

# UN urged to prepare for climate change, not war

**NEW YORK:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the international community, instead of preparing for war, should be paying attention to climate change and accompanying natural disasters.

"We should be preparing to combat climate change to bring back the normal environment we have

been used to over thousands of years," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir said countries should also be preparing for major earthquakes, typhoons and hurricanes, floods and landslides.

"We should learn how to mitigate these natural disasters. We should be constructing shelters,

make rain and grow food without sunlight, and evacuate the seaside," he said at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly here.

Dr Mahathir said teams of well-equipped disaster experts should be ready to rush to disaster zones since every disaster was a world event.

"All these natural disasters may not happen, of course.

"But we cannot rely on that.

"We are wasting our money preparing for wars, inventing ever more destructive weapons when all of us may be wiped out by natural disasters as the planet goes through its next cycle," he said.

Dr Mahathir said human creatures were clever and could still survive the next cycle if they set researchers to come up with defences against catastrophes.

"If we reduce our budget for killing people, we will have the funds for research and preparation," he said. — Bernama