



Malaysia

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Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA

ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

COMPRISING BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, MALAYSIA, THE UNION OF
MYANMAR, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE,
THAILAND AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

ON

AGENDA ITEM 98: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

AGENDA ITEM 99: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ENTITLED "WOMEN 2000: GENDER EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND
PEACE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY"

AT

THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF
THE 59TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK

FRIDAY, 15TH OCTOBER 2004

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprising Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Malaysia.

2. ASEAN associates itself with the statement delivered by Qatar on behalf of the G-77 and China. My delegation would like to extend our appreciation to Ms. Carolyn Hannan, Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Ms. Carmen Moreno and Ms. Feride Acar for presenting their reports to the Committee. However, we regret that some of the reports scheduled to be presented under agenda items 98 and 99 had not been issued at the time the Committee commenced debate, thus impairing the Committee's in-depth and holistic consideration of the issues.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers signed a Declaration on the Advancement of Women in ASEAN in 1988, signifying the recognition of and commitment by the Member States to the advancement of women in ASEAN. More recently, on the sidelines of the 37th meeting in Jakarta in June 2004, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers signed the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region. With this Declaration, all ten ASEAN countries have committed themselves to this issue at the regional level.

4. The Ha Noi Plan of Action (HPA) was adopted by ASEAN Leaders at the Sixth ASEAN Summit in December 1998. This Plan of Action included priority actions addressing women's issues and concerns in the areas of social development and human resources development. It calls for the strengthening of ASEAN cooperation in combating the trafficking of women as well as crimes of violence against women. It also calls on Member Countries to work towards the full implementation of the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* and other international instruments on women.

5. ASEAN has continued to pursue greater efforts in the implementation of regional programmes for the advancement of women in the region. At the upcoming 10th ASEAN Summit, to be held in Vientiane, Laos on 29 November 2004, ASEAN Leaders are expected to consider further areas of action and cooperation on the issue, including the development and implementation of an ASEAN Work Plan on Women's Advancement Agenda in politics, action to promote increased participation of women and youth in the productive workforce as well as reducing social risks faced by children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

6. Coordination and monitoring of ASEAN cooperation in women's issues and concerns are carried out by the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), which is under the purview of the ASEAN Standing Committee. Member States use the opportunity of ACW meetings to exchange views on their national experiences in addressing the critical areas of concern under the Beijing Platform of Action. Further, information on national-level activities undertaken to commemorate July 5, designated as ASEAN Women's Day, as well as respective national Women's Days are also shared.

7. The ACW prepares and publishes a regular status report every three to five years. The ACW maintains strong links between government and non-governmental partners, as illustrated by the fact that its annual meetings are also attended by the ASEAN Confederation on Women (ACWO). Among other things, joint activities are carried out between the two bodies. The ACW has expressed interest to convene a ministerial meeting to provide further guidance and direction to its work.

8. The ACW coordinates the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Programme on Women and Skills Training, formulated in 2000, and is in the process of preparing a work plan on women's advancement and gender equality. This work plan will address priority areas on Gender Integration, Policy, Research, Protecting Vulnerable Women, Promoting Employability of Women, and Preparing Women for the Challenges of Globalisation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.