



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Haniff,
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations,
at the first session of the
Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,
New York, 15 March 2013**

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you for convening this important two-day session. I also join other delegations in congratulating the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Kenya and Hungary on their election as co-chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for the report on "Initial input of the Secretary-General to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals" presented under this agenda item.

2. At this juncture, I would like to associate my delegation with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Fiji, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

3. I am confident that the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, are competent in carrying out their task as mandated by the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference. We should all continue to support and facilitate the work of this Open Working Group, to ensure an outcome that is beneficial to all Member States.

4. In this connection, my delegation would like to highlight some of the points relating to the SDG process, which could serve as a guide for the work of the Open Working Group.

5. On the working methods of the Open Working Group, it is of utmost importance that the SDG process is conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner, and open to participation of all stakeholders, consistent with the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference. While wanting an efficient way to conduct our work, we also have to ensure that the general membership would have a sense of ownership on the outcome of the Open Working Group's work, hence the need for inclusiveness.

6. The Open Working Group, in this regard, should report regularly to the General Assembly on the progress of its work, and to submit a report to the Assembly at its next session, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and adoption by the UN membership.

7. In reference to the formulation of SDGs, the Open Working Group should be guided by the following elements:

First, the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and the principles contained in the Millennium Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation should be the guiding principles in the formulation of sustainable development goals. In this connection, the targets associated with the sustainable development goals should be common but differentiated or flexible, to allow these goals to be tailored to national characteristics, priorities and level of development;

Second, the development of sustainable development goals should take into account of the need for integration into the post-2015 UN development agenda and in anyway should not undermine the achievement of MDGs by 2015 which is vital for the Least Developed Countries;

Third, poverty eradication must remain the highest priority in the development of sustainable development goals. To realize this goal, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in developing countries is a necessary requirement;

Fourth, wherever feasible, the development of sustainable development goals should strive for a balance of the three dimensions of sustainable development within each goal, possibly through the selection of targets and indicators;

Fifth, each goal should be supported by means of implementation and international cooperation, with a view of assisting developing countries in the implementation of their national sustainable development agenda; and

Sixth, for sustainable development goals to be practically relevant for each country, national circumstances, capacities, priorities and level of development of each country must be carefully taken into account. In short, there should not be a "one size fits all" approach;

Finally, while recognizing that the sustainable development goals are universally applicable, the goals should contain globally accepted values using an inclusive people-centered approach in order to ensure applicability to all countries.

8. In closing, I wish the Open Working Group every success as they begin their work in formulating the sustainable development goals as mandated by the outcome document of the *Rio+20 Conference "The Future We Want"*. We should all rise above national interest, to cater for the good of all Member States. Only then, we can have a real sustainable development, for the future of mankind.

I thank you, Mr. President.