



OPENING REMARKS

**YB DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY BINTI SHUKRI
MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

PROGRAM

2025 ASEAN ICT FORUM ON CHILD PROTECTION

LOCATION / DATE / TIME

**HILTON KUALA LUMPUR
18 NOVEMBER 2025 (TUESDAY)
8.30AM**

Updated 17 November 2025

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

(SALUTASI)

SALUTATIONS TO BE ATTACHED

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

1. A very good morning and a warm welcome to all distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends. To our partners from across ASEAN and beyond – thank you for being here. For those who have travelled far, Malaysia welcomes you. It is an honour to host the **2025 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Protection**, where governments, industry and civil society come together with one shared mission: **to build a digital world where every child is safe, confident and empowered.**

2. Today's theme, "*Empowering Children and Strengthening ASEAN's Commitment to a Safer Digital Future,*" captures the reality of what we are facing today. Technology is reshaping how children learn, connect and discover the world.

3. But alongside opportunities come real risks – cyberbullying, misinformation, grooming, exploitation, and the emotional toll of being “always online.” These challenges do not stop at borders, our solutions cannot stop at borders either. We must stand together, share what works, and build safer digital ecosystems across the region.

Malaysia's Commitment To Protect Children

4. For Malaysia, protecting and empowering children has always been a central pillar of our national agenda. Through the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, we continue to strengthen our policies and programmes so that children grow up in safe, nurturing, and empowering environments — firmly upholding the principles of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**: survival, protection, development, and participation.

5. This also means integrating child rights into our digital policies, strengthening collaboration with agencies such as the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, the Ministry of Education, and our civil society partners. Together, we promote digital literacy, build cyber safety awareness, and improve mechanisms to prevent online harm and exploitation.

6. Above all, we recognise that children are not just technology users. They are active digital citizens. Their voices, ideas, and concerns must shape the solutions we design.

7. This forum is also especially meaningful for Malaysia as it coincides with the launch of our latest ***National Child Policy and its Plan of Action (2026-2030)***, which will be officiated today by our Deputy Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat, Dato' Sri Ahmad Zahid.

8. This renewed policy reflects Malaysia's long-standing commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strengthens our national roadmap across four core pillars — survival, protection, development, and participation.

9. Supported by 141 actions under 16 strategic priorities, the Policy and Plan of Action sets a clear direction for safeguarding children's rights, elevating their wellbeing, and ensuring that every child — including those most at risk, — grows up in an environment that is safe, nurturing, inclusive, and empowering. It is a milestone that reinforces our shared belief that the best policies for children are those built with collaboration, evidence, and compassion.

ASEAN's Shared Responsibility

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. ASEAN has made strong progress through frameworks such as the Regional Plan of Action on Eliminating Violence Against Children, and the Regional Plan of Action on Child Online Exploitation and Abuse. These commitments remind us that the safety of children — online or offline — is foundational to a peaceful, resilient ASEAN Community.

11. As technology evolves, the urgency of this work increases. Connectivity brings opportunity, but it also increases responsibility — to ensure innovation serves humanity, and especially serves children.

12. Over the next two days, this Forum will explore issues that affect millions of children every day:

- Children's mental health and wellbeing in a hyper-connected world;
- Designing inclusive digital spaces for children with disabilities and neurodiverse conditions;
- Co-creating apps and technology with children, not just for them;
- Addressing the emerging challenges of AI, data protection, and cross-border crimes.

13. These conversations matter because they shape the digital future our children will inherit. The best ideas will come from collaboration — across governments, industries, researchers, communities, and young people themselves.

Our Call To Action

Distinguished guests and delegates,

14. If recent years have shown us anything, it is that no single nation can manage digital risks alone. But when countries unite, when industries innovate responsibly, when communities stay engaged, and when youth are empowered — our collective strength becomes powerful.

15. Let this Forum be a place where partnerships deepen, new solutions emerge, and hope is strengthened. We are not here to merely discuss the future — we are here to shape it.

Closing

To all our respected delegates gathered here today,

16. I wish to express my gratitude to our co-organisers and partners — UNICEF, the Australian Government, the ASEAN Secretariat, and all contributors — for bringing this Forum to life.

17. As you take part in the discussions ahead, I also hope you find a moment to enjoy Kuala Lumpur — a city shaped by diversity, strengthened by its culture, and always ready to welcome friends from near and far.

18. Before I close, allow me to reflect on the words of former United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon: “*We must act today to safeguard the rights of children, for tomorrow may be too late.*” His reminder is powerful — and it is timely.
19. Let us leave this Forum united by a simple and profound truth: every child deserves to dream, to learn, and to connect without fear. And together, we carry both the responsibility and the power to make that future real.

Thank you.

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

YB DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY BINTI SHUKRI
Minister of Women, Family & Community Development
18 November 2025