



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE DURING THE 65TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER 2010

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to you and your bureau on the assumption of office of the First Committee for the sixty-fifth 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 and the statement made by Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

2. This year we have witnessed several encouraging developments such as the signing of the new START between the United States and the Russian Federation and the convening of several major meetings or events such as the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We believe that each of this constitutes a step, which bring us closer to the attainment of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

3. Notwithstanding these new developments, statistics show that there are still thousands of nuclear weapons, both strategic and tactical remain on the ground. As long as these weapons, which existence poses serious threat to humanity and all life on Earth continues, then others including non-state actors will desire it as well. Hence, we believe total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only solution to this issue.

4. Given the renewed interest on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as reflected in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, we hope that the recommendations stipulated therein will be implemented in a timely and effective manner in achieving the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world. In this connection, we look forward to working with all State Parties to the NPT to achieve progress on all issues.

Mr. Chairman,

5. This year also marks a less auspicious occasion, which incidentally, is the thirteenth year since the CD has been deadlocked on its annual programme of work. Hence, the convening of the High Level Meeting on Revitalising the work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiation was a timely move by the Secretary-General and we remain hopeful that the CD could find a way to overcome the current impasse to rightfully pursue its work.

6. As further commitment towards nuclear disarmament and 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 the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Malaysia calls 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. In this connection, we also welcome the announcement by Indonesia that it has started its ratification process.

8. At the regional level, Malaysia is a signatory to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). 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. Malaysia considers the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones created by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Central Asia as well as Mongolia's declaration of its nuclear-weapon-free status, as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament.

9. Malaysia also supports the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. We are hopeful that the sponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East will undertake serious efforts to realise the establishment of the zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The Regional Conference that would be convened in 2012 should provide the impetus necessary for concrete action in this regard.

10. In this relation, we reiterate the call on Israel, being the only non-signatory to the NPT in the Middle East, to immediately accede to the NPT, which would be an important confidence building measure and would significantly contribute to enhancing peace and security in the Middle East.

11. Malaysia is of the view that all States must adhere to the fundamental principles related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. States need to exercise full transparency in their nuclear programmes, subject those programmes to the full scope of the IAEA safeguards and gain the confidence and trust of the international community over the peaceful nature of their nuclear programmes. In this regard, Malaysia is also of the view that the Iranian nuclear issue should be resolved through dialogue and negotiations, with sincerity and mutual respect.

Mr. Chairman,

12. In line with relevant UN resolutions, Malaysia has worked on a comprehensive law to govern the export control of strategic items. Our efforts to secure trade against terrorist infiltration culminated in the Strategic Trade Act 2010, which provides for control over the export, trans-shipment, transit and brokering of strategic items, including arms and related material, and other activities that will or may facilitate the design, development and production of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and to provide for other matters connected therewith, consistent with Malaysia's national security and international obligations.

13. Malaysia also supports the call for universal adherence to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and compliance with its provisions. Malaysia undertakes to facilitate and will participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes. In line with Article IV of the Convention, Malaysia is currently finalising the Biological Weapons Bill, which will be part of Malaysia's legislative framework to ensure effective implementation of the BTWC.

14. With regard to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Malaysia is working closely with the OPCW and other States Parties in implementing the obligations under this Convention. Malaysia is of the view that the CWC plays an important role in stemming the threats from global terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

15. 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. In this regard, we support the UN Programme of Action, which aims to prevent and reduce small arms proliferation and misuse.

16. Malaysia strongly supports international and humanitarian efforts to ban anti-personnel mines and calls on other States to follow suit, particularly those in the Southeast Asian region, in becoming party to the Ottawa Convention.

17. 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.