



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali, Permanent Representative of Malaysia
to the United Nations, at the Coordination Segment of the 2008 Substantive
Session of ECOSOC, New York, 8 July 2008**

Thank you, Mr. President,

I would first like to thank the Secretariat for their report and presentation, as well as to associate my delegation with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G77 and China.

2. Our goal in this segment is to evaluate the role played by the United Nations in implementing last year's ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration, which focused on '*Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development*'.

3. It is clear from the reports received that the UN's record in this regard has been mixed. From our perspective, the UN has played a valuable role in advocating the importance of reflecting local particularities in frameworks for development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, based on the premise that 'no-one size fits all'. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that this premise has found greater traction when discussed at the UN level. It is less true in the context of bilateral development cooperation, especially in a scenario where cost pressures are forcing donors to adopt uniform methods of evaluation across all programme countries without taking into account evaluation from the programme countries' perspective. The latter is due in part to the lack of evaluation capacities on the part of these countries. Malaysia therefore supports the recommendation that the UN does more in this regard, which is consistent with the recently adopted TCPR.

4. In terms of coordinative role that the UN plays, the role of the ECOSOC was particularly highlighted. This is an area in which there is much room for improvement. More meaningful interface between the CEB and ECOSOC is one way to do this. However, at a more fundamental level, we note that perfect synchronicity between the ECOSOC will not be achieved as the members of the CEB ultimately reports to the governing bodies, and not the ECOSOC. This was one of the points made during the briefing by Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Chair of the CEB's HLCM at the informal consultations on system-wide coherence held on 13 June 2008. Further, we note her suggestion that an issue to be considered is 'how the coordination segment of ECOSOC may be utilized to enhance transparency and interaction with the CEB'. We would like to commend members of the ECOSOC to do so when we discuss item 7(g) of our agenda.

Mr. President,

5. One of the issues raised in the reports is the key role that science and technology plays in efforts to achieve the IADGs. It is therefore ironic for my delegation that having made this observation, the reports do not contain a reference to the role that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) has played.

6. We believe that the UN should do more to promote science and technology as a means of achieving the IADGs, as well as the ECOSOC's Ministerial Declarations. This can be done by, among others:

6.1 Firstly, establishing a framework for facilitating the transfer of technology, including through, but not confined to, direct governmental action; and

6.2 Secondly, promote developing countries as producers and not mere consumers of technology. Developing countries certainly do not lack the will in this respect. For example, in order to achieve this, Malaysia has recently established the International Centre for South-south Cooperation in Science and Technology in Kuala Lumpur. We had also hosted the World Conference on Information Technology in Kuala Lumpur from 19 -22 May 2008.

Thank you.