



**SPEECH BY SECRETARY GENERAL,  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**

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

**Date** : 22 May 2026 (Friday)  
**Time** : 10.00 am  
**Venue** : Ministry of Women, Family  
and Community Development

# **SALUTATIONS**

- 1. YB Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri**  
Minister of Women, Family and  
Community Development
- 2. YBrs. Encik Mohd Daud bin Mohd Arif**  
The Deputy Secretary General (Strategic)  
for the Ministry of Women, Family and  
Community Development
- 3. Dato' Dr. Ahmad Faisal Muhamad**  
Deputy Secretary-General (Multilateral  
Affairs) for Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 4. Excellencies, Distinguished  
Ambassadors and High  
Commissioners**
- 5. Ladies and Gentlemen**

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a very good morning.

It is my pleasure to welcome Your Excellencies and distinguished guests to the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development for this special programme -

Thank you for joining us for this special programme ***A Journey of Malaysia's Participation under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.***

Your presence today is highly appreciated.

Excellencies,

Malaysia acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, or CRC, in 1995.

Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (KPWK) is the **focal ministry** and central custodian

responsible for implementing, monitoring, and reporting on CRC.

While other ministries handle targeted areas (like the Ministry of Education or Ministry of Health), KPWKM acts as the overarching legal and social architect that ensures Malaysia adheres to the fundamental pillars of the CRC: **Survival, Protection, Development, and Participation.**

Since Malaysia is a state party to the CRC, it must periodically defend its progress before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. KPWKM leads this entire apparatus. KPWKM drives the implementation of the CRC through key roles – National Reporting and Policy Integration.

- **National Reporting**

KPWKM compiles the national progress reports, coordinates input from across different ministries, and fields delegations to the UN to answer queries regarding the national report.

- **Policy Integration**

The ministry launched the updated **National Child Policy and Action Plan (2025–2030)**, explicitly structured to map national goals directly to the CRC pillars and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over the years, Malaysia's engagement under the CRC has evolved significantly. For KPWKM, the CRC process has always gone beyond reporting obligations. It serves as an **important platform for institutional reflection, policy coordination and collaboration across ministries, agencies and stakeholders.**

The Convention has served not only as an international commitment, but also as an **important framework guiding national efforts to strengthen systems, policies and programmes relating to children.**

Throughout this journey, Malaysia has progressively strengthened its child rights ecosystem through reforms in laws, policies, institutional coordination and service delivery systems.

## **Key Legislative Pillars**

Malaysia does not automatically absorb international treaties into domestic law; they must be enacted through Parliament. The primary legislative instruments used to implement the CRC include:

1. **The Child Act 2001:** The bedrock of children's rights in Malaysia, which consolidated various older laws to focus on the protection, care, and rehabilitation of children. It established the Juvenile Court (now Court for Children) and introduced Child Protection Teams.
  2. **Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017:** Enacted to specifically target child grooming, child pornography, and sexual assault. Recent amendments have continuously tightened loopholes regarding online grooming.
- **The Online Safety Act 2025:** A recent landmark legislative addition that places a strict legal obligation on digital service providers to protect children from digital harms, cyberbullying, and online exploitation.

#### **4. Evidence of Child Witness Act**

**2007:** Progressively updated to provide better procedural safeguards for child victims giving evidence in court.

Excellencies,

One important lesson throughout Malaysia's CRC journey is that child rights implementation cannot be carried out by any single institution alone.

Preparation for Malaysia's recent constructive dialogue session in Geneva clearly demonstrated the importance of whole-of-government coordination and shared national responsibility.

The preparation process involved months of consultations, drafting sessions, technical coordination meetings and simulation exercises involving numerous ministries, agencies and stakeholders.

This process enabled Malaysia to present a more coordinated, evidence-informed and constructive national position before the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Another important principle under the CRC —is that children should not only be protected, but also be heard. We have established Children’s Representative Council. The council provides opportunities to voice their perspectives and recommendations on matters affecting them. Malaysian children have also participated in ASEAN-level consultations and dialogues relating to child rights, online protection and social welfare systems.

Excellencies,

Today's programme reflects on Malaysia's participation under the CRC and **reaffirm the importance of partnership, cooperation and shared responsibility in advancing the rights and well-being of children. The work of protecting and empowering children is continuous and requires sustained commitment across all sectors & generations.**

We greatly value the support and engagement of the international community, including diplomatic missions, United Nations agencies and development partners represented here today.

Thank you.