

**MALAYSIA - COUNTRY STATEMENT**  
**72<sup>nd</sup> UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA  
AND THE PACIFIC (UNESCAP)**

Mr. Chair, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Thank you for giving me the floor to say a few words.

1. Malaysia is committed to support and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the country embark on the next chapter of development. Our national development agenda has always been people-focused, and runs in line with the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. Malaysia has successfully achieved the MDG goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Malaysia in fact, launched its first poverty eradication strategy in 1971, thirty years before the MDGs were introduced. At the start of the new millennium, the poverty rate was brought down to 8.5 per cent and in 2014, poverty stood at 0.6 per cent.
3. Malaysia has also essentially achieved the MDG goal of universal primary education. Not only in terms of enrolment ratios, but also in the number of children completing the primary education. In 2000, the participation rate was recorded at 95.6 per cent, and by 2014 the participation rate had reached 97.9 per cent. Completion rates in primary schools have also been high at 99.2 per cent in 2014 as compared to 96.9 per cent in 2000.
4. In term of gender equality, Malaysia has shown significant progress in education, employment, leadership and decision-making. In 2013, the girls has outnumbered boys at the secondary and tertiary education levels, by 7 percent and 31 percent resectively. Female work force participation has increased to 53.6% in 2014. In the same year, there were more females in the public service and holding 32.6% of the top management positions while 29.5% of the board of directors in all registered companies were women.

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5. Malaysia's commitment in ensuring environmental sustainability are implemented through the various legislations and policies adopted by the government. The Government has formulated the National Climate Change Policy, National Green Technology Policy and National Policy on Biodiversity to address the issues of climate change and sustainability.
6. At the global and regional frontiers, Malaysia has moved from being a net recipient of development assistance to becoming a development partner. Malaysia is currently active in sharing of knowledge and experience with other countries, especially in the economic and social spheres of development.
7. Looking at the current trend, Malaysia is on the right track towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda. The country's current five-year development plan, the Eleventh Malaysia Plan 2016-2020, has been formulated with 'people' as its key focus. It mirrors the multi-dimensional nature of the SDGs and will serve as an overarching and guiding policy for sustainable development.
8. With the theme "Anchoring Growth on People", the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016-2020) sets out six strategic thrusts to drive the economy forward, address current challenges and embrace opportunities in the rapidly changing global landscape. It ensures that all segments of society will benefit from the country's economic prosperity in order to create an advanced economy and inclusive nation by 2020.
9. The well-being of all segments of society will further be raised by providing equal access to quality healthcare, affordable housing and safer neighborhoods and public spaces. Towards this end, more health facilities and affordable homes will be built over the next few years. The rural areas will be transformed effectively by improving connectivity, mobility and creation of a more conducive business environment.

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10. The status of a nation, whether advanced or otherwise, depends on the competencies and skills of its human capital as well as the strength of its value system. It is for this reason that the Eleventh Malaysia Plan will focus heavily on enhancing the quality of education and on strengthening of skills through the improvement of the Technical and Vocational Education (TVET).
11. Malaysia also wish to underscore the importance of international intermodal transport corridors for safe, efficient, reliable and affordable movement of goods and people. Such corridors are meant to support sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare and enhancing international cooperation and trade among member states.
12. In the Eleventh Malaysia Plan, the transport and logistics sector will remain as the crucial driver of growth – leveraging on new investments in road, rail and air services to boost regional development. Better integration of different transportation modes will create seamless connectivity for people and goods. The Government of Malaysia will continue to work with the private sector in creating an integrated logistic network, coupled with efficient trade facilitation to further boost trade and economy.
13. In recognizing the importance of conserving our environment for the future generations, the Eleventh Malaysia Plan will also focus exclusively on adopting 'green growth strategy' for development. It represents Malaysia's long-term commitment to protect the environment and ensure its enduring sustainability.
14. Malaysia is committed to mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in various sectors and different levels of implementation. The institution of governance structure for implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as building capacity and awareness would be part of the requisites to

ensure ownership and effective implementation and monitoring of the SDGs by all stakeholders.

15. The implementation of the SDGs within the context of our five-year development plans will require a whole-of-government-approach. This, in turn, will allow the optimization of limited resources and funding through integrated collaborative programmes that will benefit all parties.
16. Finally, Malaysia strongly urges all member states to build a stronger collaboration and share their best practices to address the gaps and promote a strong cohesion of sustainable development in the region.
17. I thank you, Mr. Chair.