STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA, ON BEHALF OF NAM
AT
"THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON ITEM SUBJECTS AS WELL AS
INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ALL DRAFT
RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER AGENDA ITEMS 57 TO 72"
OF
THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF
THE 59TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON
AGENDA ITEM 65 (E):
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT:
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT;
AGENDA ITEM 65 (K):
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT:
IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
METHODS OF WORK OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE;
AGENDA ITEM 65 (N):
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT:
PROMOTION OF MULTILATERALISM IN THE AREA
OF DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION;
AGENDA ITEM 65 (Q):
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT:
OBSERVANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL NORMS IN THE DRAFTING AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS ON DISARMAMENT AND ARMS
CONTROL;
AGENDA ITEM 65 (DD):
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT:
CONVENING OF THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT;
AND
AGENDA ITEM 66(F):
REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT
OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRES FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

NEW YORK; FRIDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2004
(between ± 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to introduce the following six draft resolutions on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), as our contribution to the multilateral disarmament process.

2. First, draft resolution entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", under agenda item 65(e), and as contained in document A/C.1/59/L.28 dated 13 October 2004. The symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in this connection cannot be denied. NAM is concerned at increasing global military expenditures, which could otherwise be spent on development, poverty eradication and elimination of diseases, in particular in the developing countries. As such, NAM believes that States should consider allocating part of their resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development. In this connection, NAM welcomes the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development, and its reappraisal of this significant issue in the current international context.

3. Second, draft resolution entitled "Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee", under agenda item 65 (k), and as contained in document A/C.1/59/L.13 dated 12 October 2004. In the spirit of General Assembly resolutions 58/41, 58/126 and 58/316 as well recognising the importance of enhancing the effectiveness and role and working methods of the First Committee, NAM would like to offer its views on this important question. We believe that improving the functioning of the Committee is an ongoing process that should be considered in an integrated and comprehensive manner through the existing three stages of the Committee. NAM believes that the measures proposed in this draft resolution could contribute towards improving the functioning and role of the Committee in promoting peace and security. I should like to inform the Committee, however, that we are continuing with informal consultations with all delegations with a view to agreeing on a consensus text.

4. The third draft resolution is A/C.1/59/L.11 dated 12 October 2004, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation", under agenda item 65(n). NAM believes strongly in multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as the only sustainable way of addressing disarmament and international security issues. We believe that it is critical for the General Assembly to adopt such a resolution to reflect our continued conviction in the role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. The draft resolution embodies the desire of the international community for multilateral cooperation in this area. Much is at stake, including the danger of the unravelling of existing international disarmament treaties.
5. Fourth, draft resolution entitled “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control”, under agenda item 65 (o), and as contained in document A/C.1/59/L.10 dated 12 October 2004. NAM considers this question to be an important item on the Committee’s agenda. Ensuring the continued sustainability of the global environment is an issue of utmost importance, especially for our succeeding generations. We should collectively endeavour to ensure that necessary measures are taken to preserve and protect the environment especially in the formulation and implementation of agreements concerning disarmament and arms control.

6. Fifth, draft resolution entitled “Convening of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament”, under agenda item 65 (dd), and as contained in document A/C.1/59/L.14 dated 12 October 2004. As a result of our open-ended informal consultations and for the sake of clarity, we have made a minor amendment on operative paragraph 2 by inserting the phrase “in 2006” after the phrase “its substantive sessions”. I believe that the Committee can accept this as orally amended. For the information of the Committee, following consultations with the Secretariat concerning the date for the convening the Open-ended Working Group on SSOD-IV, there would be one meeting of the organizational session in January 2006, and three substantive sessions that will consist of 15 meetings. The substantive sessions would be convened between March and June 2006 (Spring 2006). The report of the Open-ended Working Group on SSOD-IV would be submitted prior to the conclusion of the 60th Session of the General Assembly, at the latest in August 2006.

7. Finally, draft resolution entitled “United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament”, under agenda item 66(f), and as contained in document A/C.1/59/L.9 dated 12 October 2004. The UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament have been instrumental in promoting understanding and cooperation among States in their respective regions in the fields of peace, disarmament and development. We hope that the centres will continue to receive the support, especially that of Member States, with a view to enabling them to strengthen, improve and implement their activities and programmes.

8. The Non-Aligned Movement hopes that all delegations will be able to join us in extending their support to the six draft resolutions that my delegation has just tabled.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.