



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY
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REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 94(c):
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**BEFORE THE SECOND COMMITTEE
DURING THE 58TH SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK**

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Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the reports of the Secretary-General and other documents presented to this Committee for its deliberation on this agenda item.
2. My delegation associates itself with the statement made yesterday by the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the G77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Conservation of biological diversity remains one of Malaysia's top priorities. Consequently, the increasing loss of biological diversity is a central concern for Malaysia. As a member of the Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries, Malaysia feels a special responsibility in ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of its biological resources, as well as fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from biodiversity. Recognizing the rich cultural heritage of the country, Malaysia has taken steps to ensure that its development strategies are carried out in a sustainable manner to protect and conserve biological diversity. In this connection, Malaysia's National Policy on Biological Diversity has been formulated to provide direction, strategies, plans and programmes to conserve the nation's biological resources and to ensure that its components are utilized in a sustainable manner.

4. Malaysia strongly believes that in view that biological resources have great potential to be developed into viable commercial products, the evolution of technologies in this area should continue to be monitored to prevent possible adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. For this reason, the Eighth Malaysia Plan has identified biotechnology as a major initiative in the promotion of science and technology, research and development as well as technological innovation to support Malaysia's overall strategy for sustainable growth. The main implementation vehicle for the Biotechnology programme is BioValley Malaysia, launched in October 2002.

5. At the same time, Malaysia supports the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which aims to contribute towards ensuring an adequate level of protection when dealing with living modified organisms, that may have potential adverse effects on human, plant and animal health as well as our environment and biological diversity. In this connection, Malaysia welcomes the recent entry into force of the Protocol, which represents a considerable development in the progress of the work done under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Malaysia welcomes Resolution 57/280 of the General Assembly, which reiterated the importance of the decision of the 4th WTO Ministerial Meeting to examine, through the WTO Council on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the

relationship between the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge. This would ensure that action is taken to implement the commitment to promote the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. This, we think, would be best achieved through an international regime under the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote and safeguard this principle.

7. The reaffirmation by the World Summit on Sustainable Development that the Convention on Biological Diversity was "the key instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources", was a welcome indication of the growing awareness of the importance of biodiversity. Consequently, Malaysia would like to recall the commitments made by Member States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity. Towards this end, we believe that it is imperative that there be support from the international community in terms of technical, technological and financial assistance. In this connection, we would also encourage intensified cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Environment Facility secretariat towards enhancing the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in assisting developing countries to implement the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Malaysia further notes the progress and development under this issue following the 8th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Montreal, Canada from 10 to 14 March 2003, the Open-ended Intersessional Meeting on the Multiyear Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 held in Montreal, Canada from 17 to 20 March 2003, and the Meeting on 2010: The Global Biodiversity Challenge, held in London from 21 to 23 May 2003. We welcome the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity submitted to the General Assembly as document A/58/191, which points to this progress.

9. The past year has seen some measurable progress in the work done under the framework of the Convention. However, my delegation believes that we must not rest on our laurels. We should continue to strive for overall sustainable development, which in turn is paramount in the fight against poverty. In this regard, Malaysia hopes to see a high level of participation at the upcoming 7th Meeting of the Conferences of Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will be held from 9 to 20 February 2004 in Kuala Lumpur and the Conference of the Parties serving on the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, also to be held in Kuala Lumpur from 23 to 27 February 2004. We look forward to welcome the delegations concerned in Malaysia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.