

**STATEMENT BY
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
AT THE ASIAN-AFRICAN SUMMIT 2005 AT JAKARTA
22 APRIL 2005**

MR. CO-CHAIRMEN,
EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA FOR CONVENING THIS HISTORIC MEETING OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN SUMMIT. I CONGRATULATE INDONESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, THE CO-HOSTS OF THIS SUMMIT, FOR THIS VALUABLE INITIATIVE WHICH WILL SERVE TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN ASIA AND AFRICA.

2. ASIA AND AFRICA ARE THE WORLD'S TWO LARGEST LANDMASSES WITH THE LARGEST POPULATIONS, AS WELL AS CONSTITUTING THE LARGEST GROUPINGS OF COUNTRIES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM. OUR CONTINENTS HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES AND HARDWORKING PEOPLE. UNITED BY A SHARED SENSE OF HISTORY, WE HAVE MUCH TO GAIN BY FORGING A PARTNERSHIP OF EQUALS IN FACING THE MULTIFACETED CHALLENGES POSED BY TODAY'S WORLD.

3. INDEED, WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO STRENGTHEN THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO CONTINENTS. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WE HAVE COME TO COMMEMORATE AND REMIND OURSELVES THAT THESE TIES ARE FIRMLY ROOTED IN HISTORY. IT WAS IN THIS SAME MONTH 50 YEARS AGO THAT 29 LEADERS OF 29 COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND AFRICA MET TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME. THEY REACHED AGREEMENT ON A COMMON VISION FOR OUR COUNTRIES, WHICH WAS TO BE FREE WITH PRIDE AND DIGNITY, WILLING AND ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE FOR A BETTER WORLD. IT WAS THE GOLDEN ERA OF DECOLONISATION. IN BANDUNG, IN 1955, THEY FOUND A COLLECTIVE VOICE.

4. THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE GAVE HOPE TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SOLIDARITY AND SELF-RELIANCE, FOR THOSE WHO HAD JUST ATTAINED INDEPENDENCE AS WELL AS THOSE, SUCH AS MALAYSIA, WHO WERE ABOUT TO BECOME INDEPENDENT. ALL OF US THEN WERE ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW WORLD ORDER, FREE TO PURSUE OUR OWN DESTINY. AS THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS NAM'S ABIDING GRATITUDE TO THOSE VISIONARY LEADERS WHO HAD GATHERED IN BANDUNG ON THAT HISTORIC DAY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN INSPIRING THE FOUNDING OF THE MOVEMENT SIX YEARS LATER IN BELGRADE.

5. SINCE THOSE HISTORIC DAYS, WHEN OUR COUNTRIES WERE BRIMMING WITH PROMISE, OUR ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MIXED. THE UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM PROJECT REPORT SAYS SOME PARTS OF ASIA ARE EXPECTED TO RECORD SLOW PROGRESS IN ATTAINING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS. SOME PARTS OF AFRICA WILL NOT ACHIEVE SOME OF THE GOALS BY 2015. THE TRUTH MUST BE ACCEPTED THAT WHILE WE HAVE RID OURSELVES OF THE SHACKLES OF COLONIALISM, MANY OF US HAVE YET TO ATTAIN THE PROPER ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES OF INDEPENDENCE.

6. AS WE GATHER HERE TODAY, DESTITUTION, DISEASE AND IGNORANCE CONTINUE TO EXIST IN MANY PARTS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD. MULTILATERALISM IS UNDER THREAT. TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE PROCESS OF GLOBALISATION HAVE NOT ELIMINATED EXTREME POVERTY. INDEED, MANY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD BELIEVE THAT BOTH FACTORS HAVE ACCENTUATED THE ASYMMETRIES THAT CHARACTERISE THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM. FURTHERMORE, THE CURRENT PREOCCUPATION OF THE RICH COUNTRIES WITH COUNTER-TERRORISM HAS DIVERTED MUCH VALUABLE RESOURCES FROM THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

7. IT IS INDEED A CONSTANT CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF GLOBALISATION AND RETAIN THEIR NATIONAL IDENTITIES AND FREEDOM OF ACTION AT THE SAME TIME. THE ANSWER CLEARLY LIES IN GREATER SOLIDARITY AND CLOSER COOPERATION AMONG US.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

8. MALAYSIA SUPPORTS THE NEW ASIAN-AFRICAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (NAASP) THAT WE ARE TO ADOPT AT THIS SUMMIT. IT IS COMPLEMENTARY TO OTHER INITIATIVES, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION. IT SHOULD ENHANCE BILATERAL TIES AND COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOURS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY COUNTRIES IN OUR TWO REGIONS.

