



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Haniff
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations
on Agenda Item 3: Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
and to the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly entitled
“Women: 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century”
at the Fifty-Seven Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
11 March 2013, New York**

Madam Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN.

2. We would like to express our appreciation to the Commission for the preparation made prior to this 57th CSW Session, particularly through the expert group meeting on the prevention of violence against women and girls, which was held in September 2012 in Thailand. The meeting has clearly framed the agenda of this year's theme.

Madam Chair,

3. The status of women in Malaysia has undergone a profound change since its independence in 1957. As women and girls constitute 48.6 per cent of a growing population of 29.3 million people, the welfare of women and girls are obviously of utmost importance to the country. It is due to this that the Malaysian Government is firmly committed to eliminating and preventing all forms of violence against women and girls.

4. National policies have been and continue to be developed for women and children with the aim of continuously ensuring the advancement of women, as well as their survival, development and participation in society. In fact, increased access to education, employment opportunities and changes in their socio-cultural environment have transformed our women and girls from becoming a part of the development agenda, to becoming a partner of Malaysia's Vision 2020 nation building agenda. In having women as a partner, the Government of Malaysia has been duty-bound to be much more cognisant of its obligation as a State Party to CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women), CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and the CRC (Convention on the Rights of Children). As such, the Government has taken many initiatives to protect the rights of

women and girls, and to ensure their safety. This is done through establishing and constantly improving policy framework, legislation, institutional framework, programmes and other measures.

Madam Chair,

5. The Malaysian Government is serious in overcoming violence against women. It is so resolute in this that it has made violence against women one of the 13 key sectors under the Plan of Action on the Advancement of Women.

6. Malaysia's seriousness 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,

7. To ensure that the victims of violence receive holistic support and assistance, in 1996, the Malaysian Government established One-Stop Crises Centres (OSCC) in all general and government hospitals nationwide. The purpose of these centres is to enable survivors of violence, including domestic violence and sexual assault, to have access to comprehensive treatment and services at one centralised location. The centre provides examination, evidence management diagnosis, definitive care, appropriate referral, documentation and medical reporting, with priority given to female doctors to attend to women victims. It is an integrated and coordinated teamwork of multi-sectoral and inter-agency network for the management of domestic violence, rape, sexual abuse, child abuse and sodomy.

8. In our prevention efforts, the Government of Malaysia created a system known as "*Talian Nur 15999*", a 24-hour-a-day helpline established to enable early intervention for victims of domestic violence, child abuse and natural disasters, as well as social woes and criminal activities.

9. Awareness programmes remain the main initiative with continuous legal literacy programmes held around the country to provide knowledge and awareness to the community, especially women, on their rights in cases related to marital problems, divorce, alimony, sexual harassment, rape, outrages on decency, exploitation by drug trafficking syndicates and fraud by job agencies. Government agencies, NGOs and the corporate sector have also developed

a number of women friendly programmes namely, assigning special train coaches for women passengers, employing women taxi drivers to cater for women passengers and allotting women-friendly parking spots at shopping malls.

Madam Chair,

10. On the draft agreed conclusions, Malaysia is hopeful that we can all come to a compromise, in which the document would be acceptable to all. We believe that no country should impose their values on others, but to respect the sovereign rights of States to implement programs which are consistent with their national laws, cultural and religious beliefs. My delegation calls on Member States to focus on the important issue of violence against women and girls and not to be side-tracked by elements that are not universally accepted.

11. My delegation wishes to reiterate that Malaysia remains strongly committed to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The issue is discussed and considered at the highest level in the country. The Honourable First Lady and Wife of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor has been instrumental in advancing the cause of women and girls, advocating their matters on the local front as well as abroad. On this note, allow me to inform that Malaysia will be hosting the Global Summit of Women from 6 to 8 June 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, which will provide a platform to explore practical strategies and best practices in advancing women's economic opportunities around the world. Additionally, from 28 to 30 May 2013, the Women Deliver 2013 Third Global Conference will also be held in Kuala Lumpur in which advocates and experts will join together to focus on the health and wellbeing of women and girls.

Madam Chair,

12. Although a great amount of effort has been made, the challenge now is to ensure policies, legislation and programmes remain relevant to the ever changing and challenging issue of violence against women and girls. Hence, Malaysia remains committed to the full realisation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, CEDAW and the Millennium Development Goals. My delegation looks forward to actively participate during the rest of the 57th Session of the CSW.

I thank you Madam Chair.