



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

THE INFORMAL THEMATIC CONSULTATIONS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ENTITLED "IN
LARGER FREEDOM: TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT, SECURITY
AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL" (A/59/2005)

CLUSTER II: FREEDOM FROM FEAR

NEW YORK
FIRDAY, 22 APRIL 2005

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Facilitator,

My delegation would like thank you for convening this meeting to enable Member States to exchange views on Cluster II: Freedom from fear. My delegation fully supports the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement delivered yesterday by the Chairman of the NAM Coordinating Bureau. However, I wish to take this opportunity to offer Malaysia's own perspectives on a few issues raised by the Secretary General in his report.

Collective security

2. Malaysia endorses the Non-Aligned Movement's call for serious efforts to be taken to evolve common perceptions and agreed approaches to address both the new and existing threats to international peace and security. Such common perceptions and approaches to collective security would only be legitimate if they are developed in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and by all Member States acting together, and with the active participation of each principal organ of the United Nations.

Terrorism

3. My delegation supports the Non-Aligned Movement's position on the question of terrorism. We cannot support the Secretary General's recommendation on the definition as it does not clearly differentiate between terrorism and the legitimate struggles of peoples fighting for their right to be free of colonial and alien domination, foreign occupation and their right to national liberation. It does not also address the root causes of terrorism. We have noted the important elements on terrorism that are missing in the Secretary General's report, as pointed out by the Non-Aligned Movement, and are willing to discuss these further with a view to ensuring that they are given adequate attention.

4. Malaysia has taken note of the comprehensive strategy on terrorism as proposed by the Secretary General. We will study it further. For the moment, we see some parts of the strategy as inadequate. For example, it fails to address the root causes of terrorism, inter alia political grievances, economic and social marginalization, regional conflicts and foreign occupation and oppression. Root causes of terrorism are not founded simply on the belief that the use of terrorist methods can achieve an aim. We see merit in the other four strategies and would like to have more discussions on them.

5. Malaysia has noted the Secretary General's call for Member States to accede to the 12 international conventions against terrorism. Malaysia is party to five of the conventions and is currently undertaking the necessary action and going through the necessary national administrative and legislative procedures on the remaining seven conventions on terrorism, which we hope to accede to before the end of this year. We are looking into the Secretary General's recommendation regarding the relevant conventions on organized crime and corruption.

Nuclear, biological and chemical weapons

6. Malaysia fully associates itself with the Non-Aligned Movement's position on questions relating to weapons of mass destruction as addressed by the Secretary General. In this regard, Malaysia underscores the vital importance of multilateralism and

multilaterally agreed solutions in addressing disarmament and international security issues.

7. My delegation wishes to point out that the Final Document of the SSOD-I underscores that general and complete disarmament under effective international control is the ultimate goal of multilateral disarmament efforts. Malaysia is committed to pursuing, particularly the total abolition and elimination of nuclear weapons, including new types of nuclear weapons, in accordance with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* of 1996. Malaysia strongly believes that the absolute goal of a nuclear weapon-free world must remain high on the international disarmament agenda. The continued possession, proliferation and improvement of nuclear weapons should be a source of great concern to the international community in the light of the grave danger that they pose to international peace and security.

8. While the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is indeed a threat to international peace and security, we must not forget that the existence of these weapons in the first place is a threat to the very existence of humanity itself. We do not agree that focus should be given only to the question of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Efforts on non-proliferation should be carried out in parallel with efforts toward achieving disarmament as well as towards enhancing international cooperation in the research and use of technologies for peaceful purposes.

9. Nuclear terrorism poses a serious threat to international peace and security. We must continue to be vigilant and consolidate our collective efforts to prevent terrorists and non-State actors from acquiring nuclear weapons and using them to achieve their objectives. Malaysia has taken and will continue to take appropriate measures to prevent this threat in accordance with the principles of international law and relevant instruments, including Security Council resolution 1540. Malaysia also believes that while measures to promote nuclear security and combat nuclear trafficking should indeed be stepped up, serious efforts should concurrently be made towards achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons to provide an absolute guarantee against the use of such weapons. In this connection, Malaysia welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of the nuclear weapons convention recently.

Peacekeeping

10. Malaysia has noted the Secretary General's assessment on the reluctance of some countries to contribute troops to UN peacekeeping operations. It is important that the developed countries with well-equipped military forces actively participate in contributing to the critical gap capabilities such as the strategic, enabling and niche capabilities of UN peacekeeping operations. Building up the force capacity for UN peacekeeping operations must be a collective responsibility of all Member States. We welcome the Secretary General's strategic reserve initiative. However, the question of composition of task forces, the decision-making processes for deployment, command and control arrangements, sustainability and financial implications have to be addressed. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations needs to work closely with Member States to clarify those questions and define the proposal in more detail in order to reach a firm conclusion.

11. Malaysia supports the involvement and contribution of regional organizations or arrangements in peacekeeping. However, such regional arrangements should not diminish or absolve the role and responsibility of the UN. The operational linkages must be carefully coordinated and managed. It is imperative to ensure that missions undertaken on a regional basis are governed by the basic principles of peacekeeping, in full conformity with the UN Charter.

Peacebuilding

12. In principle, Malaysia welcomes the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission. This Commission can play an important role in addressing the gap in the United Nations institutional machinery. Such a body holds promise for many countries emerging from conflict. We believe that the General Assembly should have a role in peacebuilding activities. We welcome the Secretary General's submission of an explanatory note on the proposed Peacebuilding Commission. My delegation is studying the paper and will provide our views at a later stage.

Small arms, light weapons and landmines

13. Malaysia supports the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and hopes that it will be implemented by Member States. The Programme of Action provides a road map for the international community to combat the scourge of small arms, which has devastating social, economic and political consequences. Malaysia believes that the question of proliferation of small arms and light weapons must be viewed from a holistic perspective of arms control and disarmament, post conflict peace building and conflict prevention.

Use of Force

14. Malaysia concurs with the views of the Non-Aligned Movement on the question of use of force. We strongly believe that Article 51 is restrictive and should not be re-written or re-interpreted.

15. Malaysia cannot support the recommendation of the Secretary General for the Security Council to develop guidelines on the use of force. Such guidelines, if at all to be developed, should be discussed by the Member States in the General Assembly.

Mr.Facilitator,

16. My delegation concurs with the Non-Aligned Movement's proposal for the promotion of a culture of peace, as this would be fundamental to the non-use of force. Culture of peace, dialogue among civilizations and peaceful settlement of disputes are key elements towards the reaffirmation of what the framers of the Charter had prescribed in the preamble, "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors." This could lead to a new vision of collective security and enhance the freedom from fear throughout the world.

17. In conclusion let me reiterate Malaysia's commitment to provide its fullest cooperation to the President and the Facilitators to ensure the success of our endeavor.

Thank you,