

**SPPECH BY  
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI  
AT THE XIV NAM SUMMIT IN HAVANA ,HAVANA  
15 SEPTEMBER 2006**

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His Excellency, Raul Castro Ruz,  
Acting President of the Republic of Cuba,

Excellencies,

Heads of Delegations,

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasant duty, this morning, as the Chair of the 13th NAM Summit to present to this 14th Summit of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, a report on the activities carried out by NAM during the period of Malaysia's Chairmanship from February 2003 to September 2006.

2. As the full Report has already been circulated to Delegates, I shall only highlight the main activities and initiatives undertaken during Malaysia's Chairmanship.

3. Malaysia, as Chair of the Movement, gave priority to the task of revitalizing NAM, a process that had been started by previous Chairs. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Continuing Revitalisation of the Non-Aligned Movement that was adopted at the Kuala Lumpur Summit served as a useful roadmap for the Chair in its efforts towards making the Movement more efficient, effective and relevant.

4. Much of these efforts were focused on coordinating the positions of the Movement in the international fora, particularly in New York, but also in Geneva and the newly established NAM chapters in Vienna and The Hague. This had resulted in better and more effective coordination of the NAM positions at these centres and had enabled our Movement to respond to international developments affecting NAM in a more timely and cohesive fashion.

5. As usual, the NAM Coordinating Bureau (NAM CoB) in New York shouldered the major responsibility of coordinating the work of the Movement, particularly on issues relating to international peace and security (including peace-keeping), disarmament, international terrorism, human rights, reform and revitalisation of the United Nations, and development, among others. The NAM CoB played a particularly active role in contributing inputs to the 2005 World Summit during the 60th Session of the General Assembly, as well as in following up to the Summit Outcome document.

6. The NAM Chapters in Geneva, Vienna and The Hague had also effectively carried out their coordination work in their areas of responsibility, particularly, relating to human rights, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and chemical weapons, respectively.

7. Malaysia is gratified that the broad and intensive consultations that it had undertaken with Member States in each of the NAM chapters, had facilitated consensus and enabled the Movement to articulate common positions on the issues concerned.

8. Pursuant to the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on revitalisation, the Chair made more effective use of the mechanism of the NAM Troika, which met a number of times, mostly in New York but also in Paris, Putrajaya and Hermanus (Cape Town). These meetings, which, on a few occasions, were enlarged to include the Former Chairs of the Movement, had facilitated consensus building within the Movement. At the invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Troika had also visited Teheran to confer on the issue of Iran's nuclear technology programme for peaceful purposes. The Troika also had annual consultations on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly sessions with the E.U Troika within the framework of their common desire to strengthen the multilateral process.

9. The Chair also made efforts to strengthen cooperation with our sister grouping of the South, the G77 and China, particularly through the mechanism of the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC). Malaysia strongly believes in the usefulness of this mechanism which should be utilized more frequently so as to raise the level of co-operation and synergy between NAM and the G77 and China.

10. In this regard, I welcome the recent trend of holding parallel or side meetings of the two groupings when one or the other meets to discuss important issues, such as those that took place in Doha and Putrajaya recently. This practice should be encouraged as it would contribute towards enhancing closer cooperation and synergy between NAM and G77 and China and in formulating common strategies and approaches in dealing with the problems faced by the developing countries. Closer cooperation between the two bodies will ensure a more coordinated and effective approach in their dialogues with the developed countries.

11. The Chair had continued with efforts to promote contacts and interaction with other groups and organizations, such as the G8. The Chair used the occasion of the G8 Summits to convey the positions of the Movement on issues of major concern to the developing countries, in the hope and expectation that they would be taken into consideration by the G8 leaders before taking decisions that might have an impact on the South. The Chair believes that increased contacts and interaction with the G8 should be further pursued and if possible be placed on a firmer footing, so that they could contribute towards better understanding and more harmonious relationships between the developed and developing countries.

