



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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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 65: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION
OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN
OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE**

**68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 17 OCTOBER 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN on the agenda item under consideration.

2. I wish to also take this opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation to the Executive Director of UNICEF, Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur for their invaluable briefing and for introducing the various reports to the Committee. We are of the view that the reports provide a sound framework in deliberating the issue on children.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Malaysia believes that the promotion and protection of the rights of children must be among the priorities of every country's development agenda, as investing in children is investing in the future human capital of the country.

4. In this regard, under the Tenth Malaysia Plan 2011-2015, special attention is given to the childcare sector and children's education, as part of the Government's efforts in preparing them to excel in a competitive, strong and knowledgeable generation as well enabling them to face the challenges of Malaysia's Vision 2020.

5. Recognising that investment in education and training is a prerequisite for prosperity of the country and the well being of the people, education and training development have consistently been given the biggest allocation in the national budget since Independence in 1957.

6. With a view to provide a brighter future for all Malaysian children irrespective of their socioeconomic background, the Government will continue to ensure quality and affordable access to education. Towards achieving this aim and in giving the much-needed leap, Malaysia provides free primary and secondary education for all its nationals.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Turning now to the report of the Secretary-General on the 'Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child', Malaysia acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995; and acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on 12 April 2012. This accession is a milestone and underscores Malaysia's commitment to the global protection of children.

8. Malaysia's Child Act of 2001 was promulgated based on the principles enumerated in the Convention, providing for care, protection and rehabilitation of a child without discrimination as to race, color, sex, language, religion, social origin or physical, mental or emotional disabilities or any other status.

Mr. Chairman,

9. We welcome the views articulated in the report on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda. The Government of Malaysia has taken various efforts to address the issue of violence against children. Legislation provides an important mechanism to address this problem. The Child Act 2001 and the Domestic Violence Act 1994 are enforced to prevent children from being abused and exploited. Protection is also given to children who have been neglected or abandoned by their parents/guardians.

10. Under the Act, the establishment of the Child Protection Teams and Child Activity Centres, at both the state and district levels, are aimed at mobilizing community participation in supporting the implementation of relevant programmes. Such programmes and activities are targeted at children who are at risk or children who are vulnerable to all forms of abuses and exploitations.

11. As we move towards realizing 2015 and the global development agenda post-2015, it is critical to address and safeguard children's right to freedom from violence. Some children are particularly vulnerable and face greater risks to their lives and well being due to social, political and economic factors.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Malaysia reaffirms its strong commitment to the efforts in protecting and promoting the rights of its children, including by giving continuous attention to the issue

of children in armed conflict. My delegation concurs with the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict's recommendations, which among others, call upon the mainstreaming of children protection concerns by including specific child protection expertise in mediation teams. We believe it is important to ensure that specific provisions for the protection of children continue to be included in all relevant mandates of UN peacekeeping operations, as well as political and peacebuilding missions, and for the issue to be given the highest visibility possible.

13. To demonstrate Malaysia's continued commitment on the issue, Malaysia together with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in September 2013, jointly hosted a regional workshop on child protection at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre in Port Dickson. The workshop officially validated the training module for civilian and military personnel on peacekeeping missions dealing with the protection of children involved in armed conflict.

Mr. Chairman,

14. In concluding, Malaysia recognizes that children are the key to the country's survival, development and prosperity. Protecting our children is a priority as they are the ones to safeguard the well being of our community, our nation and our future. It is only fair that we leave them with a world that is truly fit for all.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.