

**Message from  
H.E. Ambassador Rastam Mohd Isa  
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations  
and Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement**

“On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau, I wish to congratulate the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization for leading the observance of World Food Day on 17 October 2003. The NAM finds the theme for this year’s observance, “International Alliance Against Hunger” to be very apt at a time when 840 million people around the world remain hungry. The vast majority of them are from the developing countries. Many of these countries are members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

On this occasion, I would like to recall the reaffirmation made by the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement at their XIII Conference held in Kuala Lumpur from 20-25 February 2003, that the right to food is a fundamental human right and its promotion and implementation constitute a moral imperative for the international community. They emphatically rejected the use of food as an instrument of economic and political pressure. They reiterated their concern over the large number of people, in particular children who suffer from hunger and malnutrition. They again emphasized the need to take urgent action to meet the commitments for achieving food security for present and future generations, taking full account of the priorities and objectives that has been set out in the World Food Summit of 1996. In this regard, the Heads of State or Government of NAM had also welcomed the adoption of the International Alliance Against Hunger which affirmed the global commitment of reducing by half the number of people suffering from hunger”.