



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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

ON AGENDA ITEM 29 (A): ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

AND

**AGENDA ITEM 29 (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 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of South Africa 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.

1. We would also like to express our appreciation to the various experts for the presentation of the reports.

Mr. Chair,

2. About two weeks ago, the Prime Minister of Malaysia joined the gathering of leaders from around the world in New York and pronounced Malaysia's commitments towards achieving gender equality and advancing the empowerment of women by 2030 during the "Global Leaders Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action". In the long list of commitments pronounced by our Prime Minister, I wish to take this opportunity to highlight one of the new initiatives our Government is about to embark on.

3. We are keenly aware that single mothers and female-headed households are often socially and economically disadvantaged, particularly in rural areas. Cognizant of this challenge, the Government of Malaysia will launch a National Action Plan to Empower Single Mothers later this month. The Action Plan, among others, will incorporate plans to improve access to the job market from skills training and entrepreneurship opportunities for single mothers.

4. In the coming weeks, my delegation will also seek to engage colleagues and contribute to include the greater participation of single mothers in the development process during discussion in this Committee. Among others, we see the opportunity to incorporate such provisions during consultations of the biennial text on “Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas”.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia welcomes the adoption of Agenda 2030. We commend the inclusion of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls not only as a stand-alone goal but also subsumed across all 17 SDGs.

6. As we seek to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women targets of the SDGs, I wish to highlight three elements based on Malaysia’s experience which in our view are key to achieving these targets.

7. Firstly, no single society can achieve the goal on its own. Collaboration based on trust and mutual respect is a critical constituent for success. In Malaysia, the government has been sensitive and responsive to the voices of women. We have also consistently worked with the civil society and the private sector to introduce and improve policies, strategies and programmes, institute legal reforms and establish institutional structures to advance gender equality.

8. Secondly, gender equality can only be realized by giving the women their right to opportunities in all sectors of life, be it in the political, economic, social, educational, cultural or environmental spheres. From the very beginning, Malaysia among others accorded women the right to vote, full access to education and senior positions in the workforce.

9. The final element is about culture and values of each society. As in many countries, Malaysia has long been promoting gender diversity. However, we are beginning to realize that there must be concomitant commitment to gender inclusion as a strategic priority. This entails having a mind-set that values and respect differences. Women bring with them diverse perspectives, leadership, work experiences and lifestyles. These contribute to the diversity of thought so essential for generating innovative solutions. When we respect and value these unique contributions we unleash the power of diversity.

Mr. Chairman,

10. 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 our commitment on gender equality and affirm that women will continue to be a primary force in propelling the development of Malaysia.

Thank you.