



MINISTRY OF WOMEN,  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **MALAYSIA SUCCESSFULLY PRESENTED REPORTS ON THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)**

Malaysia successfully presented its Sixth Periodic Reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) at its 88<sup>th</sup> Session on 22 May 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Periodic Reports provided an update on policies, initiatives and concrete measures that are being undertaken by the Government of Malaysia to eliminate discrimination against women and to provide space and opportunities for them to thrive with greater achievements in line with the obligations under the CEDAW.

The Malaysian delegation yesterday was led by YB Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development. This is the first time that Malaysia was led by a Minister to present its periodic report since its accession to the CEDAW on 5 July 1995. Malaysia are proud to highlight that this is the first time we submitted the periodic report in a timely manner. This demonstrates a commitment of Malaysia in fulfilling our obligations under CEDAW.

During the constructive dialogue with the Committee, the Experts commended Malaysia for its efforts to amend criminal laws namely the Domestic Violence Act 1994 [Act 521] and the Penal Code [Act 574], specifically to criminalize the act of stalking in 2023 to address gender-based violence against women and girls. The committee has also applauded the Government's initiative in abolishing the mandatory death penalty.

Introducing the report, YB Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia said since the last report, 28 laws and regulations had been repealed, amended or introduced to improve the overall human rights situation in the country, including those related to women and children. Malaysia enacted the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act in 2022 and subsequently established the Tribunal for Anti-Sexual Harassment in March 2024.

Women in Malaysia had gradually attained leadership roles in traditionally male-dominated sectors. Through utilising temporary special measures, Malaysia set a quota of at least 30 per cent of women in decision-making positions where 38.9 percent of women currently hold decision-making positions within public agencies and 30.7 percent of women are now board member in the top 100 Public Listed Companies surpassing our 2030 target, 7 years ahead.

Malaysian Delegation has also provided clarifications on the many issues of interest to the Committee members. These include the issues relating to the dual-legal system practices in Malaysia; gender stereotyping; measures to increase number of women in politics and in decision-making positions; and accession to relevant international treaties. Some Committee members were also keen to learn about policies and programs on rural women, women and climate change; and renewable energy policy in Malaysia.

Malaysia assured the CEDAW Committee of its firm commitment to strengthening further the national machinery for gender equality and women empowerment, including through multi-stakeholders engagements. Malaysia's reports and presentation to the CEDAW Committee could be accessed at <https://shorturl.at/CIYNN>

In closing remarks, the Head of the Delegation thanked the Committee for the dialogue which had been insightful. It was essential to recognise the correlation between gender discrimination in the context of human rights violations, particularly in conflict-affected regions. Malaysia remained deeply concerned about the crisis in Gaza and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

The members of the delegation include YBhg. Datuk Dr. Maziah Che Yusoff, the Secretary General Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, YBhg. Dato' Nadzirah Osman, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva, and officials from key government ministries and agencies responsible for ensuring effective domestication of the CEDAW namely, the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, the Attorney General's Chambers, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Human Resources, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Department of Islamic Development, and Department of Shariah Judiciary.

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**PUTRAJAYA**  
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