



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**THE HONOURABLE MR. SHAARI BIN HASSAN
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 64: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

**AGENDA ITEM 65: 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 60TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK**

WEDNESDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 2005

(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. ASEAN associates itself with the statement delivered by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

2. The Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA), adopted by ASEAN Leaders at the Sixth ASEAN Summit in December 1998, 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.

3. The issue of violence against women is of great concern to ASEAN. Cognizant that women are vulnerable to violence and exploitation, the ASEAN foreign ministers, on the sidelines of the 37th ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting in Jakarta in June 2004, 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 Declaration on the Advancement of Women in ASEAN, adopted in 1988, signifies the recognition of and commitment by the Member States to the advancement of women in ASEAN. ASEAN has continued to pursue greater efforts in the implementation of regional programmes for the advancement of women in the region. At the 10th ASEAN Summit, held in Vientiane, Laos on 29 November 2004, ASEAN Leaders considered 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.

5. At the 10th ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN leaders also adopted the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children, which outlines measures that ASEAN members would undertake to address the issue. The 3rd ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) meeting, held in Yangon, Myanmar in November 2004, focused on cooperation towards elimination of trafficking in persons and violence against women. At the subregional level, following the signing of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative (COMMIT) Memorandum of Understanding in Myanmar last year, the six Greater Mekong subregion countries, agreed on a subregional Plan of Action against Human Trafficking at a meeting held in Hanoi in March this year.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Within ASEAN, the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) is entrusted with the coordination and monitoring of cooperation in women's issues and concerns. 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, and is in the process of publishing the Third Regional Report on the Advancement of Women by 2005 in conjunction with the ten-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action. The format of the Regional Report would be in accordance with the progress reports prepared by Member Countries on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. This will facilitate the compilation of data and eliminate duplication of efforts.

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.

9. The 4th Meeting of the ACW, which will be held in the Philippines, 22-24 November 2005, will focus on the theme "Economic and Social Empowerment of ASEAN Women for Equality in the Global Economy". To provide further guidance and direction to its work, the ASEAN Committee on Women proposed to establish an ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.