

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security  
October 2014, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by **Mr. Haniff**, Permanent Mission of **Malaysia** to the United Nations*

Allow me the opportunity to commend you, Madam President, for convening this open debate on the issue of women and peace and security, which is the third open debate held under your presidency.

Malaysia aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The escalation of crises in the Middle East, Africa and Europe has thrown into sharp relief how much work remains to be done, particularly with regard to the protection of millions of women and children displaced by such conflicts. The focus of today's open debate is therefore timely and critical. Our discussion casts a much-needed spotlight on the urgent plight of women and girls forced to flee their homes due to insecure political, economic and social conditions arising from war.

The rampant incidence of sexual and gender-based violence in situations of conflict, especially affecting displaced women and girls, is deeply troubling. Displaced women and girls already suffer the trauma of leaving their homes and livelihood behind. For them to also fall victim to abhorrent acts of sexual violence in the places where they seek sanctuary is deplorable. Malaysia calls upon all parties to respect and uphold international law and ensure the physical security, safety and protection of the rights of women and girls.

Ending the prevailing culture of impunity and replacing it with one that promotes the rule of law, justice and accountability is crucial in efforts to ensure the protection and prevention of violence against women. In that regard, Malaysia supports the continued efforts of the international community towards that end, including through the building of justice institutions, the deployment of mobile court systems, the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, and the prioritizing of women's access to justice.

Malaysia places strong emphasis on the importance of women's economic empowerment, as outlined in the declaration on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding, adopted by the Peacebuilding Commission in 2013. We also stress the importance of access to education and health care services for displaced women and girls, and call for increased support for initiatives put forward by Member States, the United Nations and civil society in that regard.

The international community must remain vigilant against the forces of violent extremism that have led to much of the recent mass displacement. Malaysia condemns the violence wrought by militant extremism, resulting in untold suffering and gross violations of human rights, especially towards women and children. We believe that a key strategy in combating such extremist ideology is promoting moderation and inclusivity. That requires ensuring that all stakeholders in society, especially women, are empowered and given a voice.

Malaysia reiterates its belief that the equal, full and active participation of women is key to conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In that regard we are encouraged by the increasing trend of women's participation in United Nations-supported peace negotiations and the inclusion of content specific to the women and peace and security agenda in peace agreements. We echo calls for enhanced attention to the role of women in early warning, mediation and prevention initiatives at the community level as well as the engagement of women in efforts to address the root causes of conflicts.

Malaysia is determined to ensure that the plight of women and girls in situations of armed conflict continues to receive the sustained attention of the Security Council. We support all efforts to continue mainstreaming the issue of women and peace and security in the work of the Council. In that regard, my delegation also wishes to express its appreciation for efforts to improve the implementation of arrangements for monitoring, analysis and reporting to the Council, including providing gender-sensitive conflict analysis throughout the reporting chain.

The commitment of the international community to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent, related resolutions, including resolutions 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013), is today being tested in our response to the dire situation of displaced women and girls worldwide. For the sake of millions of innocent women and children, it is a test that we cannot afford to fail.