
**THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNESCAP)**

TEHTH ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

27 MARCH – 30 MARCH 2023

COUNTRY STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM 4:

**STRENGTHENING THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTARY NATIONAL
REVIEWS ON ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION AND IMPROVE DATA FOR EVIDENCE-BASED
POLICYMAKING**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. We live in a world of rapid changes that it is evident that no country can stand alone. The interconnected threats and challenges require all nations to shoulder the responsibility and cooperate towards a

common goal. Hence, multi-stakeholder collaborations are essential to maximising the SDGs' interconnections in order to increase their efficacy, impact, and rate of progress towards achieving Agenda 2030.

2. The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) are a critical component of the United Nations' efforts to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). VNRs provide a platform for member states to share their progress, experiences, and challenges in implementing the SDGs and highlight the actions they are taking to achieve them.
3. The South-South Cooperation has been an innovative forms of knowledge exchange, technology transfer, emergency response and recovery of livelihoods led by the South that helps transforming lives. More than half of the growth in the world in recent years has come from the developing South. South-South Cooperation has facilitated a significant number of knowledge and expertise exchanges through programmes, projects, and initiatives that have helped tackle specific challenges in the countries of the Global South through political discourse and financial cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. In Malaysia, adoption of a whole-of-nation approach is imperative in bringing our goals closer to achievement. There has been a lot of comprehensive multi-stakeholder engagements and collaboration between the public and non-public sectors, particularly in drafting the Malaysia Voluntary National Review in 2021. This helped us gain

better perspectives on the nation's performance, as well as identifying gaps and challenges in implementing SDGs. We believe that forging strong partnerships is important to ensure buy-in from all relevant parties.

5. In addition, Malaysia has also published MyLocal Stats, which displays key socioeconomic statistics at administrative district and state level. With the production of MyLocal Stats, states and local government are able to assess their performance, identify gaps and produce the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) reports. This supports SDG localisation, which has been given much emphasis in the national development plan, particularly to accelerate the SDGs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. In the South-South Cooperation or the Global Partnership for Development, Malaysia has been active in sharing its expertise on development planning and implementation through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since its inception in 1980, more than 34,000 participants from 144 countries have benefited from the various programmes offered under the MTCP. Malaysia has been contributing funds for the MTCP where in 2017, MYR8.47 million was allocated. This is followed by MYR12 million for the year 2019, RM5.5 million for 2022 and RM8.5 million for 2023.
7. As Malaysia is no longer a net recipient of Official Development Assistance (ODA), Malaysia will continue to support activities with partner countries moving forward. Malaysia committed to play a role

internationally to enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries, through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Member states can strengthen the impact of VNRs by sharing their experiences, expertise, and best practices with each other through South-South cooperation. This can help to accelerate progress towards the SDGs by providing opportunities for countries to learn from each other, avoid common pitfalls, and adopt successful strategies that have been tried and tested in other contexts. South-South cooperation can also help to build trust and mutual understanding among countries, which can facilitate more effective collaboration and partnerships.
9. The availability of high-quality, timely, and disaggregated data is essential for evidence-based policymaking and monitoring progress towards the SDGs. Member states can strengthen the impact of VNRs by improving their data collection and management systems and making data more accessible to policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders. This can help to identify gaps and areas of progress in SDG implementation, and guide more effective policymaking and resource allocation.
10. In addition, capacity building is essential for ensuring that member states have the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to implement the SDGs effectively. Member states can strengthen the impact of VNRs by investing in capacity building initiatives that

support SDG implementation, including training programs, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing platforms. This can help to enhance the quality and impact of VNRs by equipping countries with the tools and expertise they need to achieve their SDG targets.

11. We hope the UN and other countries continue to share their best practices, knowledge, and technical expertise through capacity building to accelerate our actions in realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.