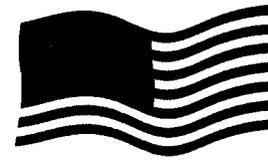


MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



CANDIDATE
to the
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
for the term 2015-2016

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE DURING THE 68TH
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the delegation of Malaysia, I wish to extend my 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 you, and we trust that your experience and wisdom will guide these proceedings to a successful conclusion.

2. At the outset, Malaysia wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the statement to be delivered by the delegation of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

3. The current state of affairs in the field of disarmament and international security is disappointing. The high priority accorded to nuclear disarmament remains on the agenda of the United Nations, while the lack of actual progress remains a sad reality for the international community. The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/68/1) presents this clearly – no disarmament negotiations, no fissile material treaty, no entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and no conference mandated for 2012 on establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

4. The perilous state of international security is also being fuelled by regional tensions including in the Middle East, as we have seen in the past months. The dangerous divisions between nuclear armed states have not only resurfaced, but are at risk of being further exacerbated by the actions of external actors. In this regard it should be recognised that there is still belief in the multilateral process, which we have

witnessed in the United Nations Security Council over the past few weeks. It falls upon all of us, through our work in the First Committee, to prevent the world from again being brought to the brink of nuclear war.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Following a First Committee resolution last year, the General Assembly was able to convene the recent High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament. The Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak joined many other Heads of State and Government in calling for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. This was a signal at the highest level, which we trust has been received in its entirety despite the low level of officials representing certain Nuclear Weapon States. It is also ironic that these same States would express regret on efforts such as the convening of the High-level Meeting which would purportedly "shift the focus away from the serious threats", as compared to the real serious threat, namely their own nuclear weapons.

6. We strongly believe there is an urgent need for the First Committee to continue to develop similarly innovative approaches as it did last year, such as the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, the establishment of the group of governmental experts (GGE) on aspects of a fissile materials treaty, and the convening of an organizational meeting for an OEWG on the Fourth Special Session for Disarmament (SSOD IV).

7. Another significant development in the field of disarmament is the increasing recognition of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. This is a position which Malaysia firmly subscribes to, and we are pleased to note the growing interest among member States. In this regard, my delegation also welcomes the convening of the second international meeting on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, to be held on 13–14 February 2014 in Nayarit, Mexico.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The Secretary-General has identified the deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as "the greatest institutional challenge" on the disarmament agenda. After 17 years of stalemate, we could not agree more. Malaysia believes that the CD must reconquer its relevancy as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community. To this end, it is vital for members to exercise flexibility and political will to rejuvenate the negotiations. In this regard, we welcome decision CD/1956/Rev.1 on the establishment of an informal working group to produce a programme of work, which we feel is a small step in the right direction.

9. Malaysia also supports the ongoing efforts to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. My delegation sees this as a timely call for the start of negotiations, and this constitutes

one of the key steps towards nuclear disarmament. We believe such a treaty is essential in preventing vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons.

10. However, my delegation deeply regrets the continued inflexible postures of some of the Nuclear Weapon States, who continue to prevent the CD from establishing an Ad Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament. It is a great disappointment to my delegation that no progress has been made in fulfilment of this obligation. In this regard, Malaysia calls on the CD to establish as soon as possible, and as the highest priority, an Ad Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament.

11. In addition, and pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, efforts towards the conclusion of a universal, unconditional, and legally binding instrument on security assurances should also be pursued as a matter of priority.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Malaysia's vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world is also pursued through the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Achieving this rests on fulfilment of the basic bargain embodied in the three pillars of the NPT, namely disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

13. This year's Preparatory Committee meeting in Geneva showed that much work is still required, given the diverging views and approaches with regard to the three pillars. My delegation fears that the NPT regime itself may not be sustainable, if important issues continue to be relegated to an indefinite holding pattern. Malaysia calls on the Nuclear Weapon States to use this current cycle to substantiate their commitments to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, in the run up to the 2015 Review Conference.

14. Malaysia also deeply regrets the failure to convene the Conference on a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East, which was scheduled for last year. The disappointment so apparent in Geneva indicates the fragility of the NPT, and the waning patience of influential countries in the region with regard to the failure of the convening of the conference. Malaysia strongly urges the Secretary-General as well as the concerned States to convene the Conference at the earliest possible opportunity, with the active participation of all states in the region.

15. In this regard, we welcome the recent announcement of Ambassador Jaakko Laajava regarding the proposed meeting on 21-22 October 2013 in Montreux, Switzerland, to discuss the agenda and modalities of the Conference. My delegation believes the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction will enhance not only regional, but global peace. It will also spur non-proliferation efforts among countries in the region who are parties to or outside international WMD regimes.

Mr. Chairman,

16. On the topic of nuclear weapons free zones, my delegation continues to believe that such zones contribute significantly to global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the revised Plan of Action to Strengthen the Implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) 2013-2017, which we hope will intensify negotiations between ASEAN and the five Nuclear Weapons States on the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty. Malaysia joins our ASEAN neighbours and others in looking forward to the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty and its related documents as early as possible.

17. The catastrophic effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, cannot be adequately addressed. It is for this reason, Malaysia believes that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a significant element to rid the world from nuclear weapons. Regrettably even 16 years after the Treaty was opened for signature, it has yet to enter into force. In this regard, Malaysia urges countries that have not signed or ratified the treaty to do so at the earliest, as demonstrated by Brunei, Chad, Guinea Bissau and Iraq, all of which have signed this year. Malaysia also welcomes the recent establishment of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM). With the vast experience of its members, Malaysia is confident that it would help promote the early entry into force of the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

18. My delegation shares the grave concern of the Secretary-General over allegations of chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic. We condemn without reservation the use of chemical weapons, and call on the international community to intensify efforts to explore all possible diplomatic options for peace under the auspices of the UN. We also welcome the Syrian Government's recent signing of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. In this regard, we expect that all parties should comply with the relevant provisions of the Convention, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) decision EC-M-33/Dec.1, and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

Mr. Chairman,

19. Turning to conventional arms, Malaysia welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). I am pleased to announce that Malaysia has joined the ranks of signatory states to the ATT on 26 September 2013, where the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia had penned his signature on the landmark document. Malaysia had always supported the ATT process, and together with the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPPD), had hosted a regional disarmament meeting entitled "Asia Regional Meeting to Facilitate Dialogue on the Arms Trade Treaty", in Kuala Lumpur on 26 and 27 February 2013. We

had engaged constructively and in good faith with all delegations, to ensure that the outcome would be a strong, balanced and implementable treaty. My delegation recognises that although the ATT may not satisfy all the concerns of all states, it will develop and evolve, as common understandings and interpretations are made, as implementation moves forward, and as the Conference of State Parties develop.

Mr. Chairman,

20. Finally, I am pleased to remind member States that 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 next segment of the work of the Committee beginning 17 October. While we will be elaborating further on the resolution at a later stage, at this point I would like invite all member States to support this resolution, and to consider joining the growing number of States as co-sponsors.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.