Delegation from The Federation of Malaysia
Position Paper for GerMUN

The issues before the General Assembly in this year's session are: The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament, Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System and the Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. In Malaysia there is the saying: 'if it is heavy, we carry it together on our shoulders; if it is light, we carry it together in our hands.' We think we must all work together to carry these three topics on our shoulders.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

Emerging technologies have had an impact on international security since their appearance. As the progress is now accelerating faster than ever, it is shedding light on the risks but also possibilities for the world's security situation. The United Nations have not acted for a long time and only set up institutions regarding some of the emerging technologies, like Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the recent years. But one invention is nearly forgotten: nanotechnology. Its risks to cybersecurity and dangers of large-scale surveillance must not be ignored as the particles can cross the blood-brain barrier and spy on humans or infect them with diseases. The aerosol delivery is possible without being noticed. Nevertheless, the technology brings – amongst many more – the possibilities of better protection of soldiers in the field through gear and uniforms that can secure and heal soldiers and the detection of toxins and the detoxification of regions by nanosensors containing biodetection schemes. Malaysia already identified this great potential in 2009 and established the NanoMalaysia organization which focuses for example on the industrialization and facilitation of investments in this sector. We see a need for addressing this emerging technology within the UN and for dealing both with its risks and possibilities in international security, as already done with AI.

Malaysia recalls the General Assembly resolution 72/28 (2017) that acknowledges the impact of science and technology in international security and disarmament. We highlight the work of the Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) in regard to the increasing importance of emerging technologies and the need to control them. We appreciate the progress made regarding some emerging technologies and support the UN's efforts in regulating AI. We especially reaffirm the upcoming Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics by the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) which focusses on the risks of AI and the exchange of knowledge. While there has been much commitment by the UN tackling AI, nanotechnology was only mentioned in *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization science report: towards 2030* (2015) and no institutions have been set up focusing on its risks. We see the need for an institution for both understanding and regulating nanotechnology in the way it is already done in the case of AI.

The Federation of Malaysia suggests the establishment of a Centre for Nanotechnology, following the model of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. The Centre shall be organized by the UNICRI as well and have the same key tasks of risk assessment, awareness-rising among policy makers through workshops and expert's meetings, facilitation of technology and knowledge exchange and organizing international conferences as the Centre for AI only regarding nanotechnology in international security instead. The headquarter shall be set up in San Jose as it is one of the Top five so called "Nano Metro" areas. The staff shall be composed of personnel from the UNICRI and special experts in the field of nanotechnologies from national offices already dealing with nanotechnologies and professionals from leading companies and successful start-ups. As the UNICRI is entirely depended on donations for their financing, UNICRI should call on its donors to also contribute to this new Centre.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

The United Nations as a worldwide operating and influential organization deals with millions of challenges all over the planet, but there is one important task that faces the UN internally: reformation. As it does not adapt automatically to shifting circumstances, members must participate actively and need information on the UN's performance for that. The reporting on this to the member states has already been brought up to a high level, but states must not be the only entity that the UN is accountable to. Regional state unions and associations as for example the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the European Union or the

African Union play a vital role in the international community, as well, and it is important for their decision making to share a common basis of knowledge about worldwide ongoing operations and developments. Therefore, they need to be included when aiming for sustainable improvement of transparency and accountability within the UN system.

Recognizing the UN Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB), the Federation of Malaysia ascribes great importance to CEB's task of improving the transparency and accountability of the UN. We see the reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly as crucial to enable the member states to monitor the progress of UN's important contemporary missions. Malaysia appreciates the General Assembly resolution on "*Accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, results-based management framework*" (*A/RES/63/276* (2009)) as the main framework focusing on accountability within the UN. Particularly reaffirming the General Assembly resolution 67/236 (2013), we highlight the regular briefings and presentations by the CEB to the member states as crucial for giving them the possibility of informed engagement. We appreciate the General Assembly resolution 64/236 (2010) and that the CEB passes important information to the member states and the public via internet but identify an overall lack of reporting to regional leagues.

In order to successfully increase the UN's accountability, Malaysia suggest adding regional associations to the list of whom the CEB has to report to by presentations and briefings. The associations should be allowed to send requests for additional information in case of unclarity to the CEB, as well, that shall then be included in their informal briefings. Member states should also get this possibility from now on. Regional leagues can apply to get included in CEB's reporting. It will then be decided by the CEB whether they are important actors in the international community and should therefore be added to the list.

III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women

Gender equality and female empowerment are becoming more and more common. While noticing successes in female education and economic integration, it is concussive not having dealt with a horrific threat to women: rape. Sexual violence is a serious threat not only to half of the earth's population, but also to the global community and development, and must be prevented. Even if there are already several efforts to fight rape, too few of them focus on rural regions where the threat is particularly high, and the awareness is low. But women must feel secure in public in general, not only in metropolitan areas. Our country has continuously shown that the fight against violence against women is a major concern for Malaysia by passing the Domestic Violence Act (1994) and by adding provisions prohibiting sexual harassment to the Employment Act (1955), the Industrial Relations Act (1967) and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (1994). However, on the international level there is still a lot to be done.

Recalling the *UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW, 1979), Malaysia stresses the importance of the protection of women. By the participation in regional plans of action for the implementation of the CEDAW, we showed our effort in gradually altering the situation for women and conjure to the impact of local aid. In addition, we support UN Women as an important international organization in the fight for gender equality. The Federation of Malaysia especially acknowledges the partnership of UN Women with United Nations Habitat and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on the Safe Cities Initiative. The *Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global results report* (2017) shows the achievements of enhancing safety in urban areas. We honor their efforts but see a problem in the exclusive focus on cities.

Malaysia therefore proposes to expand the Safe Cities Initiative to rural areas. Just as in the cities the initiative shall work together with mayors' offices, national governments and women's groups to implement tools and policies against sexual violence including prevention activities, adjustment of infrastructure, advocation for adapted legislation and monitoring of applications. The first regions shall be around the cities Quito (Ecuador), Cairo (Egypt), New Delhi (India), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) and Kigali (Rwanda), were the Safe Cities initiative started and more areas shall be included over time. The responsibility for expanding the initiative shall be bore by UN Women, UNICEF and UN-Habitat. For financial resources the initiative should call upon the previous donors and partners of the Safe Cities Initiative to contribute towards the expansion efforts. As the personnel needs to be extended, as well, the Safe Cities Initiative shall employ local staff and instruct them as they already do for their work in cities.