



MALAYSIA

Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York

**STATEMENT BY COL. MOHAMAD SURIA SAAD
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 54:
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION
OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN
ALL THEIR ASPECTS**

**AT THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE
(FOURTH COMMITTEE) OF THE 75th SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 20 OCTOBER 2020

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to thank all the briefers for their informative briefings to the Committee.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Azerbaijan and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), respectively.

3. Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to the vital importance of peacekeeping operations in the maintenance of international peace and security. We cherish this noble effort, and would like to pay tribute to the

sacrifices of peacekeepers - to the devoted men and women serving with unwavering dedication in the name of peace.

4. At present, Malaysian peacekeepers are serving in five peacekeeping missions throughout the globe. Currently, Malaysia is in transition for the rotation of 820 of our soldiers in UNIFIL. On the same note, we are delighted that we have been able to continue our partnership with Brunei Darussalam whereby 30 personnel from the Royal Bruneian Armed Forces are embedded with their Malaysian counterparts.

5. We are also pleased to be able to continue increasing the number of women peacekeepers serving under the UN banner. It is our hope that our women peacekeepers will contribute significantly to the success of those missions.

6. Malaysia recognises and applauds efforts by the United Nations in engaging with regional and sub-regional organisations, host countries and financial institutions in support for better peacekeeping that is fit for purpose.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Malaysia supported ongoing efforts by the UN Secretariat in ensuring the maintenance of effective operational requirement during this difficult and troubling period. We could certainly learn from past health experiences and draw from the experience of Member States in dealing with the pandemic and continue to coordinate closely particularly with WHO.

8. We express our fervent hope that all peacekeepers sustain their efforts in dealing with these unprecedented challenges. Nevertheless, in order to undertake additional tasks amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we must be mindful that the United Nations would need to enhance their current resources and deployment to be effective. Hence, doing more with less will not be practical.

9. In carrying out their duties in a pandemic environment, peacekeepers must be equipped with adequate personal protective equipment and skills which require adjustment and adaptation in their training. In this context, Malaysia supports efforts to thoroughly re-examine tactical, technical and procedural aspects of peacekeeping while operating in such harsh circumstances. It is also vital that such efforts should include the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt while operating during the pandemic, in order to ensure a more effective, prepared and resilient peacekeeping to deal with future pandemics.

10. To conclude, Malaysia reaffirms its support for United Nations peacekeeping operations that are better enhanced and adequately strengthened. We owe it to ourselves and our stakeholders to ensure that peacekeeping remains effective and is able to adequately respond to evolving challenges of today and tomorrow.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.