



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



CANDIDATE
to the
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
for the term 2015-2016

(Please check against delivery)

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON "WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY"**

NEW YORK, 18 OCTOBER 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.

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia remains concerned on sexual and gender-based crimes and strongly believes that ending impunity is crucial towards our quest to put an end to sexual violence in times of conflict. We note that progress has been made over the years and, in this regard, welcomes the continuous work of the United Nations and other stakeholders, including 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.

3. In our effort to secure peace and security, we must move urgently to replace the prevailing culture of impunity with one that promotes the Rule of Law, justice and accountability. Underlining the importance of ending sexual violence, Malaysia is pleased to inform that it has joined many others in endorsing the 'Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict', which makes clear the collective view on the need of greater action to address the issue.

Mr. President,

4. Malaysia is of the view that strengthened investment in women's human rights, including access to justice, is critical not only to ensure women's protection but also to put an end to impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity, particularly those against women.

5. My delegation is concerned with the often-inadequate legal frameworks on women's rights in post-conflict countries. On this, we could take a page off the lessons learned

through established courts such as the international tribunals of Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, which offers insightful lessons from the prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes. These could be applied to future tribunals and domestic judicial processes.

6. Furthermore, Governments that have experienced conflict could consider allocating greater financial resources to investigate cases of sexual violence. There is also a need to ensure that international and national courts have adequate expertise and in this regard, countries in a position to do so should render assistance to post-conflict societies.

Mr. President,

7. In addressing the issues of women's empowerment after conflict, attention should be given to strengthening the security of women through rules and regulations. This could be done through the setting up of institutional and administrative machinery to plan, coordinate, implement as well as monitor development programmes for women. My delegation cannot stress enough the importance of increased access for women to education and employment as well as the development of policies and services that give equal livelihood opportunities to women. At the same time, we must also remember the importance of access to healthcare, especially for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia welcomes today's adoption of the resolution on the issue discussed. My delegation hopes that there would be sufficient impetus to the actual realization of the resolution, including the landmark resolution 1325 (2000). Malaysia thus appreciates the continuous update on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in the Secretary-General's report (S/2013/525) of 4 September 2013. As mentioned in the report, there remains a deficit in opportunities for women to exercise leadership and there was continued underrepresentation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, protection and peacebuilding processes. My delegation believes that greater active participation of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding would go a long way in including a gender perspective and in allowing women to shape the peace.

9. In relation to this, there is a need to increase the number of women in high-level decision-making positions in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. Malaysia is also supportive of appointing more women protection advisers to monitor and report on sexual violence in all relevant situations. We are appreciative of the positive values they bring in creating greater awareness of sexual violence issues, reporting incidents of sexual violence and implementing Security Council resolutions on the ground.

Mr. President,

10. We strongly believe that the subject of women, peace and security deserves the Security Council's sustained attention. Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to the efforts in addressing sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. Nonetheless, we must insist that gender equality be promoted during times of peace rather than solely trying to encourage and instill a gender perspective during times of conflict. The respect and promotion of women's rights must become a culture of any society. In this regard, the Council can be assured of our continuous engagement and unrelenting support for the advancement of the issue in our pursuit of achieving peace and security, both at the national, regional and international levels.

I thank you, Mr. President.