



# Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MR. HUSSEIN HANIFF, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, FOR THE JOINT DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 120: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND AGENDA ITEM 121: REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AT THE PLENARY OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 1 DECEMBER 2011**

Mr. President,

I am pleased that I would be touching on an agenda item that would make this assembly what we have always known it to be – the world's most prestigious intergovernmental body that is represented by all 193 United Nations member states, and that discusses on a wide range of critical issues that confront the lives of peoples of the world. While I am pleased to be here today, it is with concern that we see the General Assembly continue its slow decline in terms of its role and overall relevance. On this note, I wish to align my statement with that of Algeria, made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

2. It is without a doubt that the revitalization, or as some may wish to term it, the 'reformation' of the General Assembly, has seen some progress throughout the years. This is, to a significant degree, due to the establishment and the instrumental work of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. Malaysia commends the Ad-Hoc Working Group for convening four separate thematic meetings earlier this year to deliberate on the main aspects of revitalization.

3. Particular recognition must also be accorded to His Excellency Camillo Gonsalvez and His Excellency Dalius Cekuolis, Co-Chairs of the Ad-Hoc Working Group, whom have been hard at work in moving the process forward. Their hard work has culminated in the report of the Ad-Hoc Working Group A/65/909, which touches on wide-ranging areas from the appointment of the Secretary General and the need to strengthen the Office of the President of the General Assembly, to the timely issuance of meeting records.

4. At this juncture, I wish to pay some attention on this issue of implementation of General Assembly resolutions. In Malaysia's view, among all areas that need improvement, no other weakness of the General Assembly undermines its relevance or effectiveness more. However, due to the number of resolutions adopted by the General

Assembly, it would be a monumental task, to say the least, to follow-up on each and every one of those resolutions. Bearing this in mind, it would be more practical if the implementation of resolutions were prioritized in a responsible and transparent manner that is fair to all. As a suggestion, resolutions that were adopted by consensus and which had a greater number of co-sponsors could be given priority over others. However, irrespective of the methodology used, Malaysia would certainly support the establishment of a mechanism and the creation of a special unit to assess the status of implementation of resolutions.

5. Obviously, we would be living in an ideal world if we could monitor closely the implementation of all resolutions. In truth, however, with the number of resolutions and the variety of agenda items that are present before us in this day and age, there is a need to deeply consider rationalizing the list of agenda items for a session. The Assembly's agenda needs to be more focused on pressing and relevant issues that affect the everyday lives of the peoples of the world. At the same time, we could look into the possibility of biennialization or triennialization of agenda items, and even clustering them. This would reduce the number of agenda items and lessen the burden on member states, particularly those with smaller delegations. Malaysia agrees that the inclusion of too many agenda items would have a counter-productive affect on the quality of debate. As such, we could consider the application of 'sunset procedures', which would assist in trimming down the number of agenda items and resolutions considered by the General Assembly. This practice would surely need to be done in consultation with the General Assembly and concerned States.

Mr. President,

6. Much has been said about the need to deepen the relationship between the General Assembly and other principal organs of the United Nations. In this regard, it is heartening to note that there has been greater interaction between Presidents of the principal organs.

7. At the same time, Malaysia also welcomes regular meetings between the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council. However, being the two most prime organs of the United Nations, there should also be more interaction between the members of both bodies as well. This could be done through an interactive dialogue session between representatives of both the General Assembly and the Security Council, which for a start could take place on a yearly basis. This would allow greater understanding, recognition and appreciation of the issues, problems and challenges faced by the other.

8. It is true that both the General Assembly and the Security Council wear different hats. Nevertheless, it may be a misconception to believe that both principal organs are competing against each other. On the contrary, there is a symbiotic relationship between the two, which can metaphorically be described as two sides of the same coin. Both organs have roles to play in the maintenance of international peace and security. At the same time, both organs also have their respective mandates as outlined by the

United Nations Charter. As such, it is important for the two to work together in consultation, cooperation and with a high sense of mutual respect for one another. Each organ must also be wary as to not encroach into the mandate and responsibility of the other. Only with this in mind and by working hand in hand can both organs effectively address the myriad of issues that confront the international community.

Mr. President,

9. The issue of the 'Revitalization of the General Assembly' has been the subject of the plenary debate since 1991. Due to the number of years this issue has been considered, it is high time that all relevant actors take a deeper look into revitalizing not only the GA, but also the United Nations and all its organs and components, as changes in the General Assembly would affect the others. On the General Assembly itself, Malaysia welcomes the convening of a retreat on strengthening the organ organized by the Permanent Mission of Finland in June this year. It is with efforts such as this, accompanied by the necessary political will, which would allow the organization to live up to its name and what it stands for, as well as the ideals in which it was founded upon.

I thank you, Mr. President.