



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY

THE HONOURABLE DATUK WIRA AHMAD HAMZAH
MEMBER OF THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION AND
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MALAYSIA

ON

AGENDA ITEM 56 (a): ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
AND

AGENDA ITEM 56 (b): IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH
WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE
OF THE 63RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 13 OCTOBER 2008

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his reports on this Agenda Item on the Advancement of Women, and the appreciation of my delegation for the statement by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women.

2. Malaysia is appreciative of the assistance from the United Nations. Since 2003, our Government has been collaborating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in implementing gender equality programmes and projects involving: a gender responsive budget; capacity building on gender mainstreaming; and an Action Plan entitled, "Towards Achieving 30% Participation of Women at Decision Making Levels in Malaysia".

3. The Government of Malaysia is cognizant of our obligations as a signatory to the CEDAW and pledge to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Malaysia is committed to realizing women's rights as human rights, and to achieve this goal, changes in our legal and institutional frameworks have been made to protect, preserve and safeguard the rights and improve the status of women in the country in all areas.

4. We also recognize that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play an important role in complementing the efforts of the Government for the benefit of women, and funding for NGOs is provided within our budget to implement activities and programmes for the advancement of women.

10. On this point of statistics, data collection within the context of developing policies for advancement of women is an absolute necessity. In Malaysia, we have established the Gender Disaggregated Information System (GDIS) to ensure the systematic collection and compilation of gender-disaggregated data. The GDIS provides data for gender analysis and planning and it is used as a tool to develop gender responsive policies, strategies and programmes. In implementing the GDIS, it is clear that efforts are needed for systematic and standardised data collection in the public and private sectors, and that it is important for such information to be of both a quantitative and qualitative nature.

11. Additionally, another achievement in the area of women's empowerment is the development of Malaysia's Gender Gap Index (MGGI). It is a composite index to measure gender equality in the four dimensions of health, education, economic and empowerment of women for the years 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2004. The time series data showed overall improvements in gender equality in the four areas. The MGGI was recently updated to include data for the year 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

12. In conclusion, the Government of Malaysia will continue to enhance efforts to further improve the status of women to enable them to reach their full potential and contribute towards the social and economic development of the country. Hence, gender mainstreaming will be given emphasis and gender considerations included in the formulation of policies and programmes.

Thank you.