

**Opening Address by
Y.B. Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs at the
Special Address
"Malaysia and the United Nations in a Changing World" by
H.E. Ban Ki-moon,
Secretary-General of the United Nations**

**Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, Kuala Lumpur
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**His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah ibni Sultan Azlan
Muhibbuddin Shah
The Royal Patron of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign
Relations,**

**His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations,**

**Y.B. Tan Sri Abu Zahar Dato' Nika Ujang
Speaker of Dewan Negara,**

**Y.B. Dato Sri' Peter Chin Fah Kui
Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water,**

**Y.B. Senator Datuk Seri G. Palanivel
Minister in the Prime Minister's Department,**

Honourable Deputy Ministers,

Members of Parliament,

**Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Razali Ismail
Chairman of the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation and
Distinguished Fellow of IDFR,**

**Y. Bhg. Dato' Hussein Haniff
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations,**

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome **H.E. Ban Ki-moon**, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and all of you to the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations. An event like this creates invaluable opportunity for positive engagement on various issues of interest.

2. The United Nations was established on 24 October 1945 with these following purposes:-

“To maintain international peace and security...;

To develop friendly relations among nations...;

To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems...;”

3. The UN epitomizes cooperation of a grouping of diverse states in the form of multilateral diplomacy. This reminds me of what Franklin Roosevelt said in his Fourth Inaugural Address in early 1945 ***“We have learned that we cannot live alone, at peace; that our well-being is dependent on the well-being of other nations, far away”***. No doubt there is growing interdependency in an increasingly interconnected world for one another; people to people, state to state. This was one of the key factors which led Malaysia to join the UN in 1957, and we will continue to strongly support the UN and advocate for the improvement of global governance and the strengthening of multilateral diplomacy to meet challenges of this day and age.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. The end of the Cold War resulted in drastic changes around the world. There was new emphasis on the rule of law, the establishment of democratic institutions, and concern for human rights and humanitarian

needs. Globalisation has triggered a new set of challenges; today we are faced with widespread poverty, famine, natural catastrophe, destruction to the environment, economic crisis, violation of human rights and humanitarian crisis. We have witnessed an era of change and with that also, change in the role of the UN from an institution that passively balanced ideological differences to an organisation that actively deals with challenges around the world.

5. The complexity of challenges is also heightened by the multiplicity of international players comprising states, international organisations, non-governmental organisation, private sector and civil society. To keep up with challenges and changes, and to continue to be relevant, the UN must pursue a more fitting role to effectively coordinate the coalition of interest of its member states and the world at large.

6. While war and peace remain the central issue in the UN, other issues such as the disparity between the worlds' rich and poor, environmental issues, economic issues, humanitarian crisis, violation of human rights, as we are aware, are no less significant and are correlated to international peace and security. This includes the long-standing Middle East conflict, and the international community must ensure the full restoration of Palestinian's inalienable right to self-rule. Malaysia fully supports the legitimate right of the Palestinian people for an independent State of Palestine, based on the two-state solution and the 1967 borders. We call upon the UN and member states to expedite the process of Palestine's full membership to the UN which has been delayed since last September.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Malaysia has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Security Council before and we hope to do the same in the future as we are vying for a non-permanent seat in the Council for the term 2015-2016. Our presence and participation reinforce our conviction that reforms are important to the Council's continuing legitimacy.

8. The debate on UN reform, particularly the reform of the Security Council continues without results. While we can generally agree that the Security Council needs to be reformed, we disagree on how. This issue is not only contentious but has created a divide. Malaysia would like to see change in the Security Council; change in terms of expansion of Permanent Members and Non-Permanent Members for a fairer representation of the growing UN member states, and the exercise of veto power with higher accountability. And more change with the review of its working methods, with greater transparency in mind.

9. One important area where change is notable is in UN peacekeeping. The UN and its member states have consistently strived to improve peacekeeping operations and it has adapted well to best address emerging threats to international peace and security. Malaysia's peacekeeping initiative has grown with these developments since we participated in the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo in 1960. The establishment of the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre (MPTC), a centre of excellence that provides training and capacity-building for international peacekeepers in 1996 was another positive step. To date, the centre has cooperation programmes with the UN and countries such

as Australia, Japan, and the United States. We are confident that with sixteen years of tradition of excellence, MPTC will evolve into a regional centre that focuses more on multidimensional peacekeeping for military, police and civilian personnel to meet the current challenges of peacekeeping.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. Like the world, Malaysia is embracing an era of change. These changes are important to realise our vision and aspirations of becoming a high income developed nation by 2020. In tandem with these changes, our international outlook on issues is also being transformed. Our **foreign policy is principled, pragmatic and progressive.**

11. The UN paves the middle path for dialogue, positive engagement and the settlement of conflicts and disputes through peaceful means. It is our vision to see **moderation** continuously practiced by the UN and its member states in finding **lasting solutions** to problems. While we support collective responsibility on issues of mutual concern, we must avoid being extreme in our measures.

12. We Malaysians take pride in our diversity and how moderation has shaped acceptance, mutual respect and understanding in our multi-ethnic, multi-religion and multi-cultured society. Our diversity and how it is managed provide unique advantages and strengths which offer credibility to the promotion of moderation for peaceful coexistence. The integration of our society is only possible through dialogue, compromise, understanding, acceptance and mutual respect, all of which are aspects of moderation. We see the UN as no different; the UN represents

unparalleled diversity of the international community. Our recipe for unity in diversity – moderation, is something we would like to share with the world.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. It is not easy to lead and equally hard is to follow. We all may recall H.E. Ban Ki-moon's words not too long ago, ***"My tenure will be marked by ceaseless efforts to build bridges and close divides. Leadership of harmony not division, by division not instruction, has served me well so far. I intend to stay the course as Secretary-General."***

14. Malaysia has always looked up to the UN as the beacon of hope for global peace, security, progress and prosperity. As we face new challenges, Malaysia and the UN will continue to cooperate and stand united to meet these challenges.

On that note, thank you.