



TEKS UCAPAN

YB DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY SHUKRI

MENTERI PEMBANGUNAN WANITA, KELUARGA DAN MASYARAKAT

SEMPENA

**A JOURNEY OF MALAYSIA'S PARTICIPATION UNDER THE
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

TARIKH/ MASA/LOKASI

22 MEI 2026 | 10.00 PAGI | LOBI KPWKM

Kemaskini 21 Mei 2026

SALUTATIONS

Distinguished Ambassadors and High Commissioners,
Excellencies,
Representatives of International Organisations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a very good morning.

1. It is my great pleasure to welcome Your Excellencies and distinguished guests to the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development for this special event, **A Journey of Malaysia's Participation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child**. Your presence here today is deeply appreciated and reflects our shared commitment towards advancing the rights, protection and well-being of children — not only within our respective countries, but also as part of our collective responsibility within the international community.

2. I would also like to extend my appreciation to **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Malaysia in New York and Geneva** for their close collaboration and continued support in Malaysia's engagement under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and related multilateral processes.

3. In speaking about Malaysia's CRC journey, I would also like to put on record my sincere appreciation to the Secretary General of KPWKM, together with the entire Ministry team and all ministries and agencies involved, for their steadfast commitment and leadership throughout this process.

4. Under the coordination of KPWKM, Malaysia has continued to strengthen important reforms and initiatives relating to children, including the **National Child Policy and Plan of Action 2026–2030**, improvements to child protection legislation, initiatives relating to online safety and child participation, as well as stronger inter-agency coordination mechanisms supporting children’s well-being.

5. The recent engagement in Geneva also reflected the immense effort undertaken across institutions over many months — from consultations and technical coordination to policy consolidation and preparation sessions. These efforts demonstrate Malaysia’s continuing commitment towards ensuring that child rights remain an important national priority.

Excellencies,

6. This year marks more than three decades since Malaysia acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995. Over the years, Malaysia's engagement with the Convention has grown beyond a reporting obligation. It has become an important platform for national reflection, institutional strengthening and international cooperation.

7. Earlier this year, KPWKM, working closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant ministries and agencies, concluded Malaysia's engagement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. The dialogue reaffirmed both the progress achieved and the continuing work ahead in strengthening systems relating to child protection, participation, welfare, education, health and justice.

8. At the same time, the dialogue also highlighted the importance of ensuring that child protection systems continue to evolve in response to emerging challenges affecting children today, including issues relating to digital safety, mental health and wellbeing, and vulnerabilities experienced by children in different social, economic and environmental circumstances.

Excellencies,

9. Central to our engagement is the conviction that the protection, development and participation of children must remain at the heart of Malaysia's broader development priorities. We remain guided by the belief that policies must ultimately translate into meaningful improvements in the lives of children, especially those in vulnerable situations. This includes children with disabilities, children in alternative care settings, children affected by displacement or

documentation-related challenges, and children who may face barriers in accessing protection, education and healthcare services.

10. One of the most important lessons we have learned throughout the CRC process is that protecting and advancing the rights of children cannot rest on one institution alone. It requires continuous collaboration — between governments, communities, international organisations, civil society and families themselves.

11. I still remember the many preparation sessions we had — both in Malaysia and later in Geneva — involving multiple ministries, agencies and even non-government partners. Despite the long discussions and sometimes difficult issues, there was always a shared understanding that at the end of the day, everything we were discussing came back to one thing: doing better for children.

Excellencies,

12. Today's event is not only an opportunity to reflect on Malaysia's participation under the Convention, but also to recognise that advancing children's rights is a shared and evolving endeavour — one that benefits greatly from international cooperation, exchange of experiences and mutual support among Member States, United Nations entities, civil society organisations and development partners.

13. In this regard, Malaysia has greatly valued its longstanding engagement with international partners, including diplomatic missions represented here today. Many of Your Excellencies and your respective missions have contributed, directly or indirectly, towards strengthening conversations on child protection, education, inclusion, participation and social development, both regionally and globally.

14. It is in this spirit that we are honoured today to launch **The Continuing Covenant: Malaysia’s Journey Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child**. We chose the word “covenant” because it speaks to something deeper than a bureaucratic obligation — a continuing shared responsibility across governments, institutions, communities and generations to protect, support and advance the rights and well-being of children.

15. This publication captures a significant national journey — shaped by reflection, collaboration and a continuing commitment towards children. Above all, it affirms one principle: the work of protecting children is never truly complete. It is a continuing covenant — one that requires commitment across generations.

Excellencies,

16. Malaysia values the contributions of independent experts who lend their perspectives to advancing the global child rights agenda. We are particularly honoured that Dato' Yasmeeen Shariff is with us today. Her contributions in the areas of children, humanitarian affairs and international cooperation reflect Malaysia's continued commitment towards constructive engagement within the international human rights and multilateral system.

17. We are pleased that she is currently a candidate for membership to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for the term 2027–2031, and I am certain that her experience and dedication towards advancing the rights and well-being of children will receive the support and confidence of the international community.

Excellencies,

18. As we look ahead, the work of protecting and empowering children remains our most enduring shared responsibility. At the heart of the Convention lies a simple but enduring principle: every child matters. Every child — regardless of nationality, background or circumstance — deserves protection, dignity, opportunity and hope for the future.

19. As Malaysia continues this journey under the Convention, we remain committed to working together with the international community in advancing this shared aspiration through dialogue, partnership and continued cooperation. Because ultimately, the true measure of our progress as societies lies in how well we protect, support and empower the next generation.

20. On that note, I once again thank Your Excellencies for your presence today, for your continued friendship, support and engagement with Malaysia.

Terima kasih.

YB DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY SHUKRI

MENTERI PEMBANGUNAN WANITA, KELUARGA DAN MASYARAKAT

18 MEI 2026