



# Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE SENATOR JASPAL SINGH,  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA ,  
ON AGENDA ITEM 83 ENTITLED  
“RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS ”  
AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statements made by Iran on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement and by Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Malaysia welcomes the focus given on the issue of ‘Rule of Law’ during the High-Level Segment of the 67th Session of the General Assembly. There were a host of side events on various aspects of the rule of law, from, among others, “Electoral Justice” and “Woman Access to Justice” to “the Peaceful Settlement of Conflicts and “the Post 2015 Agenda”. The numerous meetings and discussions on the issue culminated in the adoption of a Declaration at the High-Level Meeting on the rule of law. Despite it being the first time that the rule of law has been discussed as a thematic issue by itself at the highest level, the overwhelming interest shown by many Heads of State, Government and Ministers to participate in the meeting reflects the importance of the issue among all States.

3. Malaysia feels the successful convening of the High Level Meeting on the rule of law is a first step towards greater respect and adherence to international law, including international humanitarian and human rights laws. Given the nature of the subject



Mr. Chairman,

8. On the issue of rule of law in maintaining peace and security and in response to the recent violent reactions across the Middle East and North Africa, Malaysia is firm with our stand that such freedom of expression must be exercised with responsibility. Freedom and rights must be exercised with caution, respect of others and with responsibility in accordance with Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In a multicultural, multiracial society like Malaysia, misunderstanding and prejudices could easily take place, which would result in unwarranted consequences. While individuals are free to express their views, the Government must take into account the best interest of the majority and all strata of the society. It is due to this approach that Malaysians continue to enjoy relative peace, security and harmony. The same could apply to the international community in which the interest of all could and should be served.

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