



MALAYSIA'S STATEMENT
BY
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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE
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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate you on your appointment as the President of the Seventy-Second (72nd) Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

I am confident that under your able stewardship, the General Assembly, as the main deliberative and policy-making organ of the United Nations, will see substantial advancement in addressing the many challenges our Organisation faces today.

I also congratulate His Excellency Mr. António Guterres on his appointment as the 9th UN Secretary-General early this year. Your endeavour to make the United Nations an effective, relevant and august Organisation, I assure you, has Malaysia's fullest support and cooperation.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This year's Seventy-Second (72nd) UNGA theme, **'Focusing on People: Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for All on a Sustainable Planet'** is most relevant and timely, as we work collectively and individually to achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This journey is 'no mean feat'. Some have even advocated that it should be the only focus for the entire international community to strive towards ensuring our future survival in an inclusive manner. We must strengthen our resolve and fulfill our promise to each and every citizen of the world that **'no one will be left behind'**.

On this basis, Malaysia has always oriented its development agenda to accomplish this very promise.

Sustainable development has been at the heart of Malaysia's development approach since the 1970s. In 2009, the Malaysian Government launched its New Economic Model, which features three new goals: to achieve high income, inclusivity and sustainability. These pursuits continue to resonate well with the three components of the 2030 Agenda, namely economic growth, social needs and environmental protection.

We have also adopted forward-looking development policies through the Eleventh (11th) Malaysia Plan, spanning five years from 2016-2020, with the theme 'Anchoring Growth on People'. This development plan reaffirms the Malaysian Government's commitment to a vision of growth anchored on the prosperity and wellbeing of its people while protecting the environment and strengthening peace.

In July this year, Malaysia presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High-Level Political Forum on SDGs. The VNR, which reports the actions and measures taken by Malaysia to advance the implementation of the SDGs, is testimony to Malaysia's continued commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The Government of Malaysia strives to ensure that each and every Malaysian has an equitable share in the prosperity and wealth of the country, and that no one will be left behind.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Security

Earlier this week, Malaysia joined other Member States in signing the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. We are convinced that the political and legal impact of this Treaty will steer the international community collectively towards the elimination of nuclear weapons and the maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons. We were

guided by the commitment of states on an instrument which is legally sound, feasible to implement and one that sends a powerful political message that nuclear weapons are categorically unacceptable.

Malaysia strongly believes in continuing to strengthen and enhance legislative and collective enforcement capabilities in confronting international security threats, in particular the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) specifically to non-State actors. We remain steadfastly committed to our international obligations in the fields of disarmament and international security through various national, regional and international approaches.

In this regard, Malaysia reiterates its strong condemnation of DPRK's nuclear tests and missile launches which seriously undermined the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Malaysia calls on the DPRK to desist from conducting further nuclear tests and missile launches, to halt its nuclear and ballistic

missiles programme, and to comply fully with its international obligations in the interest of the maintenance of international peace and security. Malaysia joins other nations in stressing the need for the immediate resumption of peaceful dialogue and negotiations among the relevant parties towards finding a durable solution to this longstanding conflict.

We are also seeing a convergence of new security threats emerging from irregular migration and transnational crime activities, which include terrorism, trafficking in persons, illicit drug trafficking, money laundering and cyber-crimes.

The threats we face today have an increasingly regional and international impact, affecting our economies and lives in ways which we have never experienced before. And for these reasons, Malaysia has taken significant efforts to improve our legislations and enforcement capabilities by adopting a holistic approach in preventing and combating these heinous crimes.

Rohingyas

Sadly, as we devote our attention to peace, decent life and a sustainable planet, there are people in this world who are suffering from horrifying crimes against humanity.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen the recurrence of violence instigated by a delusional and desperate militant group of Rohingyas in Rakhine State. However, the subsequent 'clearance operations' by Myanmar have claimed countless innocent civilian lives and caused more than 400,000 Rohingyas to flee their homes. Indiscriminate violence perpetrated against the Rohingyas during these operations is of grave concern for Malaysia and also to others. Such atrocities have unleashed a full-scale humanitarian crisis that the world simply cannot ignore but must be compelled to act.

