



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

STATEMENT BY HON. MR. RICHARD RIOT JAEM, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE DURING THE 64TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK 8 OCTOBER 2009

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of Malaysia, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to you and your bureau on the assumption of office of the First Committee for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. At the outset, my delegation associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the statement made by Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

2. Achieving non-proliferation rests on the fulfilment of the basic bargain consisting of the following elements:

- (i) One, nations have the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
- (ii) Two, Nuclear Weapons States have the obligation to undertake effective measures towards nuclear disarmament; and
- (iii) Three, those without nuclear weapons must disavow from acquiring them.

3. Consequently, progress in non-proliferation can be analysed through the prism of the three elements mentioned above. Where then are we? – How does our collective report card look like?

4. Malaysia's assessment of the situation is that more needs to be done. We should note that the United States estimate in 1958 was that sixteen nations could have nuclear weapons within ten years. In 1960, President Kennedy warned that there would be fifteen, twenty or twenty five nuclear states 'by the end of the Presidential Office in 1964'. Today, there are eight confirmed nuclear states. There is, therefore, room for optimism. However, this needs to be tempered by the following concerns:

- (i) One, it does not appear that the Nuclear Weapon States are moving towards disarmament. This jeopardises the non-proliferation bargain;
- (ii) Two, related to this, other countries are pursuing nuclearisation programme;
- (iii) Three, there is now credible fears that non-state actors may enter the nuclear foray; and

Four, further reductions in strategic and non-strategic stockpiles, greater transparency, de-alerting and a diminished role for nuclear weapons in security policies are need.

5. If we are to fulfil the basic nuclear bargain, we need to address the following issues:

- (i) One, is how best to promote transparency, the bedrock of trust and confidence. For this reason, it is imperative that efforts at achieving non-proliferation and eventual disarmament be undertaken in a multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory manner;
- (ii) Two, it is in this regard that we support negotiations between the United States and the Russian Federation on a legally binding agreement on reducing and limiting strategic offensive arms to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), which is due by the end of 2009. However, we note that it is unlikely that this will lead to eventual, complete and comprehensive disarmament; and
- (iii) Three, the creation of a clear system of incentives to ensure that all countries intending to establish programmes for peaceful use of nuclear energy can do so. This requires an international regime to facilitate transfer of technology, material and equipment.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The 2010 NPT Review Conference can be a significant event in our efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. But this will require willingness by all parties to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty. We look forward to working with all State Parties to the NPT to achieve progress on all issues of concerns.

7. Although we have managed to reach agreement on procedural items during the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference held in May 2009 in New York, it was rather disheartening that the spirit of compromise did not prevail in the debate over the recommendations for

the 2010 NPT Review Conference. In this regard, we sincerely hope that all concerned parties will exhibit further good will and cooperation in order to arrive at successful outcome at the Review Conference next year.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Malaysia submitted its instrument of ratification to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 17 January 2008. In this regard, we wish to call upon all States to work towards the entry into force of the CTBT, particularly the Annex 2 States whose signature and ratification of the CTBT are necessary for the Treaty's entry into force. In welcoming the US' policy shift related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, we hope to see the U.S. ratify the Treaty, which we believe will spur other Annex II countries to accede to the CTBT.

9. At the regional level, Malaysia is a signatory to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) since 15 December 1995, and ratified it on 11 October 1996. In this regard, we wish to call upon all Nuclear-Weapon States to become parties to the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty at the earliest opportunity. We also welcomed the entering into force of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on 21 March 2009, and of the Pelindaba Treaty on 15 July 2009, as an effective contribution to strengthening regional peace and security. Malaysia also fully supports the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction.

10. As further commitment towards nuclear non-proliferation, Malaysia will again submit a draft resolution on the Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons. Malaysia is submitting this draft resolution to remind us of our obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. Malaysia calls on all States to fulfil this obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Chairman,

11. The threat posed by other weapons of mass destruction should also be of concern to us. In this regard, we calls for the prohibition and total elimination of all other types of weapons of mass destruction, which include biological and chemical weapons. Malaysia strongly supports the universal implementation of and adherence to both the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

12. For our own part, Malaysia has put in place, adequate and stringent laws, administrative procedures and regulations for the effective control over the production of Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as over the exports, imports, transits and re-transfer of such weapons, in order to prevent illegal manufacture and illicit trafficking or their illegal diversion to unauthorised recipients.

13. Malaysia strongly supports international and humanitarian efforts to ban anti-personnel mines. On our part, Malaysia has completed the destruction of its stockpile of anti-personnel mines on 23 January 2001 making it the first anti-personnel mine-free country in Asia. Malaysia calls on other countries to follow suit, particularly those in the Southeast Asian region, in becoming party to the Ottawa Convention.

14. Malaysia also aligns itself with the objective of achieving the total elimination of cluster munitions which cause excessive injury or have indiscriminate effects, especially on civilians, and which cause massive destruction of property.

15. Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by reaffirming Malaysia's commitment for general and complete disarmament. My delegation remains ready to work with you and other Member States towards achieving a positive and successful outcome of this session of the First Committee.

Thank you.