



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**Statement by**  
**H.E. Mr. Hasan Kikin**  
**Permanent Representative**  
**of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations**  
**on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations**  
**(ASEAN)**

**At the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of**  
**the Commission on the Status of Women**  
**on agenda item 5 (a)**

**New York, 22 February 2014**

**Mr. Chairman,**

It is my honour to speak on behalf of the members of ASEAN. We would like to associate ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Argentina on behalf of the C-77 and China.

Let me also join other delegations who have spoken before me in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the Commission, and members of the Bureau for their respective elections.

ASEAN affirms the importance of gender equality, the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, are essential to advance development, peace and security. It is to be assured that ASEAN will work with you and the members of the Bureau to ensure the successful outcome of this meeting.

**Mr. Chairman**

The Beijing Declaration, adopted at the Fourth World Conference, is an important contribution to the advancement of women worldwide, and the achievement of gender equality. It is an imperative that the member states, the UN system and other relevant organizations, translate it from words into effective actions.

At the 54<sup>th</sup> Session last year, we noted the progress that has been made towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women.

However, we are distressed that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. We therefore pledged to undertake further action to assist them in an accelerated implementation.

ASEAN is determined to take all necessary measures to remove the barriers that have been impeding progress towards the advancement of women worldwide, and gender equality. We are committed to eliminating all forms of violence against women, empowering women, and strengthening their economic independence. We support the protection, promotion and the "unemployment" of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to allow women to get a personal development against violence.

At the First Meeting of ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) held in Jakarta last week, ASEAN seeks to promote the well-being, development, empowerment and participation of women and children in the ASEAN Community building process. The efforts would promote public awareness and education of their rights. The meeting had identified thematic issues for the future work plan of ACWC, some of which correspond with the global priorities and issues being addressed by the UN system.



Mr. Chairman,

Being cognizant of the multiple roles of women in the family, in the society and in the building of the nation, they deserve to be given the appropriate support and opportunities to enable them to undertake their tasks effectively.

In this context, education is a vital building block to help women fulfil their role effectively. It is also a vital tool in removing economic, socio-cultural and political barriers. It further provides the means for achieving a balanced and equal relationship between women and men. The **Energy, Environment and Equitable Access to Education** has its own part to play in that as we must all agree.

Furthermore, in the context of today's world economy, there is increasingly demand for knowledge, science and education is vital. It is important therefore to promote the active participation and integration of women, as well as developing their technical competencies to widen the pool of human resources available to perform these tasks. For this reason, we need to develop human resources through education, life long learning, and promoting science and technology.

Mr. Chairman,

In ASEAN, despite even the progress made by some of the member states, gender inequalities and disproportionate representation of women among the poor, and that have been exacerbated during the recent financial crisis.

To address this, among other things, we are promoting and investing in education and life long learning, human resources training, and

To encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, current efforts are directed towards the attainment of a technologically innovative and dynamic ASEAN with a strong network of scientific and technological institutions and centers of excellence.

In view of the priority and review themes of this 35<sup>th</sup> Session, ASEAN commits to the following concerted actions:

- To strengthen the provisions to ensure equal access to essential affordable and accessible public and social services, including education and training at all levels, as well as all types of permanent and sustainable social protection/social security systems for women throughout their life cycle.
- To achieve universal access to primary education across ASEAN by 2015 with a priority to provide universal access to quality compulsory primary education for all and gender equality in education through basic and technical education in education regardless of social class, geography, ethnicity, background or physical disabilities, with 70 percent target benchmark achieved by the end of 2011.

- To develop gender-responsive skills training programmes for trainer-trainers in ASEAN Member States
- To develop a workforce and manpower with high levels of ICT proficiency and expertise.
- To promote active mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation and evolution of national, regional and local policies and programmes, including the development of gender analysis tools for the effective monitoring and assessment of gender gains and gaps.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Finally, once again, we would like to call upon the UN system, international and regional organizations and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations as well as women and men, to fully commit themselves and intensify their efforts to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 40th anniversary special session of the General Assembly.

Thank you.