

**Statement by Ms. Syuhada Adnan**

**Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations**

**4th Session Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas**

**15 May 2017**

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Thank you Madam Chair.

At the outset, my delegation wishes to congratulate you on your re-election as the Chairperson-Rapporteur, and express our appreciation for the diligence and commitment that you have demonstrated in the preparation for the current Session of the Working Group. Malaysia takes this opportunity to align itself with the statement delivered by Venezuela on behalf of the NAM.

1. The Malaysian Government recognises those working in the agricultural sector as important contributors to the national economy. Malaysia also recognises the importance of creating a conducive environment for small-scale farmers to thrive and survive through their choice of agricultural activities and means of livelihoods.
2. The Malaysian Government has formulated and implemented various laws and policies to support the realization of socio-economic rights of farmers. These include to improve access to agricultural input, access to markets, as well as ensuring their competitiveness vis-à-vis large-scale corporations.
3. For example, the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA), while originally tasked to assist in the resettlement of the rural poor by providing them with lands and assistance to improve their economic means, has sought to diversify the range of economic, development and business activities to realize the vision of providing “land for the landless” and “jobs for the jobless”.
4. The empowerment of farmers in Malaysia is directly linked to the Government’s core strategy to enable the rural poor to break free from the circle of poverty, which has proven to be successful today.
5. Malaysia observes that the dynamics of small-time farming has evolved and that new challenges increase the complexity, whether due to global competition or other reasons. In understanding further these challenges and exploring ways of mitigate them, Malaysia views positively the discussions to be held during this Session and look forward to contributing to it.

I thank you.

**GENEVA
15 May 2017**