

Statement by Malaysia

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar on Follow-up to HRC Resolutions S-5/1 and 6/33 And the Special Rapporteur on DPRK Thursday, 13 March 2008

Mr. President,

We thank Professor Pinheiro for his presentation and reports. We also appreciate the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Myanmar in highlighting to the Council the recent significant developments in his country.

2. Malaysia continues to believe that national reconciliation and consolidation of democratic efforts is fundamental to enduring peace, stability and socio-economic development in Myanmar. These are the important pre-requisites for further advancing the general well-being of the people of Myanmar, including better standard of living and full enjoyment of human rights. We welcome the positive developments that have taken place since last December, particularly the preparation for the holding of a National Referendum on the State Constitution in May 2008 and the timeframe for multi-party general elections in 2010.

3. Malaysia would encourage the Myanmar Government to continue on the path towards democratic reforms, by engaging the relevant stakeholders in the country through meaningful, substantive, inclusive and time-bound political process. We welcome the contacts between the Government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. All sides should be able to play more effective role as partners in this important process, without constrictions, and with the necessary commitment and flexibility to ensure its sustainability and success in the interest of Myanmar and her people. All efforts in this direction must be sustained and further consolidated.

4. As a close neighbour and fellow ASEAN member, Malaysia recognizes the many and complex challenges that Myanmar needs to address, including those cited in the reports of the Special Rapporteur. The continued engagement with the international community will be helpful for Myanmar to addressing those challenges, including the improvement of human rights situation in the country.

5. We too believe this Council can play a meaningful role to assist Myanmar through a forward-looking, constructive and consensus

approach that is coherent with other important efforts undertaken by the United Nations so far, particularly by Secretary-General Special Adviser Ibrahim Gambari, who again visited Myanmar earlier this month. Malaysia will continue to work with other ASEAN countries to encourage Myanmar to maintain its engagement with these mechanisms.

Mr. President,

6. Constructive approach by the Council through dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation with the concerned countries is crucial if we are to give positive effects to efforts in addressing genuine human rights problems. Old ways of confrontation and politicisation that had discredited the Commission on Human Rights should not continue in this Council. It is in this context that Malaysia would like to regard the discussion on the other subject before us today ((the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea)). We thank Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn for his presentation and report, and we have also listened with great interest the statement by the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in responding to them.

Thank you.