



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## **INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)**

### **145th IPU ASSEMBLY**

**GENERAL DEBATE ON THE THEME:  
GENDER EQUALITY & GENDER-SENSITIVE PARLIAMENTS  
AS DRIVERS OF CHANGE FOR A MORE RESILIENT & PEACEFUL  
WORLD**

**VENUE:  
KIGALI, RWANDA  
11 – 15 OCTOBER 2022**

1. Bismillahi Rahmannir Rahim. (Selawat and prayers).  
Assalamualaikum wbt and a very good afternoon to the Honourable Chairperson, Secretary, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Senator Muhammad Zahid Md Arip, the one and only Member of Parliament from Malaysia for this Assembly. Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organiser for giving me the honour to represent Malaysia in this 145th IPU Assembly on the theme, "Gender Equality and Gender-Sensitive Parliaments as Drivers Of Change For A More Resilient And Peaceful World".
  
2. May I also congratulate the Parliament of Rwanda for its huge efforts in hosting this Assembly. I believe, this meeting will serve as a valuable platform for all Members of Parliaments, to identify and discuss matters of common concerns across the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Malaysia is committed in empowering women and achieving gender equality at both national and international levels. At national level, it refers to the commitment made in our Federal Constitution, particularly under Article 8 (1) which provides

equitable treatment of all individuals and Article 8 (2) which prohibits any kinds of discrimination on the basis of gender. Both act as the basis for the ongoing initiatives by the Malaysian Government in its efforts to eliminate gender-based discrimination.

4. Malaysia is also committed of its international obligations as a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as commitment in SDG 5 and Beijing Platform for Action.
5. The Malaysian Government has launched its National Policy for Women in 1989 and a review was made in 2009 with the outcome of Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women. It aims to secure women's development and capabilities by prioritising women's interests and potentials in national planning and development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Parliament of Malaysia plays an important role in women empowerment initiatives through the Parliamentary Select Committees. As of 2020, there were Special Select Committee on Women and Children Affairs and Social Development; and Special Select Committee on Fundamental Liberty and Constitutional Rights.
7. Parliament of Malaysia also has formed several caucuses and All Party Parliamentary Group such as APPGM on SDG and Dewan Negara Caucus for People's Well-being to accelerate the efforts towards human rights, including women.
8. In two years there is an increase of 0.5 percent female representation in Parliament of Malaysia from 14.4 percent in 2019 to 14.9 percent in 2021. There were 33 female MPs in lower house and currently eight female members of the Senate.
9. In 2019, Parliament of Malaysia appointed the first female member to hold the portfolio of Chairman for Public Accounts Committee and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. Subsequently the first female civil servant was appointed as the Chief Administrator of the Parliament of Malaysia in 2021.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. The Malaysian government also recognizes the importance of structural reform in ensuring efforts to empower women and gender equality can be done more effectively through legislative mechanisms, in addition to the existing instruments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Malaysia strongly believes that positioning women as key drivers of change requires efforts from all agencies: the public and private sectors as well as the society at large. This includes erasing the stereotypes that hinder them from moving forward.
12. Last but not least, I wish to call upon IPU Member Countries, particularly IPU Women Parliamentarians to give strong support to gender equality and gender-sensitive Parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world.
13. I wish to end my speech with a paragraph of Malay poetry;

*Kalau ada sumur di ladang,  
Boleh saya menumpang mandi,  
Kalau ada umur yang panjang,  
Boleh kita berjumpa lagi.*

*Sekian terima kasih. Thank you.*