

**6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON  
MARITIME SECURITY, BALI, INDONESIA, 22-23 MAY 2014**

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA ON MH370 SEARCH OPERATIONS UNDER  
AGENDA ITEM 8 – MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE**

Mr Co-Chair,

Thank you for giving Malaysia the floor to brief the Meeting on Malaysia's efforts in the search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH 370. It has been more than 70 days since MH 370 was reported missing from Kuala Lumpur en route to Beijing. The Aircraft had carried 227 passengers and 12 crew from 14 countries, some of the nationalities are represented here today.

3. The initial phase of the Search and Rescue Operation had covered areas in South China Sea, Andaman Sea, Straits of Melaka, the Indian Ocean, as well as land areas throughout South East Asia. In the Search and Rescue Operation, Malaysia had received assistance from 26 countries. The assistance included deployment of assets (ships and aircraft) and sharing of reports, radar signals, and satellite images.

4. Subsequently, based on the satellite information provided by the Australian authorities, the search have zeroed in on the Southern part of the Indian Ocean, west of Perth, Australia.

5. On 24 March 2014 the Prime Minister of Malaysia announced in a press conference that experts have established "beyond any doubt" that flight MH 370 had ended in the Indian Ocean.

**Second phase of the search operation**

6. The Government of Malaysia appreciated the role played by Australia as the main coordinator for the search operation in the South Indian Ocean. This operation is joined by many other countries including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, the United States, United Kingdom and the Republic of Korea. The operation involved the deployment of 19 military and 10 civilian aircrafts and other vessels as required.

7. After weeks of intensive search, there was a need to re-strategize the search operations. The current phase of search operations involves underwater search, including bathymetric or sea-bed survey and could involve private contractors with specialized capabilities.

Mr Co-Chair,

8. Since day one, Malaysia's conduct in relation to the families and next-of-kin of the passengers and crew of MH 370 has consistently been guided by the principle of transparency **and** respect for the feelings as well as privacy of those concerned. Malaysia's Acting Minister of Transport on 5 April 2014 had announced the establishment of three (3) National Ministerial Working Committees including one specifically to look into the affairs of the Next-of-Kin headed by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Malaysia. Efforts have been taken to ensure families are fully informed of current developments in the search operations as well as to ensure they are given the necessary support in facing these difficult times.

### **Lessons Learnt**

Mr Co-Chair,

9. My presentation would not be complete without sharing the lessons Malaysia and others has learnt in the search for MH 370 at this stage. There's room for improvements which the international community could explore further to answer the question how could a modern jetliner go missing in this age of advanced technology?

10. The Prime Minister of Malaysia has made suggestions on how best to move forward from the incident of MH 370 in terms of the search for the missing plane itself and the equipment on board. Some of the suggestions include:

- 10.1 To implement real-time tracking of commercial aircraft;
- 10.2 To consider changing communications system, namely the transponder and the Aircraft Addressing and Reporting System (ACARS) so they could not be disabled mid-air;
- 10.3 To consider increasing the "life" of the black box pinger locator to at least 90 days after an accident;

- 10.5 To restudy the time limit of a commercial plane's black box recording. Today's black box only records the last two (2) hours of cockpit conversation. This seems wholly inadequate and merits a restudy;
- 10.6 Airliner's emergency locator transmitters, which emit a distress signal when the plane is in trouble, could also be improved to work well underwater and their mandated battery life should be more than 24 hours.

The government of Malaysia had already been in communication with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in this regard.

### **Concluding remarks**

Finally Mr Co-Chair,

11. The Government of Malaysia is tremendously grateful for the efforts made by all countries concerned in leading the search and recovery operations in the Southern Indian Ocean. The fact that flight MH370 has still not been found underscores the complexity and difficulty of this operations. Nevertheless, Malaysia with the continued cooperation of other countries, has not given up hope in the search.

Thank you.