



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION
FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 74TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 23 OCTOBER 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the statement by the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

2. The existence of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) - either nuclear, chemical, or biological, – remains a significant

threat to international peace and security. Since its inception nearly 75 years ago, the United Nations continues to pursue the elimination of all categories of WMDs.

3. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), adopted 27 years ago, is a major breakthrough as it is the first comprehensive multilateral treaty outlawing an entire class of WMDs. Malaysia commends the tireless efforts of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in realising the object and purpose of the CWC. We are pleased that 97% of the world's chemical weapons stockpiles have been eliminated to date.

4. Despite this remarkable progress, we regret and condemn the re-emergence of chemical weapons use of late, which is morally unacceptable and a flagrant breach of international law, especially the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). It is imperative that we hold those responsible for these heinous acts accountable. We also call upon developed countries to promote international cooperation through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes, and remove any discriminatory restrictions that run contrary to the spirit of the CWC.

Mr. Chairman,

5. As a State Party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC), Malaysia remains committed towards full adherence to the Convention. We fully support efforts towards further strengthening of the BWC and promoting its universalisation, as well as the sustained determination of the international community in complying with provisions under the Convention.

6. Malaysia stands ready to facilitate and will participate in the exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes, as enshrined under Article X of the Convention. Pursuant to Article IV of the Convention, we continue to undertake the requisite domestic processes towards adopting a national Biological Weapons Bill, which would further strengthen and ensure effective implementation of the BWC in Malaysia.

Mr. Chairman,

7. In upholding the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), Malaysia reiterates its firm commitment in ensuring that Southeast Asia remains a nuclear weapon-free-zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction. Malaysia will make every effort to continue promoting peace and stability in this region, in accordance with international law and the principles of the UN Charter, in exercising the sovereignty of our region as well as securing our future of a world free of WMDs.

I thank you.