



**STATEMENT BY H.E. DATO' NADZIRAH OSMAN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE GENEVA  
AT THE 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  
14 - 18 OCTOBER 2024**

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His Excellency Mr. Filippo Grandi  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia associates itself with the OIC statement. Malaysia also wishes to convey our welcome to Ms. Louise Irene Aubin as the new UNHCR Representative in Malaysia and assure her of our continued support and cooperation.

2. As a country directly impacted by the conflict in Myanmar, Malaysia supports regional and international efforts, aimed at finding a peaceful and amicable solution to the political crisis.

3. Malaysia also attaches great importance to regional and international cooperation on addressing refugee issues, while also underscores the importance to ensure that its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity are not compromised.

4. While Malaysia is not a party to the 1951 Refugees Convention and its 1967 Protocol, the Government continues to provide the necessary assistance to refugees in Malaysia on humanitarian grounds.

5. We currently host the largest refugees and asylum seekers in Southeast Asia. Myanmar accounts for 88% of the total registered refugees in Malaysia, of which 65.4% are Rohingyas. Despite facing numerous constraints, including overstretched resources, Malaysia continues to strengthen its social protection system for refugees by providing them access to education via Alternative Learning Centres (ALC), as well as access to healthcare and medical services on a subsidised rate.

Mr. High Commissioner, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. We admit that there is still much to be done towards realising the right to education for refugees in Malaysia and we are keen to learn best practices from other host countries in this regard.

7. At the same time, we wish to highlight that the Government of Malaysia has revised its National Security Council Directive on Policy and Mechanism for the Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, with the aim of addressing the issue of refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia in a more holistic manner, while waiting for their resettlement to a third country.

8. The Government of Malaysia has also been collaborating closely with UNHCR on the management of refugees through the Joint Task

Force meeting jointly co-chaired by UNHCR representative and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

9. In relation to citizenship issues, after a long struggle to grant citizenship to children born abroad to Malaysian women, we are almost there. At this juncture, the Citizenship Bill will be tabled for the second and third reading during the current Parliament sitting.

Mr. High Commissioner, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. For over a year now, the humanitarian catastrophe has continued unchecked in Gaza. About 90% of the people of Gaza have already been displaced and the conflict shows no sign of abating. In fact, it has escalated and spill over to the region.

11. In solidarity with Palestine, last August, Malaysia has flown 127 Palestinians displaced from Gaza, including 41 injured to Malaysia, for medical treatment.

12. We strongly call for an end to the occupation, and for Israel to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice in its entirety and without delay. Malaysia stands firm on her principled position that the Palestinians deserve their own independent and sovereign state, based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its Capital.

Mr. High Commissioner, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. To conclude, Malaysia reaffirms our call for burden and responsibility sharing. We must also collectively address global conflicts which are the major driver of displacement and statelessness.

Thank you.