



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. HAMIDON ALI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF
THE 60TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
UNDER AGENDA ITEMS 85 TO 105: GENERAL DEBATE ON
ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ITEMS
NEW YORK, MONDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2005

Mr. Chairman,

I should like at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. I should also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election. I extend my sincere appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico, for the outstanding manner in which he conducted the work of the Committee during the Fifty-ninth Session of the General Assembly as well as for the innovative measures that he introduced.

2. My delegation fully associates itself with the statement just delivered by the Delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the statement that would be delivered by the Delegation of Myanmar, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

3. My delegation is disappointed with the state of affairs in the field of disarmament and international security in 2005. The positive outlook of a brighter prospect for forward movement in this field this year that we had upon the conclusion of work of this Committee last year has, thus far, produced retrogressive results. The States Parties to the NPT failed to reach agreement on any substantive issues at the NPT Review Conference last May. We failed to reach agreement, not even on a single paragraph, on disarmament and non-proliferation for the 2005 World Summit Outcome. We are still searching for the most effective measures to collectively address the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists. The devastating consequences posed by small arms and light weapons (SALW) due to its illicit trade and trafficking have not been alleviated. The Conference on Disarmament remains deadlocked and the Disarmament Commission has again been unable to agree on an agenda this year. These notwithstanding, my delegation is nonetheless pleased with the significant developments and steady progress in the past year relating to the Biological

Weapons Convention (BWC), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs), small arms and light weapons, and anti-personnel mines.

4. As the current Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Malaysia remains steadfast to the long-established and principled position of NAM in the field of disarmament and international security. The Non-Aligned Movement will continue to be at the forefront of the global campaign for the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. The decisions and pronouncements concerning these questions made by the leaders of NAM – at their Thirteenth Summit in Kuala Lumpur in February 2003, their Annual Ministerial Meetings in New York in September 2003, October 2004 and September 2005, their Fourteenth Ministerial Conference in Durban in August 2004 and their Special Meeting in Doha in June this year – shall remain the road map for Malaysia and the Member Countries of NAM.

5. My delegation should like to stress that all those six high-level meetings of NAM, while addressing the wide-ranging ramifications of weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons and related issues, have expressed strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed prescriptions and, in this context, have underlined and affirmed that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, provide the only sustainable method of dealing with the multiplicity of disarmament and international security issues. In addition, the leaders of NAM remain firm in their conviction that disarmament and non-proliferation should be pursued together, in a mutually reinforcing manner. Today as we meet, the stress remains on proliferation rather than disarmament in good faith. The lack of balance in the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) threatens to unravel the NPT regime, which remains a critical component of the global disarmament framework.

Mr. Chairman,

6. My delegation would like to recapitulate that the First Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament underscored the fact that general and complete disarmament under effective international control is the ultimate goal of multilateral disarmament efforts. That goal is far from being achieved. All Member States agreed at that Special Session that nuclear weapons posed the greatest danger to humankind and to the survival of human civilization. Today, all States remain in full agreement with that conclusion, made almost three decades ago. There should not be any doubt that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a threat to international peace and security. More importantly, however, we must not forget that the existence of those weapons in the first place is a threat to the survival of humankind and our planet.

7. We all have concerns about nuclear non-proliferation, both vertical and horizontal. We all have fears about nuclear terrorism. We all continue to have nightmares for as long as nuclear weapons continue to exist, and humanity has called for their total elimination. At the same time, we want to preserve the inherent right to peaceful uses of nuclear technology including energy. We all share collective responsibility to address these common concerns, allay our fears and reduce our nightmares for now and in the future.

