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Venue :
Date : 23 SEPTEMBER 1999
Title : MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

Madame Chairperson,

Let me begin by extending my congratulations on your successful stewardship of today's deliberation of NAM. Let me also express my appreciation to the enlightened and progressive remarks made by H.E. President M'Beki. I am sure his remarks will guide and inspire us to work towards achieving the objectives of the Movement.

On the threshold of the new Millennium, the Movement can take pride that much of the vision of its founding fathers has been realised. From a membership of 26 countries, the Movement has increased almost five-folds, with the latest addition of the Dominican Republic. The large membership should reflect our combined strength and diversity of the Movement. The Movement represents two-third of humanity, and we share a common vision to see the establishment of a more just and equitable world order.

Malaysia is gratified as we redefine our role in the post-Cold War era for the Movement to be able to act as a positive and constructive force in international affairs. We are confident that it will continue to be a cohesive force in the coming years as it braces itself to meet the challenges of the future. We trust that given the like-mindedness and commonality of interests amongst us, we will continue to be a relevant forum for discussion as well as coordination of positions and strategies for the common interests of our members.

Madame Chairperson,

With the end of the cold war and the easing of East-West tensions, there were many who were ready to consign our Movement to the dustbin of history on the basis that it has lost its raison d'etre. How wrong have these critics been! Not only has NAM continued to exist, it has grown in strength and stature. While it has become less strident and ideological, the Movement has been successful in influencing the thrust and direction of multilateral debate. Indeed, the Durban Summit saw renewed interest among member states of NAM in the objectives and activities of the Movement. There was also a new found interest on the part of non-member states either to join the Movement - as in the case of Belarus which has since joined our Movement - or to be associated with it as observers.

It is important for the NAM to continue to be on the vanguard of constructive change and transformation. Its large membership will ensure the germination of ideas and creativity, which have enriched and benefited interactions and dialogues among

nations. We look forward to the NAM playing both a catalytic and leadership role in a whole range of issues on the international agenda. Malaysia would like to see NAM continue to provide leadership on issues in such areas as the reform of the United Nations, including that of the Security Council, the Middle East peace process, the ongoing conflicts in Africa, nuclear disarmament and international security, and on economic and financial issues.

Of particular importance to the developing countries is the reform of the United Nations, which we will bequeath to future generations. The Movement has to critically address the important questions of the restructuring of the United Nations, to take into account the concerns and aspirations of the developing world. The restructured United Nations must be reflective of and responsive to, the larger interests of the world, which this Movement represents. It is imperative for the Movement to generate the momentum for reform, particularly of the less-than-democratic Security Council, which remains resistant to change on account of vested interests, inflexible positions or old habits of some of its members. Members of the Movement should recognise what aspects of change and transformation of the Security Council would best serve the interests of its larger membership and exert the full weight of its collective strength and prestige behind these changes. Failure to do so would be to forfeit our potential strength and capability to effect change.

Madame Chairperson,

My country will give its fullest cooperation and support to every effort to further strengthen the Movement's capacity for action to enhance its influence and impact on global affairs. One critical area where we could exert our influence relates to the work of the United Nations Security Council. NAM has already in place a mechanism for this purpose - the NAM Caucus of the UNSC. This mechanism should be fully utilised for the purpose of enhancing the position of the NAM members of the Council. With regular consultations between the Coordinating Bureau and the Caucus on Security Council issues, NAM members of the Security Council will be better able to promote their own as well as the collective interests of the Movement on issues affecting international peace and security, thereby enhancing the solidarity of NAM Council members. Indeed, on issues of particular interest to the Movement, the NAM members of the Council should be encouraged to take the initiative in the council in terms of introducing the appropriate resolutions or presidential statements on issues of common interest. As a current member of the Council, Malaysia has played its part in this process and stands ready to support further efforts in that direction.

Malaysia is particularly gratified that at the last Summit in Durban the issue of economic cooperation among members was given equal importance and prominence to those in the realm of political cooperation. This trend should be welcomed, as there is increasingly, a blurring in the distinction between political and economic issues reflecting the changed international context of our times. The Movement must adapt itself to these changes and realities lest it runs the risk of becoming irrelevant to the present-day needs of its members. In this regard, one of the major challenges which we must address, is how best we could manage the changes brought about by the forces of globalisation.

The global economy continues to be characterised by rapid growth in the flows of trade, finance, information and technology. In a borderless world we live in, there is now greater interdependence among states. Unfortunately, globalisation takes place on an uneven playing field. A large number of Movement member states continue to be marginalised and unable to share the benefits. Member States continue to face a multitude of new challenges as the globalisation process further deepens the technological, financial and information gap between the developed and developing countries.

Recent events in the world economy have demonstrated the need for increased vigilance on the part of developing countries whose economies are vulnerable to the forces of globalisation. The reverberations of the financial crisis that hit Southeast Asia were felt worldwide and that in Southeast Asia itself the crisis has had dramatic political and social ramifications. In the wake of our painful experience, Malaysia had called for a reform of the international financial and economic systems so as to ensure better protection for the vulnerable economies of the developing countries.

We are pleased that the Movement has taken up the issue of the reform of the international financial architecture at the last G8 Summit. Reform of the existing international financial system is necessary to enable countries to participate in this institutions should take into cognisance the particular problems of the developing countries in their decision making process in view of their critical developmental and economic implications. We are gratified to note that there is now a growing recognition reform exercise.

In this regard, my delegation wishes to congratulate the NAM Troika for efforts that have been made to intensify contacts with the G-8 and the European Union on this important subject. Malaysia strongly supports any move to elevate interactions between the NAM and the EU as well as G-8 to the level of Heads of State or Government which should be held at regular intervals.

Malaysia is pleased that the last NAM Summit reaffirmed its commitment to intensify South-South Cooperation in various fields including investment, economic and trade cooperation, science and technology as well as education and technical cooperation with a view to achieving grater collective self-reliance. South-South cooperation has attained new importance and relevance to strengthen the effectiveness of the south in the multilateral process. South-South cooperation constitutes a vital strategy in support of the development efforts of developing countries as well as a means of ensuring their effective participation in an emerging new world order. Malaysia, on its part, has for many years embarked on its own modest programme of cooperation, known as the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), under which the Government of Malaysia sponsors training programmes in human resources development for participants from developing countries.

Madame Chairperson,

Malaysia welcomes the increased coordination between the NAM and the G-77. In this regard, we find the current coordination mechanism - the Joint Coordination Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 (JCC) - as being a useful instrument in advancing the common positions of the developing countries on various global issues. Malaysia believes that such coordination on political and economic issues affecting the developing countries is necessary and should be further enhanced in the context of strengthening their negotiating positions vis-à-vis developed world.

Madame Chairperson,

Malaysia welcomes the Draft Plan of Action that is now before us. We appreciate the fact that it has been an extremely difficult exercise but thanks to the hard work of the Chair we have been able to come up with the Draft Plan of Action, which is an achievement in itself. While the Draft Plan of Action may not meet with the satisfaction of all, it should however, serve as a good basis for the movement to undertake follow-up actions on the decisions of the Durban Summit. Malaysia congratulates South Africa for its commendable and tireless efforts in this regard. Malaysia will fully cooperate in the implementation of these plans of actions.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.