



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 REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON AGENDA ITEM 27 (A): ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

AND

**AGENDA ITEM 27 (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

**69TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 13 OCTOBER 2014**

Madam Chair,

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement made by Cambodia on behalf of the ASEAN member countries on the agenda item under consideration. We would also like to express our utmost appreciation to the various experts for the presentation of the reports.

2. Malaysia aspires to become a high-income nation by 2020. Our development policies are also geared towards becoming a developed nation by the same year. We are on a journey with a clear destination; a destination for Malaysia to attain the status of both high-income and developed nation.

3. In this regard, Malaysia has achieved tremendous economic and development growth since our Independence in 1957. We recognized that the significant economic progress made in the last decades, is partly attributed to the greater participation of women in the development process. The educational attainment of women is at an all-time high, their participation in the labour force has increased and legislation that grant equal opportunities for women and respect for their rights has been adopted in Malaysia.

Madam Chair,

4. Malaysia's commitment to the economic empowerment of women is evident in many of its programmes. Through the Economic Transformation Programme, Malaysia reinforces the need to attract, increase and retain female employees in the workforce. We have set targets for women in the workforce, such as increasing female labour participation rate to 55 per cent over the next three years, and increasing the number of women as board members in Malaysian public-listed companies to 30 per cent.

5. The Government continues to encourage strong entrepreneurship skills in advancing the economy of women in Malaysia. The Women Entrepreneur Programme provides a specialised training workshops for women entrepreneurs. Thus far, a total of 4,300 women entrepreneurs have been successfully trained and they are now venturing into a various sector of the economy including agriculture, services, fisheries, manufacturing, farming and business.

6. My delegation wishes to share one success story of women entrepreneurship in Malaysia. The story of one Kabilah Abd Hassan, a seaweed farmer from Sabah, East Coast of Malaysia. A few years ago, she was struggling to make ends meet. But after taking her business online, she is now employing half of her village and sells to countries around the world. The Government will continue to strive hard to ensure her success story in only one of many in the future.

Madam Chair,

7. Turning now to one of the reports before the Committee, Malaysia concurs with the Secretary General's assessment that prevention is the best way to eliminate violence against women. We are encouraged by the work of the UN agencies, including their collaboration with the media; intervention of the educational system to promote an environment free of violence; engaging men and boys; as well as developing programmes for the perpetrators.

8. That said, my delegation wishes to reaffirm Malaysia's commitment in eliminating violence against women and it is a priority issue for the Government of Malaysia. We continue to undertake a holistic approach to this matter, including removing impunity and prosecuting those who commit violence, as well as protecting and rehabilitating victims.

9. Various initiatives have been taken in line with Malaysia's commitment to empower women, safeguard their rights and protect their dignity. In our effort to overcome this issue, the Malaysian Government has made violence against women as one of the 13 key sectors under the Plan of Action on the Advancement of Women.

10. Malaysia's seriousness in addressing the issue of violence against women is also evident with the number of amendments made to broaden the priorities and rights of the victims of violence. Among them are the amendments to the Penal Code, where wider

definition of rape and stiffer penalties are given to those found guilty; amendment to the Employment Act, which now addresses sexual harassment at the workplace; and, amendments to the Domestic Violence Act with wider definition on domestic violence, which include emotional, mental and psychological abuse in addition to physical abuse.

Madam Chair,

11. To conclude, Malaysia recognizes the changes in the socio-cultural environment, which have helped shape the profile of Malaysian women today. As we continue our development programmes to attain the status of high income and developed nation, my delegation wishes to reiterate that women will continue to be a primary force in influencing the development of future generations of Malaysians, as well as an important economic resource.

Thank you, Madam Chair.