9. I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK FROM MALAYSIA'S OWN EXPERIENCE OF SEVERAL DECADES OF RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES. I DO SO BECAUSE IT IS THE STORY WHICH I AM MOST FAMILIAR WITH AND BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT TYPIFIES A REWARDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A COUNTRY IN ASIA AND SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN AFRICA - A RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAD BEEN CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL BENEFIT.

10. MALAYSIA AND MANY COUNTRIES OF AFRICA SHARE A COMMON HISTORICAL, COLONIAL EXPERIENCE . THERE ARE NOW STRIKING SIMILARITIES IN OUR LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS. PERSONALLY, I MADE MY FIRST VISIT TO AFRICA MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS AGO. I HAVE SINCE VISITED MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES, SOME MORE THAN ONCE.

11. IN 1960, JUST 3 YEARS AFTER GAINING OUR INDEPENDENCE, MALAYSIA BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY FROM OUR REGION TO CONTRIBUTE PEACEKEEPING TROOPS FOR SERVICE UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATIONS IN THE CONGO (ONUC). THIS IS A TRADITION OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE WHICH MALAYSIA TAKES PRIDE IN CONTINUING UNTIL TODAY. CURRENTLY, MALAYSIAN PERSONNEL SERVE IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES, UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IN SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES NAMELY BURUNDI, CONGO, ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE, SUDAN, AND WESTERN SAHARA.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

12. MALAYSIA'S TRADE AND ECONOMIC LINKS WITH AFRICA HAVE GROWN AT A SATISFACTORY RATE. TO ILLUSTRATE THIS POINT, IN 2002, OUR TRADE WITH AFRICA TOTALLED US\$1.353 BILLION. LAST YEAR, 2004, IT ROSE FURTHER TO US\$2.215 BILLION. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 64 PER CENT WITHIN A SPAN OF 2 YEARS. THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE BY ANY STANDARD. THE POINT I AM MAKING IS THAT MALAYSIA IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

13. IT HAS INSPIRED MALAYSIA, SINCE 1995, TO ORGANIZE THE LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE (LID) TO FORGE SMART PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTORS OF THE SOUTH. THIS DIALOGUE PROCESS, WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER POLITICAL LEADERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN, REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOUR AS WELL AS THE MEDIA, HAS BEEN POPULAR AND FOUND TO BE USEFUL BY THE PARTICIPANTS. WE HAVE BEEN VERY PLEASED WHEN A SIMILAR PROCESS WAS BEGUN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, CONVENED UNDER THE NAME OF "THE SOUTHERN AFRICA INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE" (SAID). THIS SOUTHERN AFRICA DIALOGUE WAS LAST HELD IN SWAZILAND IN AUGUST 2003.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

14. MALAYSIA BELIEVES THAT CAPACITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS ARE INDISPENSABLE IN STRENGTHENING PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE SHARING OF EXPERIENCES. SINCE 1980, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP), MALAYSIA HAS OFFERED TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN AREAS IN WHICH MALAYSIA HAS EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE. SO FAR, 46 AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE VARIOUS TYPES OF TRAINING PROVIDED UNDER THE MTCP. MALAYSIA CONSIDERS THIS PROGRAMME AS ITS MODEST BUT CONCRETE CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.

15. AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SUMMIT, MALAYSIA HAS INITIATED ANOTHER MODEST INITIATIVE WHICH WE CALL "CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR O.I.C COUNTRIES, INVOLVING THE PARTICIPATION OF SEVEN MEMBER COUNTRIES HOSTING PROJECTS AND AT LEAST SEVEN OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES AS EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTORS . THIS WAS

LAUNCHED ON 29 MARCH 2005, BEGINNING WITH THREE PILOT PROJECTS IN THREE O.I.C COUNTRIES, INCLUDING TWO FROM AFRICA. THE SECOND PHASE, TO BE LAUNCHED SOON, WILL INVOLVE FOUR OTHER O.I.C MEMBER COUNTRIES INCLUDING TWO FROM AFRICA. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE MODEST BEGINNINGS WE HAVE MADE WILL DEVELOP SUFFICIENT MOMENTUM TO ENABLE THE SCOPE AND NUMBER OF PROJECTS TO BE EXPANDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

16. THE RECENT REPORT BY THE UNITED NATION'S SECRETARY GENERAL, KOFI ANNAN, ENTITLED "IN LARGER FREEDOM: TOWARDS SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL" HAS CLEARLY HIGHLIGHTED THE PRESSING NEEDS OF AFRICA. MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TOKYO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (TICAD) AND THE COMMONWEALTH AFRICA INVESTMENT FUND (COMAFIN). MALAYSIA SUPPORTS TOO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) AS ADOPTED BY THE AFRICAN UNION.

