



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia**  
*to the United Nations*

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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ZAHID RASTAM**

**UNITED NATIONS  
ON  
AGENDA ITEM 62: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN  
OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE  
OF THE 64TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK, 12 OCTOBER 2009**

Mr. Chairman,

2 Gender stereotypes continue to remain real barriers to the overall goal of the

advancement of women. At the international level, including here at the United Nations, we are aware that the discomfort in addressing this issue crosses all regional lines, and crosses different levels of development. We have found that even the most advanced, open and liberal countries are averse to discussing this issue, just as much as the countries that may be deemed more conservative. We understand that discussing stereotypes does lead to other discussions which touch on traditional or cultural values. These are difficult for policy-makers and even more so to implement. Even in my own country, chipping away long held biases and ways

9 As we approach the 2010 review of the MDCs, allow me to share some

