



**STATEMENT BY MS. SUZILAH SIDEK
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)
AT THE 78TH SESSION OF ESCAP
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Ibu Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to extend our warmest congratulations to ESCAP
on the seventy-fifth anniversary of its establishment this year.

Malaysia joins others in commending the central role played by ESCAP in
Asia and the Pacific region. Since 1947, when many nations were still at
its infancy in nation-building, ESCAP has been instrumental in promoting
cooperation that addresses challenges in sustainable development. 75
years later today, ESCAP's tasks are even more crucial as the world
continues to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a world that constantly evolves, we are seeing significantly more events invariably changing lives and the socio-economic landscape that we once knew. These changes are our cue - for us to reflect deeply and plan more meticulously for our future. Perhaps the time has come that such changes necessitate fresh approaches. In this regard, ESCAP is well placed to drive the much-needed innovation, motivation and inspiration, and plan them for the next 75 years.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of ESCAP's establishment this year, the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is still far from over. The world is still recovering, albeit at different rates. At the same time, a major crisis is ongoing in Ukraine, while closer to the Asia-Pacific region, conflicts in Myanmar, Afghanistan and Palestine continues to impact those most vulnerable, pushing its population further away from reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In view of the current global dynamics, ESCAP is well placed to chart the future of the region. Reviewing past achievements, assessing weaknesses and recalibrating future plans may well be some ideas that could be taken into consideration.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

As a UN Member State, the window of opportunity to upscale our collective resolve in the lead up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals is right before us. For Malaysia, the 2030 Agenda is embedded in our 12th Malaysia Plan.

The 12th Malaysia Plan is our national development blueprint. Slated for implementation from 2021 to 2025, the Plan addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development - covering its social, economic and environmental pillars.

The 12th Malaysia Plan emphasises the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level, to ensure that no one is left behind. In line with the whole-of-nation approach, the Malaysian Government is intensifying the involvement of stakeholders such as the private sector, academia, parliamentarians and civil society organizations (CSOs).

Against this backdrop, the Malaysian Parliament established the All-Party Parliamentary Group of Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals. The Group is a bipartisan initiative driven to implement SDGs in Parliamentary constituencies.

The group has been actively implementing SDGs at the local level and its framework includes the following activities:

Firstly, it conducts policy research through field visits;

Secondly, the group develops SDGs community-based solution projects that are undertaken through allocations provided for each constituency;

Thirdly, it develops capacity-building programmes on Sustainable Development Goals for civil servants and local community leaders; and

Lastly, the Group organises policy dialogues and advocacy activities on SDGs with Members of Parliament and relevant agencies.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In Malaysia, we have consciously referred ourselves as '*Keluarga Malaysia*' or the 'Malaysian Family'; one that is built on the values of contentment, togetherness and inclusivity.

In that spirit, Malaysia is confident that ESCAP will continue to play an important and complementary role in our collective effort to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially in Asia and the Pacific region.

Thank you

(601 words)