

**INTERVENTION BY MR. LOH SECK TIONG, REPRESENTATIVE OF
PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSION
POACHING AND ILLICIT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING – A MULTIDIMENSIONAL
CRIME AND A GROWING CHALLENGE TO
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
26 SEPTEMBER 2013, CR 1 (CB), UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK 1.00 – 3.00 PM**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank the Government of the Gabonese Republic, and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for convening today's high level discussion and for inviting Malaysia to be part of this important event.

2. Malaysia is very serious in its efforts to curb poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking which is a growing challenge to the international community. To address this issue, Malaysia has taken the following measures:

One, on the domestic front, a new Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 [Act 716] was introduced which contained higher penalties and includes jail term of not more than five years for offences committed under the Act. It will be a deterrent for locals getting into the illicit wildlife trafficking business;

Two, the International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 [Act 686] was gazetted and came into force on 28 December 2009. The main purpose of the Act is to control the international trade of species listed under CITES and to ensure Malaysia's compliance towards CITES obligation. The Government has appointed 7 Management Authorities from various sectors to assist on related issues. In this regard, the successful seizure of several tons of ivory consignments over the years is testimony of Malaysia's commitment to the CITES mandate.

Three, in Sabah and Sarawak, two of the largest states in Malaysia that are rich with wildlife, related ordinance and enactments on wildlife conservation and protection have been gazetted in order to manage the wildlife and to re-enforce the implementation of the Act 686 in these states;

Four, to further reflect Malaysia's commitment, the Government has approved an organizational strengthening exercise of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks involving creation of additional and new posts with a view of curbing crimes related to wildlife;

Five, under the Malaysia's Blue Ocean Strategy, the related wildlife enforcement unit also worked with other government agencies, such as the customs, immigration and police to widen the enforcement and monitoring activities;

Six, Malaysia, through the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, has taken concerted efforts regionally to combat wildlife crime. Through this network of cooperation among ASEAN member countries, Malaysia has succeeded in foiling 306 attempted smuggling and confiscated wildlife destined for other countries;

Seven, Malaysia is also a member of ASEAN Expert Group on CITES which act as a forum to discuss on policy coordination and regional cooperation in illegal wildlife trade trafficking and issues;

Eight, Malaysia has also actively participated in various operations conducted by regional and international enforcement bodies such as the INTERPOL to combat illegal wildlife activities. This is reflected through special joint operations such as Operation PREY, COBRA etc.;

Nine, Malaysia has also established bilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries, in particular Thailand to curb smuggling of wildlife.

Ten, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, as one of the main Management Authority in Malaysia for terrestrial animal, has increased its efforts to keep up with the complexity of wildlife crime by establishing the Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank in 2007 to provide better forensic investigation for cases involving illegal wildlife trade;

Eleven, various joint efforts and partnership with NGOs were organized to implement public awareness programs to inform the public about the impact of illegal wildlife activities including the consumption of wildlife and their products;

Twelve, Malaysia will continue to enhance cooperation with relevant international organizations to address illegal wildlife activities especially smuggling, through the exchange of information and intelligence, technology, joint operations, and capacity building;

Thirteen, as requested by the CITES Secretariat, Malaysia had submitted the National Ivory Plan during the 16th Session of Conference of Parties of the CITES which was followed by submission on its status report on its implementation and minor amendments to the plan; and

Finally, the content of the National Ivory Plan includes the category of law enforcement activities, the actions to be taken, the milestone to be achieved and the various status report to be made. As Malaysia was identified as one of the transit countries of the illegal wildlife trade, the Action Plan focuses on specifics which prioritize on the need to improve and intensify enforcement efforts, strengthening of our capacity and coordination between various related agencies.

To conclude, let me assure you, distinguished Co-Chairs, of Malaysia's commitment and all out efforts to curb poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking.

Thank you.