



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
AT THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON “WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY”
NEW YORK, 17 APRIL 2013**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for this month. I also wish to thank you for convening this open debate on the important issue of “Women, Peace and Security”. I would also like to thank the UN Secretary-General for his remarks and other invited speakers for their valuable briefing on the issue.

2. My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Viet Nam on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. President,

3. Malaysia joins other Member States in strongly condemning acts of sexual violence against women and girls. We feel that there is an urgent need to address the factors and underlying reasons for why such acts continue to be committed. More needs to be done in integration efforts, in which no groups should be excluded from disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and security sector reform. We also agree that policymakers and private entities must do more on their part to reduce acts of sexual violence related to the extraction of natural resources. At the same time, Malaysia is also deeply concerned by the emerging incidence of sexual violence perpetrated against men and boys, as well as the plight of children born as a result of rape and the practice of forced marriages by armed groups.

4. It is a worrying trend that sexual violence in the above context remains universally underreported. The lack of adequate national capacity and expertise to investigate and prosecute acts of sexual violence remains one of the main causes. Malaysia, thus, welcomes the continuous work of the United Nations and other stakeholders, as well as the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, which focuses its efforts on strengthening the capacity of national rule of law and justice actors. We feel that its engagement with relevant governments would

strengthen the latter's capacity to effectively address sexual violence against women and girls.

5. In ensuring accountability for crimes related to sexual violence, we feel that accountability constitutes not only careful investigations and prosecutions of those responsible, but also a broader undertaking of political, legal and moral responsibilities by individuals and institutions for past violations that have occurred. Malaysia views accountability as a duty under both domestic and international law. The national system in this regard, should be steered towards meeting international standards in ensuring accountability and justice, and that perpetrators of such crimes would never go unpunished.

Mr. President,

6. My delegation believes that equal, full and active participation of women is key to peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In this regard, while we acknowledge the existing normative frameworks with regard to Security Council resolutions pertaining to women, peace and security, we hope that there would be more impetus to the actual realization of these resolutions including the landmark resolution 1325 (2000), to increase women's participation in the field of peace and security.

7. In this context, my delegation welcome the various initiatives and actions undertaken by Member States, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, civil society organizations and other relevant actors focused on supporting and increasing the representation of women in peace negotiations and mainstreaming gender perspectives into peace agreements.

8. Recognizing this crucial element, the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), Malaysia and UNDP jointly organized a seminar on "Promoting Peace through Mainstreaming Gender in Peacekeeping Operations" in October 2011. As a country firmly committed to peacekeeping troops to UN missions, this seminar on gender and peacekeeping represents Malaysia's commitment in support of both the global agenda for gender and peacekeeping as well as policies, which support women's development. Additionally, Malaysia together with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) will jointly host a regional seminar on child protection in September 2013 at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre in Port Dickson. The seminar, which will include participation from 30 Member States in the Asian region, will officially validate the training module for civilian and military personnel on peacekeeping missions dealing with the protection of children involved in armed conflict.

Mr. President,

9. My delegation is deeply concerned that forced marriage, rape and sexual slavery have been documented in several States in conflict and occurred under the pretext of Islamic/sharia law. Malaysia wishes to emphasize that Islam does not condone in any way, forced marriage, rape and sexual slavery. We believe that education is key in

terms of reducing incidence of sexual violence. On education, Malaysia has taken efforts in Afghanistan through the Malaysia Australia Education Project for Afghanistan (MAEPA), which aims at enabling Afghan women teachers to master English and Islamic teachings. These trainers are playing a critical role in developing the skills of a new generation of female Afghan teachers who will be role models and mentors for girls in years to come.

10. Malaysia continues to take various measures towards achieving gender equality and women's development through various policy frameworks, legislation and capacity building and entrepreneurial programmes. Malaysia is of the view that inclusiveness needs to be extended to women. By getting the support of women, the Government would, in effect, further marginalize those who are out to create instability in the country. Furthermore, women would contribute immensely to peacebuilding and development efforts.

Mr. President,

11. In concluding, Malaysia reaffirms its strong commitment to the efforts in addressing sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations and strongly believes that the issue of women, peace and security deserves the Security Council's sustained attention. In this regard, we will continue to work with others that share a similar interest in advancing that agenda and ensuring the full mainstreaming of women in activities in the pursuit of securing peace and security.

I thank you, Mr. President.