



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK



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**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Hasan Kleib
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations
on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations
(ASEAN)**

**At the 55th Session of
the Commission on the Status of Women
on agenda item 3 (a)**

New York, 22 February 2011

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 G77 and China.

Let me also join other delegations who have spoken before me in congratulating you for 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. In this connection, 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 54th Session last year, we welcomed the progress made thus far towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women.

However, it was stressed that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, and the outcome documents of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. We therefore pledged to undertake further action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation.

ASEAN is therefore 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 discrimination against women, empowering women, and strengthening their economic independence. We support the protection, promotion, and the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in order to allow women and girls to protect themselves 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. These efforts would help promote public awareness and education of their rights. The meeting had identified thematic issues for the future work plan of ACWC, some of which correlate with the global priorities and issues being addressed by CSW and UN Women.

Mr. Chairman,

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

In this context, education is a vital building block to help women fulfill 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 more balanced and equal relationship between women and men. Therefore, ensuring and enabling access to education for all has to be a goal that we must all achieve.

Furthermore, in the context of today's world economy that is increasingly driven by 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 experiencing rapid economic growth, many countries are still facing inequalities and disproportionate representation of women among the poor, and these have been exacerbated during the recent financial crisis.

To address this challenge effectively, among others, we are promoting and investing in education and life-long learning, human resource training and capacity building.

To encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, current efforts are directed towards the attainment of a technologically competitive ASEAN, competent in strategic and enabling technologies, with an adequate pool of technologically qualified and trained manpower, and strong networks of scientific and technological institutions and centers of excellence.

In view of the priority and review themes of this 55th Session, ASEAN commits to the following concerted actions:

- To strengthen the provisions of and ensure equal access to adequate, 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 priorities to eradicate illiteracy and to ensure compulsory primary education for all and gender equality in education, through advocating for equal opportunity 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 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, inter alia, in the design, implementation and evaluation of regional, national 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 contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

Thank you.