



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



CANDIDATE
to the
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SECURITY COUNCIL
for the term 2015-2016

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**STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 64: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE
RIGHTS OF CHILDREN
OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE**

NEW YORK, 17 OCTOBER 2014

Madam Chair,

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by Myanmar on behalf of the ASEAN member countries on the agenda item under consideration. Malaysia also notes with appreciation the reports presented by the various Special Rapporteurs on the latest development concerning the rights of children.

2. “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, but instead, we borrow it from our children”. This is one proverb that rings true, and absolutely spot-on, as we discuss the agenda before us today.

3. The colours of our countries’ future, as we hope for it to be bright, progressive and vibrant, will be painted by our children. They will also chart the direction of the country, and it would only take its right path if we lay a solid foundation to steer it so. It is for this reason that Malaysia believes the promotion and protection of the rights of children must be among the priorities of every country development agenda.

Madam Chair,

4. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC). As we commemorate this important milestone, we are encouraged that almost all, if not all, member states of the UN had acceded to the CRC. The ratification of the CRC is testament to the will of the world, in promoting and protecting the rights of children.

5. Malaysia acceded to the CRC in 1995, and recently, 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.

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

7. Further to Malaysia's Child Act, the Government has approved two policies relating to the rights of children, namely the National Policy on Children and National Child Protection Policy. The National Policy on Children and its Plan of Action, focuses on the thrusts of development relating to children's survival, protection, development and participation as provided for in the CRC. While the National Child Protection Policy and its Plan of Action, aims to ensure that children are protected from all forms of neglect, abuse, violence, and exploitation.

Madam Chair,

8. Malaysia welcomes the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children. While we discuss this subject, let us be clear that no violence against children is justifiable. Poverty, income inequality, political instability and conflict are among some of the many factors that have been identified that could increase risk of violence. There is an urgent need for international partnership to address the root causes of this problem, and for mechanism to be put in place to stop and prevent violence against children.

9. In this regard, the Government of Malaysia continues to support the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SPAN) Team services, located at major hospitals throughout the country. The ability of Government agencies to respond to child protection needs was also improved by the establishment of a dedicated hotline for children termed "Childline 15999". Childline 15999 operators are specially-trained to handle calls from children and its establishment is in line with the recommendation of the CRC Committee in Malaysia. In addition to the hotline, a nationwide alert system known as National Urgent Response Alert (NUR Alert) was also established in 2011 and is activated when a child under the age of 12 is reported missing.

Madam Chair,

10. Yesterday, Malaysia was elected as one of the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. As we go into the Council, Malaysia will turn its focus on a select number of issues, and the subject of children in armed conflict will be one of our priority issues. We welcome the report by the Special Representative of Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict and we commend the noble campaign of “Children, Not Soldiers” launched by the Special Representative and UNICEF. We recognize that this is an ambitious undertaking, but we hope the campaign would succeed in ending the recruitment and use of children by Government armed forces in conflict by 2016.

Madam Chair,

11. The participation and advancement of the present generation should usher in a future generation that would ensure a country’s survival, development and prosperity. Malaysia thus reaffirms its strong commitment to the efforts in protecting and promoting the rights of its children. 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.

Thank you.