



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
NEW YORK, 27 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Mr. Co-Presidents

At the outset, the Malaysian delegation wishes to congratulate Hungary and Indonesia on their election as Co-Presidents of this Conference. Malaysia would also like to warmly welcome Dr. Lassina Zerbo who has assumed the post of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) since August this year.

2. The existence of thousands of nuclear weapons continues to pose a direct, constant and serious threat to international peace and security. Many of these weapons are still on 'hair trigger' alert status, which raises serious questions on the sincerity and commitment of the Nuclear Weapons States.

3. Nuclear weapons are the most destructive, inhumane and indiscriminate weapons. These instruments of terror have no military or strategic utility. Nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction that are not prohibited by an international convention. The devastating effects of nuclear weapons to humankind and environment underline the urgency of concerted action to pursue towards total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

4. The catastrophic effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, cannot be adequately addressed. The Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo in March this year provided us with a useful platform to deliberate in a fact-based discussion on the impact of a nuclear weapon detonation.

5. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a key element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. As stated in the preamble, the primary objective of the treaty is to constrain the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and put an end to the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons.

6. Our common objective to rid the world from the nuclear weapons threat is being hindered by the continued non-entry into force of the CTBT. We regret that 16 years after the treaty has been opened for signature, it has not yet entered into force. In our view, this is one of the most serious unfinished business on the nuclear disarmament agenda.

7. Malaysia is deeply concerned at the continuing build-up and modernization of nuclear forces. It is very disturbing that many Nuclear Weapons States are spending heavily in the modernization of their nuclear arsenals. Countries with nuclear weapons spend more than USD105 billion each year maintaining and modernizing their nuclear arsenals.

8. In the context of the universalisation of the Treaty, six more countries have ratified the CTBT since the last Article XIV Conference held in September 2011. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the ratification of CTBT by Indonesia, Brunei, Guatemala, Chad, Guinea Bissau and Iraq. Malaysia calls upon all States that have not yet signed or ratified the treaty, in particular Annex II States to do so as soon as possible. In his statement during the 6th Ministerial Meeting of Parties to the CTBT held on 27 September 2012 in New York, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon had stated that these countries have failed to live up to their responsibility as members of the international community. The call to bring the CTBT into force expeditiously is also contained and emphasized in the UN Secretary General's 2008 five point proposal on nuclear disarmament.

9. Malaysia welcomes the establishment of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) launched here yesterday to reinvigorate efforts to promote the early entry into force of the Treaty. We hope with their vast experience and expertise, the members of the GEM will be able to inject fresh and innovative approaches to expedite the CTBT's ratification.

10. Malaysia enjoys an excellent working relationship with the CTBTO. A tangible example of the cooperation between Malaysia and the CTBTO is our agreement to host a Radionuclide Monitoring System (RMS) as part of the monitoring and verification installations under the Treaty. Malaysia's RMS designated as RN 42, was set up in Cameron Highlands and has been operational since 4 November 2008.

11. Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, it is important to ensure that the current moratoria on nuclear testing will continue to be observed. However, while such a moratorium is a positive step, Malaysia wishes to underscore that it does not have the same legally binding effect, as would the entry into force of the CTBT.

12. International law clearly states that there exist an obligation for nations to pursue in good faith and conclude negotiations in nuclear disarmament. It is regrettable that the Nuclear Weapons States have failed to provide a clear road map to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

13. Nuclear disarmament efforts will be further undermined by the delay of the entry into force of the CTBT. Nuclear proliferation will continue to be at dangerous risk if countries reserve the right to continue conducting nuclear testing.

14. Malaysia remains fully committed to the CTBT and calls upon all States to refrain from any acts that would violate the object and purpose of the Treaty.

Thank you.