

MALAYSIA



Mr. Chair,

4. Malaysia records its gratitude to the UN officials and experts on mission for their important work, sometimes serving even at great personal risk and in harsh conditions. Early this week, the President of the General Assembly at the Fourth Committee stated that this year so far 72 people have paid the ultimate price while serving under the UN flag. Since that statement, we have received the tragic news of three Bangladeshi peacekeepers killed, and one injured in an IED explosion in Central Africa in the middle of this week. Our hearts go out to the families of the victims of this terrible tragedy, as well as the Government, and people, of Bangladesh. As a troop contributing country ourselves, Malaysia views with serious concern any act which tarnishes the noble efforts and sacrifices of UN personnel and experts on peacekeeping and other missions.

Mr. Chair,

5. Malaysia continues to reiterate that Member States have a primary responsibility for establishing jurisdiction for crimes committed by their nationals while serving on UN missions. Malaysia, in this regard, wishes to highlight that it has jurisdiction over crimes committed by its military personnel, in their capacity as officials and experts on mission, by virtue of the Armed Forces Act 1972. The provisions of this legislation continue to apply to such personnel wherever they may be deployed. This is also provided in the applicable UN Status of Forces arrangements. To promote integrity and credibility among its peacekeeping personnel in the performance of their duties, Malaysia established the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre (MPC) in 1996. The MPC has become an internationally-worthy operational and training facility for peacekeepers emphasizing on international humanitarian law and respect for the rule of law.

6. Malaysia further supports the call for cooperation among States and the UN regarding the exchange of information and facilitation of investigations and prosecutions to ensure that there is no impunity for serious crimes. Malaysia's Extradition Act 1992 and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 2002 together with its network of extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters treaties provide the legal basis for such international cooperation.

