



KEYNOTE ADDRESS
BY
YAB DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA
AT THE
EXECUTIVE TALK BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
27 OCTOBER 2025

Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations

Yang Berhormat Datuk Mohamad Alamin

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia

Yang Berbahagia Dato 'Sri Mustapa Mohamed

President

United Nations Association of Malaysia

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

First and foremost, a very happy United Nations Day to all of you!

Mr. Secretary-General,

1. It is an honour to have you celebrating the UN Day with us here in Malaysia. Allow me to take this opportunity to express Malaysia's deepest appreciation for your tireless leadership and moral clarity. Under your stewardship, the United Nations has remained a steadfast voice for peace and security, for sustainable development, and for human rights.
2. Today we are here to celebrate what the UN stands for: hope, cooperation, and the belief that together, we can build a better future.

3. Sometimes we take for granted how connected we all are. Whether it's climate change, conflict, or just the price of our morning coffee; global challenges have a funny way of ending up right at our doorstep. That is why, the work of the United Nations remains vital.
4. And Malaysia has always believed in that spirit. Since joining the UN in 1957, we've stood up for peace, fairness, and multilateralism.
5. Here at home, the Government of Malaysia has worked closely with partners like the United Nations Association of Malaysia (UNAM), the private sectors and our friends in the UN agencies to bring those ideals to life. From promoting sustainable development to empowering our youth, these efforts remind us that international cooperation isn't just something that happens in New York, but it happens right here in Malaysia too.
6. At the regional level, we have worked to strengthen ASEAN's role as a constructive and reliable partner within the multilateral system. As ASEAN Chair, we continue to believe that regional cooperation plays a vital role in reinforcing and complementing the international multilateral framework.

7. Beyond the region, Malaysia's commitment to the United Nations is clearly reflected in our long and proud record of participation in peacekeeping operations since 1960. Today, more than 800 Malaysian peacekeepers are deployed in five Peacekeeping Operations and one Special Political Mission worldwide.
8. At the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial 2025 in Berlin, Malaysia was honoured with a United Nations award recognising the participation of female peacekeepers in its missions. This is a testament to our commitment to gender inclusivity in peace operations, and aligns with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda of the UN.
9. Through the Humanitarian Trust Fund for the People of Palestine, Malaysia has contributed USD 17 million in financial and humanitarian assistance since 2024. This reflects Malaysia's enduring solidarity with the Palestinian people and our principled support for humanitarian relief in times of crisis.
10. Beyond peace and security, Malaysia has been a firm partner in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. In 2024, Malaysia presented its Voluntary National Review. Achieving 43 per cent of its SDG indicators, Malaysia is significantly ahead of the global average of 17 percent.

11. We have also lent our voice to strengthening the Global South, consistently supporting fostering development. Through Malaysia's Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), we have shared our own development experiences and expertise with fellow developing countries.
12. Malaysia remains committed to bridging divides between North and South, developed and developing, large and small, to ensure that no one is left behind.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

13. A key priority for Malaysia as ASEAN Chair is to advance the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), a visionary initiative to integrate power markets, strengthen energy security, and unlock renewable potential. Under Malaysia's Chairmanship, the endorsement of the Enhanced APG MOU and the launch of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2026-2030 and ASEAN Power Grid Financing Initiative mark bold steps toward a fully

interconnected grid by 2045. With projects linking Lao PDR, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore (LTMS), and future links with Vietnam and the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines (BIMP) region, we are turning this vision into action and powering towards a cleaner, more resilient, and inclusive ASEAN.

14. Nationally, Malaysia is committed to achieving its net-zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions target by 2050. This commitment, among others, is reinforced in the National Energy Transition Roadmap that charts Malaysia's path towards a low-carbon economy, targeting 70 percent renewable energy capacity by 2050.
15. Malaysia plans to submit its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0, ahead of the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, this November. This updated NDC will reflect Malaysia's enhanced climate ambition and its alignment with national actions under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

16. Our work at the national, regional, and global levels reflects a consistent belief that the challenges we face are shared, and therefore, must be met through shared solutions, in the true spirit of the United Nations.
17. While the United Nations has stood tall for eight decades, we must also acknowledge that it is not without its challenges. The complexity of today's world, marked by shifting power dynamics, new technologies, and transboundary threats has tested the very foundations of our multilateral system.
18. We must then confront the reality that multilateralism is under strain. From protracted conflicts to emerging crises, multilateral institutions are being challenged, criticised, and at times, branded ineffective. The paralysis of the UN Security Council in addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the difficulties ASEAN faces on Myanmar and rising geopolitical rivalries have eroded public faith in global governance.
19. This is why we cannot remain silent on the issues that demand urgent and serious action. Foremost among these is the question of reform.

20. We must look into reviewing the use or abuse of veto power. The veto power of the Permanent Five members must be abolished, or at the very least limited to the point of irrelevance. There is no moral justification for deliberating on peace while a single veto can block action. And in doing so, effectively condone the killing of thousands, as we see in Palestine today.
21. Therefore, a reform of the UN is not about weakening it. This reform is about restoring its legitimacy. The UN system in itself has the answer - and that is the most inclusive body of the United Nations : the General Assembly.
22. Malaysia has raised this point at the 80th session of the UN General Assembly. Today, I reiterate it before you. The authority must return to the people of the world, represented through the General Assembly. And the time has come to act firmly, including through sanctions against Israel, until justice is restored.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

23. Reflecting the UN's 80-year journey, we recognise both its achievements and its limitations. The world has changed,

but the core values of the UN Charter remain as relevant as ever.

24. As we celebrate the UN Day today, let's remind ourselves that every one of us whether in government, civil society, or just as ordinary Malaysians, has a part to play in shaping a fairer, greener, and more peaceful world.
25. So, let's keep the conversations going, the partnerships strong, and translate our words into concrete and meaningful actions.

I thank you.