



KEMENTERIAN PEMBANGUNAN WANITA,  
KELUARGA DAN MASYARAKAT

**SPEECH AMMW MALAYSIA**  
**YBM DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY SHUKRI**  
**LAUNCHING OF THE SECOND EDITION OF THE ASEAN**  
**GENDER OUTLOOK**  
**MANHATTAN I, LEVEL 14, BERJAYA TIMES SQUARE HOTEL**  
**10 SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**3.00 PM**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Good afternoon, Selamat Datang, and a very warm welcome to everyone.

## **(A) BEGINNING OF AGO**

1. Today is an important day, a show of our regional commitment to Gender Mainstreaming, as we launch the Second Edition of the ASEAN Gender Outlook (or in short AGO 2.0). We have made strides since its inaugural publication in 2021, where we set the foundation for a comprehensive understanding of gender disparities across the region.

2. Using the insights and data gathered, the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), along with UN Women, the ASEAN Secretariat, and ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, started an ambitious project to dig deeper into the analysis and expand the scope of the initial outlook. Through a more refined lens, AGO 2.0 dissects data at multiple levels, uncovering the nuanced experiences of women and girls across various socio-economic backgrounds and geographical locations. It also identifies, emerging challenges and highlights areas where

interventions must be intensified to ensure that no one is left behind.

3. As we convene here today, we do so with the recognition that this document serves as an essential instrument in our pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that no woman or girl is left behind.

Distinguished guests,

## **(B) KEY FINDINGS OF AGO 2.0**

4. The ASEAN region has made significant progress in reducing extreme poverty, a remarkable achievement that we should all be proud of. However, the findings of AGO 2.0 remind us that these gains are precarious. This publication highlights the challenges that women and girls continuously are facing.

5. Among others are on climate change as it looms as a serious threat, with the potential to undo much of our hard-won progress. Women, in particular, are at a greater risk of food insecurity, which has far-reaching consequences for their health and that of their children.

6. It is also alarming to observe that food waste is on the rise, despite many women continuing to experience food insecurity. The climate crisis, which affects women and men differently, must be addressed through a gender-sensitive approach if we are to develop sustainable solutions. Additionally, access to

healthcare remains a critical challenge. Although there has been progress, the cost of services, safety concerns, and the physical distance to healthcare facilities continue to deter women from seeking the care they need.

7. We must also confront the troubling reality that women are increasingly less likely to seek help when experiencing intimate partner violence. The rise in domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic served as a stark reminder that our efforts to address gender-based violence must be intensified. The Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development

of Malaysia, remains committed to addressing this issue and urges collective action from government agencies, civil society, the media, and the private sector.

8. The Ministry also established the IRIS programme; a legal literacy initiative providing essential information on legal rights and reporting processes, ensuring that women and the community are prepared to combat violence and injustice.

9. Nevertheless, there are bright spots in our journey. More women than ever before, are participating in decision-making processes across the region. Education, wealth, and age are empowering women to make their own reproductive health decisions—a vital step toward achieving gender equality.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

## **(C) EXPECTATIONS MOVING FORWARD**

10. As we move forward, the expectations are clear. We must continue to integrate gender perspectives into every aspect of our development agenda. The findings of AGO 2.0 provide us with a path, highlighting the areas where our efforts must be doubled. From addressing food insecurity and healthcare, access to closing the technology gap and ensuring that women have equal opportunities in land ownership, the challenges are significant.

11. Additionally, the critical issue of unpaid care work must be addressed, as it remains a substantial barrier to gender equality, often limiting women's economic opportunities and contributing to the persistent gender wage gap.

12. Malaysia envisions the Care Industry as a catalyst for national development for all Member States; redistribute care burden and gender stereotypes, boosting women's workforce participation and stimulate economic growth. Addressing these

disparities could unlock substantial economic potential, emphasizing the importance of a more equitable economy.

13. Having said that, as we look toward the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the Strategic Plans Post-2025, gender and inclusion must be prioritized. Our vision for the future of ASEAN, is one where every woman and girl can thrive, free from discrimination and violence, with equal opportunities to participate in every aspect of life.

## **(D) EXPECTATIONS MOVING FORWARD**

14. The ASEAN Gender Outlook in general is a call to action. It is a reminder of the progress we have made and the challenges that lie ahead. But most importantly, it is a testament to what we can achieve, when we work together with determination and purpose. Let us ensure that the insights and data in this report are not just words on a page, but a catalyst for real, transformative change across our region.

15. Therefore, in closing, it is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I stand before you today, **to officially launch the second edition of the ASEAN Gender Outlook.**

Thank you.