Seventy Fifth Session of the ESCAP
Theme Topic: Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality

Thank you Mr. Chairperson;
Excellencies;
Distinguish delegates;
Assalammualaikum and a very good morning.

Distinguish delegates,

Malaysia pursues economic growth and equity development strategies with well-being of the people in mind. Along with the philosophy of “growth with equity” or “growth with distribution”, inclusive development planning addresses societal inequalities and make sure that every segment of the society will benefit from the development irrespective of ethnic, gender, socioeconomic status and geographic locations. This principles are also in tandem with the spirit of leaving no one behind under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nation.

On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I would like to say on this stage that Malaysia has continuously embraced sustainable development in the our national development agenda. In this regard, the commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been mapped with the current Malaysia Development Plan to align strategies and initiatives to support the Sustainable Development Goals. The first phase of a Malaysia’s SDG roadmap has been developed to provide guidance for the smooth implementation of the 17 SDGs. The roadmap takes into account the nation’s capacities and capabilities in achieving the identified goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Malaysia efforts to enhance inclusive development and wellbeing are aimed at creating a more equitable society through measures to increase income and bridge socioeconomic imbalances. Meanwhile, emphasis is also given in further strengthening the social protection system in order to ensure the vulnerable groups are protected from any forms of shock that could adversely affect their quality of lives. In doing so, targeting mechanisms of social assistance programmes will be improved to ensure that the target groups are provided with the assistance according to merits and their specific needs.
Distinguish delegates,

Malaysia will continue to pursue the use of technology as an integral element to bolster economic growth. More knowledge-intensive and skilled workforce will be the back-bone to support the economic sectors in moving up the value chain. Meanwhile, the provision of quality infrastructure in terms of improving connectivity, efficiency and reliability will further spur economic growth. These concerted efforts will enhance productivity and ensure Malaysia remains on track to become a developed and inclusive nation.

In conclusion, Malaysia believes that with a stronger regional cooperation among member countries of the ESCAP will further improve the standards of living and promote more inclusive development in Asia Pacific region.

Thank you for the attention.