



**Permanent Mission of**  
**Malaysia**  
**to the United Nations**



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**Statement by the Non-Aligned Movement at the Ad Hoc Working Group meeting  
on the Revitalization of the General Assembly on  
"the Role and Authority of the General Assembly"  
delivered by H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali,  
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations and  
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement  
New York, Wednesday, 29 March 2006**

Mr. and Madam Co-Chairpersons,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. (NAM)

2. At the outset, the NAM would like to extend its appreciation for the work undertaken by the two co-chairs in facilitating the work of the ad-hoc working group.

3. NAM considers the cluster on "enhancing the role and authority of the GA" as the centerpiece of all the efforts aimed at revitalizing the General Assembly. While we acknowledge the significance of the other clusters outlined in the letter of the co-chairs dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006, we believe that there is a wide convergence among the Membership to strengthen the role and authority of the GA regarding the wide spectrum of issues of concern in the United Nations, as highlighted by our leaders in the World Summit Outcome Document. This should be the focus of our collective endeavors in the ad-hoc working group.

4. In this context, NAM would like to raise its concern that the elements outlined for discussion under this heading does not include one of the most alarming features undermining the role and authority of the GA, namely the escalating tendency of encroachment by other principal organs of the UN on the functions and powers of the GA. Addressing this issue constitutes in our opinion the core of any efforts pertaining to enhancing the role and authority of the GA.

5. We have noted the recent trends by the Security Council, as well as by the Secretariat to infringe on the authority of the GA. Our views in this context are well known, and are outlined in various position papers of the Movement, as well as in the letters addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council during the month of February 2006, which are distributed together with this statement.

6. We believe that the time has come for the entire membership to reflect on this core issue, with a view to addressing it with concrete measures. We believe that procedural measures pertaining to streamline the programme of work of the GA, as well as improving the working methods of the Assembly, albeit important, do not tackle the root causes of the problem. The GA has undertaken several measures in the context of improving these

procedural questions in the context of its resolutions A/58/126 and in particular A/58/316, which were implemented during the 59<sup>th</sup> session. It also adopted a number of decisions in the context of its resolution A/58/126- Annex A, regarding the relationship between the GA and other principal organs of the UN. We are alarmed to note that little or no progress has been made in implementing these decisions. We need to take stock of such a development, and identify ways to ensure the implementation of these decisions.

7. We would appreciate clearer information from the President of the General Assembly on the implementation of paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of resolution A/58/126-Annex A. These paragraphs were intended to enhance the relationship between the GA and the Security Council through information sharing on substantive issues and dissemination of this information to all Member States.

Mr. and Madam Co-Chairpersons,

8. Another issue that merits our consideration is that of the periodic special reports by the Security Council on issues of current international concern, as well as the consultations by the membership on the annual report of the Council to the Assembly. Furthermore, we believe it would be appropriate to also address the role of the membership with regards to their participation in the work of the subsidiary organs of the Security Council, as well as making the reports of these organs available to the entire membership in a timely fashion.

9. While discussions on these issues would benefit from a more interactive debate in the context of the ad-hoc working group in accordance with its mandate as contained in resolution A/59/313, we would like to inform you that NAM is considering elements for a draft resolution with a view of addressing the issues we have raised today.

10. We have noted the elements contained in the outline proposed by the co-chairs for discussion under this cluster. We underline our position that the General Assembly is the chief, deliberative policy making organ of the Organization. Our collective aim should be to strengthen this role, as well as to foster the main committee structure of the Assembly, not to weaken it. This principle should guide all our endeavors in ensuring the maintenance of the balance between all principal organs of the UN as envisaged in the charter, recently reinforced in paragraph 6 of GA resolution 58/126, and the roles assigned to the main committees as outlined in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Mr. and Madam Co-Chairpersons,

11. Let me turn now to the elements pertaining to the presidency of the GA. NAM would like to reiterate its position that the presidency of the GA should be limited to one year in order to ensure a better representation of all geographical groups in this very important position. As regarding the early election of the President of the GA, we would like to reecho our concerns that were highlighted in the 59<sup>th</sup> session that such a proposal might entail practical difficulties associated with having two elected presidents for a long period of time. We view the current arrangement, which was only recently institutionalized, as practical and efficient, as evident in the successful conduct of the World Summit in 2005.

12. NAM strongly believes in enhancing the role of the President of the GA. While strengthening the Office of the President of the GA is a very important aspect of this endeavor, we should not consider it as the only means to achieve this aim. We are convinced

that our collective efforts in this regard should aim at facilitating a proactive role of the President of the GA regarding issues of concern to the GA, in particular the recent trends of encroachment on the functions and responsibilities of the Assembly. NAM would appreciate receiving the views of the President of the GA on the resources needed to further strengthen the Office, taking into account the recent decision of the Assembly to augment the resources for the Office, as well as his views on how to better enhance the role of the President.

13. Finally, NAM would like to assure you and the rest of the Membership of its readiness to participate constructively in the discussions of the ad-hoc working group with a view to enhancing the role and authority of the GA, and looks forward to receiving the information we requested in this statement in order to resume our debate regarding this very important cluster.