



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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-STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA-

TO INTRODUCE DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.1/71/L.42)
"FOLLOW-UP TO THE ADVISORY OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF
JUSTICE ON THE LEGALITY OF THE THREAT OR USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS"

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 98(L) OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
71TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2016

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia has the honour to introduce to the Committee, for the twentieth consecutive year, the draft resolution L.42 entitled, *"Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons"*.

2. The draft resolution has been co-sponsored by 53 delegations thus far. We On behalf of our co-sponsors, extend our collective appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on the Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, as contained in document A/71/26. We wish to also express our gratitude and thank member States that had contributed to the SG's report, through submission of information requested pursuant to resolution 70/56.

Mr. Chairman,

3. My delegation remains convicted that the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons constitutes a significant milestone in the global efforts aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

4. As the historic Advisory Opinion celebrates its twentieth year this year, the 8 July 1996 ruling by the Court remains a resolute decision in the field of nuclear disarmament. The Court's decision embodies and remains an authoritative legal call to eliminate nuclear weapons.

5. We wish to recall that the unanimous decision that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective control is reflected in Operative Paragraph 1 of the resolution.

6. The ICJ's decision, while being consistent with the obligation of States Parties under Article VI of the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), does not confine itself only to State Parties to the NPT, but rather, and more significantly, exists as a universal declaration of our collective resolve to achieve our aspirations of a world free of nuclear weapons.

7. In addition, Operative Paragraph 2 which underlines the obligation of all States to conduct and successfully conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament is as relevant as it is today, as it was two decades ago. We believe the decision of the ICJ must continue to be followed up by concrete action by all Member States.

8. With a view to achieving the broadest support possible, my delegation has retained the substantive paragraphs in their existing form, and made modifications on the technical updates.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The ICJ's Advisory Opinion remains a significant contribution to the field of nuclear disarmament. Its humanitarian context gives weight to a moral argument in calling for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We take note of the evolution in the nature of resolutions being tabled this year which brings to the forefront the humanitarian aspect and the need for requisite political will and moral courage, in being steadfast towards achieving the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons. This particular point is all the more relevant today, given the growing increase in the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

10. Before concluding, as we enter into the action phase on resolutions at the Committee, in co-sponsoring and supporting this resolution, member States would share our conviction that the Court's Opinion is an important and positive development in nuclear disarmament through the multilateral process. This conviction must continue to be collectively shared, aspired to and built on by all of us here, for the greater good of humankind.

With this, I thank you.