12. Aside from the annual NAM Ministerial Meetings in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly sessions and the meetings of the Troika, a number of important meetings were convened during the period. These include the 14th NAM Ministerial Conference in Durban, the Special Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine in Putrajaya, the NAM Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women, also in Putrajaya, the Sixth Conference of the Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC VI) in Kuala Lumpur, and the recent Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau in Putrajaya, to prepare for the 14th Summit.

13. Several new initiatives were taken. Following the ministerial meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine, a NAM Ministerial delegation, led by Malaysia, established contacts with members of the International Quartet and the Permanent Members of the U.N Security Council to urge them to fulfil to their responsibility in finding an early solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict including reinstating the "Road Map" for peace in the Middle East.

14. Pursuant to the decision of the Ministerial Meeting on Women, Malaysia recently established a NAM Institute on the Empowerment of Women (NIEW) in Kuala Lumpur, which has just concluded its first training course, with the participation of officials from a number of NAM Member countries. The Institute's principal objective is to provide capacity building programmes, including training and research, in the field of women's development and empowerment through a lifelong learning approach. I trust the establishment of the Institute would have the endorsement and support of this Summit, as it constitutes yet another concrete programme of cooperation, in a new area, to tap the creative energies of a vitally important segment of our populations, thereby giving new relevance and impetus to the Movement.

15. As agreed at COMINAC VI, Malaysia proceeded to transform the moribund Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP) to the "NAM News Network" (NNN), under the management of the National News Agency of Malaysia (Bernama). It is hoped that the N.N.N, which is an internet-based news exchange and distribution arrangement, involving both news agencies and newspapers, would provide a more sustained and efficient flow of news and information among the Non-Aligned Countries while providing a much-needed balance to the news about our countries presented by other news networks. I commend the N.N.N for your endorsement and support, which would ensure the dissemination of news about the South by the South. This will serve to increase self-reliance and greater South-South co-operation in the communications field. We look forward to more national new agencies and newspapers of NAM member countries contributing to the N.N.N in the coming months.

16. With the encouragement of the Chair, a NAM Business Council was launched in 2004 to harness the contribution of the private sector of member countries, within the framework of South-South cooperation and the revitalization of the Movement. It is hoped that more efforts would be made in this area in order to realise its potential.

17. The Chair had also worked closely with civil society. An International Conference of Civil Society Organisations on "Peace in Palestine" was held in Putrajaya under the auspices of Peace Malaysia, a Malaysian non-governmental organisation, with the objective of mobilising N.G.Os to actively support the Palestinian cause.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

18. Malaysia is privileged to have had the honour of leading the Movement for well over three years, since February 2003. We had made efforts to revitalise NAM and make it more responsive, efficient and effective to the best of our ability. As Chair we had made number of modest contributions which we hope would be built on, along with other initiatives.

19. During Malaysia's Chairmanship, four countries namely St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Timor Leste, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda joined as new members of our Movement. To day, I wish to welcome to the fold Haiti as well as St. Kitts and Nevis. We welcome them wholeheartedly and look forward to their active participation in the activities of NAM.

20. We are pleased that overall the Movement has remained true to its core values and basic principles, and united on broad issues on its agenda. We are particularly gratified at the continued commitment to issues that are fundamental and dear to us, including that of Palestine, one of the most profound and heart-breaking tragedies of our time. We are united in our common support for the just cause of the Palestinian people and in our sympathy and solidarity for their appalling plight under Israeli occupation. For the sake of our credibility, we must be ready to express our support for, and solidarity with, our fellow NAM members that are under threat or are subjected to aggression, as was the case in Lebanon recently.

21. Clearly, NAM must feel justifiably proud to record some of its major achievements since its founding some forty-five years ago. We had successfully spear-headed the struggle against colonialism. We had contributed towards the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa. However, our work is far from done. Vestiges of colonialism still remain. Indeed, new forms of "colonialism" - more subtle but just as pernicious and exploitative than previously - have surfaced. Even apartheid-like policies and practices have raised their ugly heads in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Armed conflicts and wars still rage in many parts of the world, many of them, unfortunately, in NAM member countries. The threat of nuclear annihilation, with tens of thousands of nuclear weapons remaining in the arsenals of the nuclear-weapon states, remains undiminished. The world is also witnessing encroaching unilateralism and the steady erosion of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

22. The fight against injustice, inequity, political and economic exploitation, trade disparities, big-power dominance, threat of weapons of mass destruction - particularly nuclear weapons - interference and aggression, violation of human

rights, socio-economic backwardness, among others, remain on our agenda. NAM must also deal with other serious issues such as the threat of international terrorism.

