

Co-organized by



British  
High Commission  
Kuala Lumpur



In collaboration with



Delegation of the  
European Union to Malaysia

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FORUM 2024

## INVEST IN WOMEN, ACCELERATE PROGRESS IN MALAYSIA

THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2024

9.00AM – 1.00PM



IN PERSON ATTENDANCE BY INVITATION



# YOUTUBE LIVE : LINK

## BACKGROUND

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Achieving gender equality and women's well-being in all aspects of life is more crucial than ever if we want to create prosperous economies, societies and a healthy planet. Amidst the existing challenges and disparities, and in a collective effort to expedite the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, particularly SDG 5 "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", the 2024 International Women's Day (IWD) is a call to action on five key areas:

- Investing in women, a human rights imperative
- Ending poverty
- Implementing gender-responsive financing
- Shifting to a green economy and equitable care society
- Supporting feminist change-makers

## THEME

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In conjunction with the 2024 International Women's Day (IWD), the United Nations in Malaysia and its partners –the British High Commission Kuala Lumpur, Embassy of Brazil in Malaysia, Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia and National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO) join the global campaign to celebrate women and amplify the call to accelerate the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Malaysia. The IWD Forum 2024 will be organized under the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress in Malaysia". The global 2024 IWD campaign will use the hashtag #InvestInWomen to disseminate this year's messages from around the world.



## IWD FORUM 2024 STRUCTURE

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The forum consists of an opening segment, two panel discussions and a closing session, all designed to engage a broad audience of stakeholders around this year's theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress in Malaysia".

The first panel discussion addresses the imperative of investing in women and girls from a human rights angle, in light of the upcoming periodic report on CEDAW, and building on the recent review of Malaysia's human rights records by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group. The discussion will examine the intersection of gender equality and human rights, emphasizing the fundamental rights and freedoms of women. Participants will explore how promoting women's rights and addressing systemic inequalities can lead to greater empowerment and social justice.

The second panel discussion focuses on women's economic empowerment in Malaysia. The session will highlight successful initiatives and innovative approaches that have facilitated women's advancement in fields such as entrepreneurship, STEM, finance, and leadership roles. The session will also discuss strategies for overcoming remaining barriers to women's economic inclusion.



# PROGRAMME

## 8.30AM - 9.00AM Registration

## 9.00AM - 9.30AM

2024 IWD Forum in brief  
Ms. Sheahnee Iman Lee, MC

### International Women's Day Video Message:

Mr. António Guterres  
UN Secretary-General

### Opening Remarks:

YBhg. Prof. Emerita Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan  
Shahabudin  
President, National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO)

H.E Ailsa Terry  
British High Commissioner to Malaysia

Ms. Karima El Korri  
UN Resident Coordinator for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei  
Darussalam

### Officiating Address:

YB Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Binti Shukri, Minister of Women, Family and  
Community Development

## 9.30AM - 9.40AM

### Keynote Speaker:

#### Disability

YB Senator Tuan Isaiah D. Jacob  
Member of the Dewan Negara

## 9.40AM - 11.00AM

### PANEL DISCUSSION 1

Investing in Women and Girls, a Human Rights Imperative

### Moderator:

Ms. Sheahnee Iman Lee  
Former News Anchor, NTV7

### Keynote Speaker:

YBhg. Prof. Dato' Noor Aziah Binti Mohd Awal  
Commissioner, SUHAKAM

### Panelists:

#### Malaysia's Human Rights Commitments

Ms. Rozana Isa  
Executive Director, Sisters in Islam (SIS)

#### Citizenship and Statelessness

Ms. Maalini Ramalo  
Director of Social Protection, DHRRA Malaysia

#### Perspectives of Indigenous people

Ms. Anne Lasimbang  
Founder and Executive Director, PACOS Trust

Discussion

## 11.00AM - 11.30AM

Networking Coffee / Tea Break

## 11.30AM - 12.45PM

### PANEL DISCUSSION 2:

Women's Economic Participation, a Driver of Progress

### Moderator:

Ms Bettina Chua Abdullah,  
Writer and former Chief Anchor, CNBC Asia

### Keynote Speaker:

Hajah Mahuran Saro Dato'Haji Sariki  
Vice President, Group Research, Development & Policy, and  
Malaysian Professional Talent, TalentCorp Group of Companies

### Panelists:

#### Empowering Women in the economy: Unleashing Strategies for Inclusive Economic Growth

Dr Melati Nungsari  
Deputy Dean for Research, Asia School of Business

#### Women in Digital Finance

Ms. Hildah Hamzah  
Chief of Staff, GXBank (Grab-led)

#### Women in Tech/AI

Ms. Yuki Aizawa  
Regional Director of APAC region, Women In Tech™

#### Care Economy

Ms. Ong Jee Lian  
Group Chief Communications & ESG Officer, Gamuda Berhad

#### Championing ESG

Ms. Charlotte Wolff-Bye, Vice President and Chief Sustainability  
Officer Petronas

Discussion

## 12.45PM - 1.00PM

### CLOSING REMARKS

H.E. Michalis Rokas  
Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to  
Malaysia

Dr. Asa Torkelsson  
Representative for Malaysia, United Nations Population Fund  
(UNFPA)

## LUNCHEON RECEPTION AND END OF THE EVENT

