

**SPEECH BY WAY SECRETARY GENERAL, DONALD CHARUMBIRA,
AT THE FAREWELL DINNER OF THE
FOURTH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE
PUTERI BALLROOM, PUTERI RESORT, AYER KEROH, MELAKA
JUNE 30, 2004**

YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Mohammad Khir bin Toyo, Chief Minister of Selangor and
President of the Malaysian Youth Council

YAB Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, Chief Minister of Melaka and
President of the World Assembly of Youth

YB Dato' R. Raghavan, State Executive Councillor for Youth & Sports

YB Tuan Hj. Idriss Harun, Member of Parliament and President of the Melaka State
Youth Council

Mr. Nurdkeswarsing Bossoondyal, Vice President of the World Assembly of Youth
and General Secretary of the Non-Aligned Students and Youth Organisation

Mr. Donald Charumbira, Secretary General of the World Assembly of Youth

YBhg Dato' Fuad Hassan, President of the Asian Youth Council

YBhg Abdullah Abu Bakar, Deputy President of the Malaysian Youth Council

YBhg Norizan Sharif, Secretary General of the Malaysian Youth Council

Government Officials, Foreign Dignitaries, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the World Assembly of Youth, I would like to extend our warmest thanks and appreciation to YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Mohd Khir bin Toyo, President of the Malaysian Youth Council, for this Farewell Dinner, which marks the conclusion of the Fourth Melaka International Youth Dialogue 2004.

The Malaysian Youth Council has played a key role in the conception and development of the Melaka International Youth Dialogue. The Malaysian Youth Council remains one of the strongest youth movements in the world; playing a sterling role as an advocator, coordinator and implementer of youth activities. We thank the Malaysian Youth Council as a co-organiser of the Melaka International Youth Dialogue, and for its support in the secretariat operations and with volunteers.

The Fourth Melaka International Youth Dialogue has convened 225 young people from 43 nations from all continents. The outcome of this event is a concrete blueprint for youth and youth organisations on how they can participate more actively and effectively in decision-making processes.

I am pleased report that that the Melaka International Youth Dialogue has gone smoothly and that most participants I have spoken to have all enjoyed and cherished their experiences here over the past four days. We have debated, discussed, argued; and at the end of the day we have reached consensus. The Melaka International Youth Declaration on Youth Participation in Decision-Making Processes was adopted this morning; as a document written by and for the young people.

The issue that we have been discussing here is not a simple one. It is, in fact, a highly complex one that is not as easy or straightforward as discussing youth employment or HIV/AIDS. To discuss Youth Participation in Decision-Making Processes requires an insightful dialogue and a diversity of knowledge and experiences. Fortunately all

participants here are knowledgeable and experienced youth leaders from a diversity of backgrounds, and therefore our discussions at this Dialogue were fruitful.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you more about the future of the Melaka International Youth Dialogue. It is clear that this is an important global meeting, and probably the most important annual global meeting of young people.

The World Assembly of Youth and the Melaka State Government would like to continue organising the Melaka International Youth Dialogue on a regular annual basis. We want this to continue to be a platform for world youth leaders to gather and exchange views, experiences and knowledge.

The MIYD will fulfill its role as a rallying point for the mobilisation of youth leaders towards global developmental goals. This is a platform for young people to determine their objectives, their goals, their targets and their strategies. All young people should feel at home in Melaka and free to address their concerns here.

I would like to thank all who have worked very hard to make this Dialogue a success, including the WAY Secretariat, volunteers, speakers, facilitators, partner organisations and supporters. Specific mention goes to the Ministry of Youth & Sports, the Melaka State Government, the Asian Youth Council, the Malaysian Youth Council, UNICEF and AOC & Associates.

We would like to thank our President and the Rt. Hon. Chief Minister of Melaka, YAB Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam. Thank you Datuk Seri for your dedication, commitment, your leadership and enthusiasm towards youth issues. The World Assembly of Youth calls for your continued leadership.

I would like to thank YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Mohammad Khir bin Toyo for hosting this dinner for us as the President of the Malaysian Youth Council. Dato' Seri is the Chief

Minister of Selangor, and one of the youngest leaders in the Malaysian government. He is an excellent example of youth participation in decision-making processes. Dato' Seri, you will continue to inspire us all.

Thank you all for attending this Dialogue and I hope you enjoy the remaining days of your stay in Malaysia, and that you have a safe journey back to your homes.

Ends.