23. All of these challenges require us to be vigilant and pro-active, to close ranks and to act in concert as a forum or caucus of developing countries in order to preserve and promote our collective interests. The further strengthening and revitalization of NAM is, therefore, a critically important objective that must continue to be vigorously pursued so as to ensure that our views and positions can be promoted more effectively in the global arena.

24. Towards this end, we need to maintain our unity of common purpose and enhance our cohesion and solidarity. We must maintain consistency of our positions in all international fora and resist efforts to split and weaken us as a Movement. We need to find new areas of common interest, programmes and activities in order to expand the scope of our relations and interaction, and strengthen our cooperation, for example, in socio-economic, trade and developmental issues, beyond our cooperation in the political realm.

25. In a new world, with new realities, a dynamic NAM must be able to adapt itself to these changes, particularly in the context of the rapid process of globalisation. It must modernise itself and not be stuck in a bygone era. It must be prepared to change without forsaking its fundamental principles or its quest for a more just, equitable and peaceful world. We need to maintain a balance, as always, between national interests and the collective interests of the Movement.

26. However, in continuing our struggle, we should not be misunderstood as being against any country or group of countries. NAM is only against injustice, inequity, oppression, selectivity or double standards and all the other negative, exploitative or coercive elements of inter-state relations that take advantage of weak and vulnerable states. We should continue to project to the global community that NAM is a positive force in international relations and is a reliable and constructive partner for peace and development.

27. NAM must develop new linkages and relationships with its partners in the developed world if it wishes to play a role that is commensurate with its size and population. NAM must adopt a more strategic approach on global issues in order to maximise its full potential.

28. Aside from the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement is one of the two largest inter-governmental bodies in the world. We are now 116 strong, and will be further augmented shortly by at least two more members. Our size is an asset as it provides us with a leverage or clout in our efforts to exert influence in the international arena. However, we must also be mindful that our numbers could also turn out to be a liability if it makes us unwieldy, awkward and slow-moving, unable to respond quickly to the rapid changes taking place around the globe. We cannot afford to be reactive or, worse still, static. We will have to learn to move nimbly, in spite of our size, in order to be an active player on the world stage. For this purpose,

there needs to be some serious thinking on our role, strategies and approaches for the future. We can begin by taking a good look at our organisational structures, methodologies, and decision-making processes. I trust that these issues would be fully addressed here at this Summit in Havana. In these efforts, it is important therefore that we extend our fullest co-operation and support to Cuba, our new Chairman.

29. It is with particular pleasure that Malaysia is handing over the leadership of the Movement to Cuba at this 14th NAM Summit, in full confidence of its ability to lead the Movement for the next three years. Its previous record as Chairman of the Movement and the brilliant statesmanship of its leader, President Fidel Castro Ruz, assure us that NAM will once again be in Cuba's very capable hands. We are equally confident that the revitalisation of the Movement will continue expeditiously and be brought to a higher level under Cuba's leadership.

30. I wish this Summit every success and to Cuba, our best wishes in its stewardship of the Movement. As a member of the Troika, Malaysia pledges its unfailing support for our new Chair in its efforts to bring about the further re-invigoration of the Movement that we all desire and look forward to.

31. In closing, may I take this opportunity to express my own and my Government's sincere and profound thanks and appreciation to all the leaders, ministers and officials of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement for the solid cooperation and support extended to Malaysia during its chairmanship of NAM. Finally, I would like to express, on behalf of my delegation, my profound thanks and gratitude to our host, the Government and people of Cuba, for the warm and generous hospitality, courtesies and facilities extended to us throughout this Summit.

Thank you.