater progress and not inertia, towards an improved and tangible outcome for the First Committee. Our delegation remains committed to fulfil our obligations under the NPT, in the hope of achieving a world free from nuclear weapons.

Thank you.