

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

OFFICIATION & LAUNCHING OF NAP WPS  
9 SEPTEMBER 2025 (TUESDAY)  
COLLECTION, BALLROOM  
PARKROYAL COLLECTION KUALA LUMPUR

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Her Excellency Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri  
Minister of Women, Family, and Community Development, Malaysia

His Excellency San Lwin  
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural  
Community

Her Excellency Danielle Heinecke  
Australia High Commissioner to Malaysia

Her Excellency Ambra Dickie  
Ambassador of Canada to ASEAN

Her Excellency Joanna Anderson  
New Zealand Ambassador to ASEAN

His Excellency Ajay Sharma  
British High Commissioner to Malaysia

Ms. Ulziisuren Jamsran  
UN Women Representative Indonesia and Liaison to ASEAN

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good morning.

1. I am pleased to welcome you to Malaysia for this important occasion. Hosting this summit is special for us because it brings together experts and communities to discuss something very close to our hearts; the role of women in peace and security. This is a recognition of how much our region has evolved, and how much more we can achieve together.

2. Today's Summit happens at a time when the global landscape feels unsettled and unpredictable. Our gathering takes place against a backdrop of turbulence and change, both near and far. The Women, Peace and Security agenda is not simply a paperwork; it is about making real change on the ground. It is the recognition that no peace will last if half of humanity is left outside the door. The Women, Peace and Security agenda is not an add-on to diplomacy; instead it is part of its foundation, a pillar of how we strengthen trust and cooperation and making peace durable and inclusive.

3. In Malaysia, and across ASEAN, we know from experience that women are central to building trust and stability. They are teachers, community leaders, peacekeepers, and caregivers who have always held societies together in difficult times. We must recognise that women's contribution not as an afterthought, but as a vital part of how we approach peace and security.

4. That is why the Women, Peace and Security agenda matters so much. It is not only a policy discussion, but a practical way to ensure

that all voices are heard and that peace processes reflect the needs of the people they are meant to serve.

**Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

5. Malaysia has been involved in mediation efforts in Southern Thailand and the Mindanao process, and from these experiences we know that peace is not something that can be sustained by documents alone. It depends on trust, and often that trust is quietly built by women in their communities. At the same time, we are seeing new and complex challenges such as violent extremism, cyber bullying, and climate change, all of which make people more vulnerable. But within these challenges also lie opportunities — opportunities for innovation, for stronger partnerships, and for a renewed commitment to inclusive peace. That is why this 2025 ASEAN Women, Peace and Security Summit is significant: it gives us the space to share experiences, learn from one another, and build closer cooperation for the future.

6. Moving forward, ASEAN should continue to integrate WPS into our peace and security framework. Imagine if every peace process we led had women fully engaged in negotiations and community reconciliation. Imagine if women from across ASEAN could be mobilised to support mediation when tensions arise. What we are talking about here are practical actions that strengthen peace over time. Research confirms this: according to UN Women's Global Study, conducted with the Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative, peace agreements are 35% more likely to endure at least 15 years when women are meaningfully involved in their creation.

7. In this regard, I am pleased to share that as we engage in discussions on Women, Peace and Security, Malaysia; under the leadership of the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, working closely with the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other key ministries and agencies — we have achieved another milestone with the development of our first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. This Plan reflects Malaysia's firm commitment to advancing the WPS agenda both nationally and across ASEAN. It complements the National Women Policy 2025–2030 (Dasar Wanita Negara 2025–2030) and responds to the calls of regional and international platforms, including the CEDAW Committee, for a dedicated framework to address the specific roles, needs, and contributions of women in peace and security.

8. As ASEAN Chair in 2025, under the theme *“Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable ASEAN Community,”* Malaysia sees WPS as part of a bigger vision. Inclusivity and sustainability are inseparable and must go hand in hand. Both, are unattainable without the full and meaningful participation of women in shaping resilient societies and driving development. This is what we hope to strengthen together throughout our Chairmanship.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

9. I hope that this Summit will not only be a platform for discussion, but also for practical collaboration and action. Let us use

these two days to exchange ideas, learn from each other, and strengthen the partnerships that will carry ASEAN forward.

10. With that, it is my honour to officially declare the 2025 Women, Peace and Security Summit open, and to launch Malaysia's First National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. I trust that the exchanges over these two days will spark new ideas. I look forward to the progress that will emerge from this Summit and seeing how the insights and commitments shared at this Summit will shape our collective journey ahead.

Wabillahi Taufiq Wal Hidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Thank you. Terima kasih.