If the current situation is not addressed judiciously, the desperate people in Rakhine will become easy prey to recruitment by extremists. Prolonged frustration, anger and deprivation provide fertile breeding ground for it.

Though the Myanmar Government has given its repeated assurances to implement measures to resolve the issue, the recent incidents of violence has not assuage our concerns for effective safeguards to be put in place on the ground.

Therefore, I call upon the Government of Myanmar to end the violence and stop the destructions to life and properties, and allow immediate unimpeded access for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Bangladesh Government for doing their utmost in receiving almost half a million Rohingya refugees in the past three weeks. Sheltering such a huge number of refugees certainly puts a strain on any

country. Malaysia has dispatched humanitarian aid to Bangladesh on 9 September 2017 and will do more. In the spirit of compassion and humanity, I call on the international community to support the humanitarian efforts in Bangladesh.

Palestine

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our collective failure in finding a solution to the Palestinian question is unacceptable. The situation in Palestine remains daunting and appalling as Israel continues to violate international law with its heavy-handed approach against the defenceless Palestinians.

As Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory marks the 50th year, we must continue to intensify our efforts in finding a just and durable solution to the Palestinian question. Malaysia reiterates that any action by Israel, to impose its laws, jurisdiction

and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and totally unacceptable.

We remain extremely concerned over the lack of accountability by the Israeli occupying forces, as well as the ongoing blockade of Gaza and the resulting humanitarian crisis.

We are extremely dismayed with the diminishing prospect of peaceful co-existence as Israel's illegal settlement activities continue unabated. The implementation of Resolution 2334 adopted by the UN Security Council on 23 December 2016 remains a challenge. In this regard, Malaysia reiterates its support to the work of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and its pro-active approach to pronounce the need for a written quarterly report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the said resolution. We urge the international community, especially Member States, to remain firmly principled in supporting this vital call. If, we continue to allow for the resolution to be deliberately weakened in an unashamedly manner and

rendering it unimplementable, we would be guilty of deconstructing the two-state solution.

Malaysia will continue to support the works of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The plight of some five million registered Palestine refugees must not be ignored. In view of its weakening financial situation, we urge the international community to strengthen its commitment in providing financial assistance and other relevant assistance to UNRWA.

Moderation

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our fight against the scourge of violent extremism, Malaysia would like to reiterate the continued urgency to harness the approach of moderation to negate the propagation of extremism and radicalisation.

To this end, Malaysia restates its call for a Global Movement of Moderates, made by the Honourable Prime Minister Najib Razak in 2010, to douse the flame of hatred and stem the influence of extreme and myopic ideas of intolerance, xenophobia and racial hatred, among others.

It is imperative for communities of different race, religion and culture to band together in seeking common peaceful aspirations and celebrate our diversity rather than be influenced, and enticed into extremist traps.

Malaysia, therefore, looks forward to bringing forth the Global Movement of Moderates initiative to the UN through a Resolution at this Session. It is imperative that the voices of reason, tolerance and understanding drown out the voices which glorify extremism that sow seeds of hatred amongst our communities.

UN Management Reform

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to successfully perform the arduous tasks at hand, the United Nations cannot afford to stand still and remain idle. Since taking over the helm of the Organisation, the Secretary-General together with the UN Secretariat have initiated various efforts to make the Organisation more efficient, effective, agile and fit-for-purpose.

Malaysia commends the dynamic leadership of the Secretary-General through his various reform initiatives which include the review of the Peace and Security Architecture, enhancing the overall Development System and UN Management Reform, amongst others.

Malaysia is of the view that any major reform initiative that may include cost-cutting measures should not hamper or disrupt the Organisation's existing development efforts to achieve peace and a decent life for all. This includes development programmes in developing countries especially countries in areas of conflict, peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding.

I wish to extend my delegation's full cooperation, support and commitment in working closely with you, Mr. Secretary General, all UN Member States and various stakeholders towards implementing the reform initiatives.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us strengthen our resolve in fulfilling our collective responsibilities.

Allow me to assure you of Malaysia's continued support and commitment to the agenda of the United Nations and the work of the General Assembly.

I thank you.