8. While recognizing recent moves by nuclear-weapon States that could lead towards disarmament, my delegation reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress in this regard. The nuclear-weapon States continue to believe in the relevance of nuclear

weapons, despite a globalized and interconnected world. The nuclear-weapon States and those States remaining outside the NPT continue to develop and modernize their nuclear arsenal, threatening international peace and security. We must all call for an end to this madness and seek the elimination and ban on all forms of nuclear weapons and testings as well as the rejection of the doctrine of nuclear deterrence. We must all be mindful that the issue of non-compliance applies both to nuclear disarmament and to nuclear non-proliferation. In that connection, the implementation of article VI of the NPT by nuclear-weapon States is crucial. The Thirteen Practical Steps identified by the 2000 NPT Review Conference in pursuing nuclear disarmament set out an achievable framework for nuclear disarmament.

9. On the question of verification and enforcement relating to weapons of mass destruction, Malaysia shares the view of many countries that existing multilateral treaty-based mechanisms, such as those under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), need to be strengthened. Any problems arising thereof should be resolved within the framework of those mechanisms through cooperation, dialogue and negotiations in order to reach constructive outcome. My delegation believes that resorting to other means beyond those mechanisms, such as through the Security Council, would be counter-productive. It is critical that there exist the necessary political will to enable those mechanisms to work in a fair, balanced and non-discriminatory manner, taking into consideration the interests of everyone involved. Malaysia believes that full adherence to all provisions of international disarmament treaties and conventions by States parties are the only sustainable approach to multilateral disarmament and the prevention of proliferation activities.

10. The universalisation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is crucial. Pending its entry into force, all nuclear-weapon States must maintain the current moratorium on nuclear test explosions. For its part, Malaysia is taking the necessary steps to ratify the CTBT in the immediate future.

Mr. Chairman,

11. My delegation remains supportive of all efforts geared towards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) worldwide, in particular in the Middle East. Malaysia will continue to work with her other fellow Member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations in realizing our aspiration for the acceptance of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South-East Asia. In that connection, in welcoming the Declaration adopted by the Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in Tlateloco on 28 April this year, my delegation is convinced that the measures contained therein can certainly serve as the basis to strengthen the nuclear-weapon-free zone regime and contribute to disarmament and non-proliferation processes, and in particular to analyse ways of cooperation that can contribute to achieving the universal goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

12. The challenges and threats posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, especially to the developing countries, should not be taken lightly. They must be our genuine concern collectively, and not just limited to the countries or regions where conflicts have occurred or are still raging. In that connection, several ongoing undertakings are critical. My delegation remains committed to the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. My delegation recognises the importance of the international instrument

to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons and that it should be adopted by the General Assembly. My delegation also recognises the need to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons.

13. In the course of the year, we have witnessed the continued failure of the Conference on Disarmament to launch any substantive work. We hope that the Conference on Disarmament will be able to resume without delay its important role of negotiating new arms control and disarmament agreements, with an emphasis on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Similarly, the failure of the Disarmament Commission to agree on an agenda for its substantive session is another setback to multilateral disarmament initiatives. My delegation is disheartened by these developments. These two important disarmament machineries must be able to overcome those obstacles so as to move the process forward. Thus, my delegation believes that the First Committee has the duty to reaffirm the urgent need to make progress on substantive issues and to identify specific initiatives to address the security concerns of all Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

14. As in the past, Malaysia will be presenting in due course in this Committee two draft resolutions, namely on follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concerning the *Legality of the threat and use of nuclear weapons* and on the Question on Antarctica. It is the desire of my delegation, and together with other co-sponsoring delegations of these two draft resolutions, to engage all Member States with a view to securing their support for these two important drafts.

15. In conclusion, my delegation would like to recall that our leaders have expressed their resolve during the Millennium Summit five years ago to, inter alia, strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers. Obviously, their resolve remains unfulfilled. In that connection, my delegation calls upon all Member States to continue to explore new ideas and a fresh outlook concerning our collective efforts in the field of disarmament and international security. Indeed, international peace and security cannot be fully maintained without significant progress in the area of disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. The international community already possesses the necessary tools to advance the disarmament process. What is required is the strengthening of existing disarmament treaty-based mechanisms with the full support and political will of States. Without political will, there cannot be a genuine solution to questions concerning disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control internationally. It is about time that we reorient ourselves towards the common objective of achieving general and complete disarmament.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.