

Biographical Data Form for Candidates to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Name: SYED HASSAN SHAHABUDIN, Sharifah Hapsah

Nationality: Malaysian

Date and place of birth: 16 August 1947, Kedah, Malaysia

Working languages: Malay and English

Current position/functions:

President of the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO) Malaysia since year 2000. Senior Consultant to the PERMATA programme at Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia. Member of the National Advisory Council on Women, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia since year 2015.

Main professional activities:

A Professor Emerita in the Faculty of Medicine and former Vice Chancellor of the National University of Malaysia (UKM), she is currently engaged in active promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO) Malaysia and the National Advisory Council on Women, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia. She collaborated with the Ministry in establishing the Research Chair and Centre for Gender Equality at the UKM. At the regional level, she exerts influence as member of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organisation, of which she was President from 2013 to 2014. Sharifah Hapsah is a co-founder of the Malaysian AIDS Council and was active in HIV/AIDS prevention for women at national and international levels, including at the WHO and CEDAW. As member of the National Information Technology Council, she intensified the use of information and communications technology by women and women organisations, and contributed to the CEDAW panel on ICT. She is very active in promoting entrepreneurship in poverty eradication. She is also the chairperson of the committee on Malaysia's shadow report to CEDAW. Her contribution in human rights discourse in Malaysia includes being member of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia in 2004 - 2006, and a member of the Commission for Integrity of Enforcement Agencies in 2010 - 2013.

Educational background:

1. Doctorate in Medicine (MD), University of Malaya.
2. Master of Health Personnel Education (MHPed), University of New South Wales, Australia.
3. Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), University of Malaya.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:

Sharifah Hapsah has carved a name for herself in the movement for women's advancement in Malaysia through NCWO, an umbrella body of 120 women associations, the main advisory and consultative NGO to government on women's issues. Her lasting legacy to NCWO is the 10 Year Strategic Plan (2010-2020) which aligns NCWO's path with the country's strategic agenda. She was actively involved in the formulation of the National Policy on Women, law reforms including those pertaining to rape, domestic violence and syariah, and the

establishment of the national policy to ensure at least 30% participation of women in decision-making. She represented Malaysia in the negotiation on Section C (Health) of the Beijing Platform for Action at the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and is a frequent rapporteur and moderator at international meetings.

List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights:

Shadow Report of the CEDAW 2005, editor of the “Transcending the Gender Information Divide” conference proceedings, UNDP, 2000, Asian Women Leaders in Higher Education II: Leadership Competencies to Face the Local-global Challenges of the 21st Century, UNESCO, 2001 and author of Women and Development Chapter, National Economic Consultative Council, Malaysia. She is a prolific columnist and her latest article entitled “Equal Protection for All” was published by The Star, a Malaysian news publication on 6 January 2016.