19. COOPERATION AMONG OUR TWO CONTINENTS MUST ALSO EXTEND TO THE REALM OF MULTILATERALISM, ESPECIALLY THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL HAD A FRUITFUL ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR FOREIGN MINISTERS YESTERDAY, AS PART OF THE ONGOING PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS. HERE, I CANNOT BUT EMPHASISE THAT UNITY AMONGST US MUST BE THE ORDER OF THE DAY. ASIA AND AFRICA HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON, SO MUCH TO GAIN BY STAYING TOGETHER AND MUCH TO LOSE BY GOING APART. I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT A FEW KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION AMONGST US WHICH ARE VITAL:

19.1 ONE, ON THE BROAD ISSUE OF UNITED NATIONS REFORM, WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO REMOVE THE POWER ASYMMETRIES INSTITUTIONALISED BY THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS IN THE UN SYSTEM. REFORM OF THE UN MUST AIM TOWARDS THE STRENGTHENING OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM, NOT ALLOWING ITS DIMINUTION. PRINCIPLES SHOULD PREVAIL OVER POWER.

19.2 TWO, WE MUST WORK TO ENSURE THAT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS SERVE DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS. IN THIS CONTEXT, ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICINES FOR HIV/AIDS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IS AN URGENT PRIORITY.

19.3 THREE, WHILE WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT FIVE COUNTRIES HAVE FULFILLED THE COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE 0.7% OF GDP DEDICATED TO ODA AND SEVEN HAVE AGREED TO A CLEAR TIME FRAME TO MEET THAT TARGET, WE SHOULD EXERT PRESSURE ON THOSE WHO HAVE NOT DONE SO TO TAKE STEPS TO MEET THIS COMMITMENT. WE SHOULD ALSO AGREE TO AN EFFECTIVE MECHANISM TO MONITOR THE LEVEL OF AID FLOWS.

19.4 FOUR, ON DISARMAMENT, WE MUST CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR POSITION FOR COMPLETE AND GENERAL DISARMAMENT. WE MUST INSIST THAT THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES HONOUR ALL COMMITMENTS TOWARDS

DISARMAMENT. WE MUST ALSO INSIST THAT NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES HAVE UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

19.5 FIVE, ASIA AND AFRICA MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN STRENGTHENING TIES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY WHICH CAN BE A FORCE AND FACTOR FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS IN OUR QUEST FOR A JUST, DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE WORLD.

20. BEYOND THE ISSUE OF UN REFORM, ASIA AND AFRICA MUST ALSO WORK CLOSELY TO COMBAT NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS ABOUT ASIA AND AFRICA DEPICTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA. OF COURSE, IN ENDEAVOURING TO HAVE OUR STORY HEARD, WE MUST ENSURE THAT GOOD GOVERNANCE PREVAILS AT THE NATIONAL LEVELS IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. IN MALAYSIA, WE HAVE INSTITUTED POLICIES AND UNDERTAKEN INITIATIVES TO GIVE GOOD GOVERNANCE ITS DESERVING PRIORITY. WE CALL OUR APPROACH ISLAM HADHARI.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

21. GIVEN THE ENORMITY OF THE TASKS BEFORE US, QUITE CLEARLY A LOT OF HARD WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE BY ALL OF US IN ASIA AND AFRICA, INCLUDING IN THE AREA OF DISASTER REDUCTION. AT THE SAME TIME, UNITY, SOLIDARITY, AND THE SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD WHICH WERE SOWN IN BANDUNG IN 1955 MUST CONTINUE TO MOTIVATE US ALL. TOGETHER, WE CAN ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES THAT ARE BEFORE US AND IT IS OUR DUTY TO DEDICATE OURSELVES TO BUILDING A PROGRESSIVE, PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE IN ASIA AND AFRICA.

I THANK YOU.