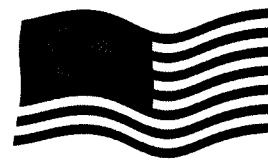


MALAYSIA

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
ON 'FULFILLING OUR RESPONSIBILITY : INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE
AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT'
AT THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK, 8 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Mr. President,

On the outset, I would like to express Malaysia's appreciation for convening this informal interactive dialogue on *Fulfilling our responsibility : International assistance and the responsibility to protect*. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for preparing the report as contained in document A/68/947. This informal session would enable us to exchange views and perspectives on this important subject.

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia has been following closely the deliberations on the issue of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and the follow-up dialogue sessions after the World Summit in 2005. My delegation notes the divergence of opinions continue to persist among Member States on the concept, understanding and implementation of the R2P. Malaysia takes note of the importance of Pillar II which underlines international assistance through encouragement, capacity building and protection assistance.

3. My delegation is encouraged that the principle of national ownership is reflected in the Secretary General's report. However, Malaysia upholds that the principles of sovereignty of States and consent should remain paramount above all else when considering international assistance. Any international assistance to sovereign States should be premised on case-by-case basis as governments are accountable to their national stakeholders.

4. Furthermore, we are of the view that the application of Pillar II does not provide the adequate understanding on the relations between the government and its constitution. Nor does the report underlines the importance of history, culture and religion that are the essence of a State when considering international assistance. These are pertinent questions that the report should address.

Mr. President,

5. My delegation continues to be concerned of the free application of all the three pillars of R2P. The latest report does not negate the fact that Pillar II should be pursued only when a State has failed its responsibility to protect its population. This notion of free application of all three pillars, including Pillar II can be misleading and that intervention into the domestic affairs of a Member State is implied.

6. Another observation is that the present report of the Secretary General on the Responsibility to Protect skirted the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory from any reference. While the current report reflects the need for human rights monitoring in Afghanistan, Colombia, Guinea, Iraq, Mali and South Sudan, no mention has been made on similar needs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and the continuing human rights violation over the Palestinians. Are the rights of the people of Palestine unimportant to R2P, or have they been neglected from the responsibility of the occupying power? Such selectivity and double standards should be addressed.

7. With the humanitarian situation in Gaza deteriorating and worsening, now is the time to demonstrate action and not merely words, a true commitment on the responsibility to protect.

Mr. President,

8. When considering the importance of international assistance to strengthen governments, Malaysia has a proven track record. The Malaysian Armed Forces and the Royal Malaysian Police continue to conduct training with international partners to share experiences in law enforcement and protection of civilian in armed conflict.

9. The Malaysian Government has also assisted in capacity building through the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) since 1981. Through the MTCP, Malaysia has shared our experience in governance, economic development and public administration. While at the same time, Malaysia has continued to provide assistance through our participation in the Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia does not object R2P, nor are we against such noble efforts to reinforce and support States' responsibility to protect its people. Nevertheless, my delegation is of the view that R2P requires a comprehensive and in-depth discussions so as to enable the international community to clearly define its understanding, applications, implementations and effects on States on both international and internal dimensions. We believe that only through complete understanding and systematic application to all Member States, can we truly accept R2P as an international norm.

Thank you, Mr. President.