



**KEMENTERIAN PEMBANGUNAN
KERAJAAN TEMPATAN**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR NGA KOR MING,
MINISTER OF MALAYSIA
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT**

**Ministerial Segment
TOWARDS THE 2023 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUMMIT
Country Statement
(Agenda Item 3 – Panel 3)**

of the
**Tenth (10th) Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
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Venue: ESCAP Hall**

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Under Secretary-General of United Nations and
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Session's Moderator

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. Sustainable Development is a key principle in Malaysia's development and growth trajectories, and we place great importance on the well-being of Malaysians. Our MADANI values aligns the vision for a Prosperous Nation and embraces six core values of - Sustainability (keMampanan), Prosperity (Kesejahteraan), Innovation (DayaCipta), Respect (hormat), Trust (keyakinan) and Compassion (Ihsan). This considers the various needs of our people according to the culture, customs, and beliefs of our multi-racial society as we uphold the principle of 'Leaving No One Behind'.
2. As the country enters its eighth year of SDG implementation, Malaysia is committed to stepping up efforts to achieve the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda as part of our effort to make Malaysia a sustainable nation by 2030. This requires comprehensive and inclusive participation from all parties to ensure sustainable development agenda is met. Continuous efforts are being undertaken to mainstream SDGs in national, state, and local development planning.
3. While the SDG is not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 goals. In this regard, a multi-stakeholder, participatory governance structure

was established as a mechanism to undertake necessary actions for monitoring, evaluation and reporting to ensure effective implementation of the SDGs in Malaysia. The main decision-making body is the National SDG Council chaired by the Prime Minister, plays the role in setting the national agenda and providing the direction for SDG implementation. The Council is supported by the SDG Steering Committee, SDG Technical Committee and seven other working committees from various stakeholders including representative of private sector and civil society organisation (CSO).

4. In ensuring a smooth running of SDG implementation in Malaysia, the government has set up the **National SDG Centre** aimed at empowering and accelerating programmes for a better and sustainable future for the nation. The Centre will also monitor the progress and implementation of all SDG-related programmes and applying the **whole-of-nation** approach by including participation of public and private sectors as well the involvement of CSOs.
5. We also wish to highlight that we have developed SDG monitoring and reporting system through the SDG Data Dashboard system, which is aligned to the global indicator framework adopted by the United Nations. While we strive to enhance our indicator framework, the system has significantly improved data availability of the SDG indicators. We are committed to present our progress to the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) mechanism. We have presented the first VNR in 2017 and second VNR in 2022.
6. In addition, Malaysia has always encouraged local and sub-national governments to report on SDG progress through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR). VLRs could act as a tool to localise the SDG, to support national development frameworks, and for cities to drive innovation and advance their local priorities. I am happy to report that Malaysia will be presenting three VLRs in the upcoming HLPF.

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7. Malaysia has embedded the SDGs in its five-year national development plans since its adoption in 2016. Our **Twelfth Malaysia Plan** has four (4) key measures to develop sustainable cities:
 - Promoting Effective Urban Planning and Governance;
 - Fostering Sustainable Urban Economy;
 - Prioritising Green and Resilient Urban Development; and
 - Building Sustainable Urban Society.
8. A **Malaysia Liveability Index** is also ready to measure sustainability and to assess the effectiveness of its planning instruments and the success of their implementation measures.
9. However, like many other nations, we are continuously challenged as we strive to balanced growth and development sustainably.
10. One continued challenge in Malaysia is poverty, where 56% of the bottom 40% population resides in cities and urban areas. As Malaysia continues to battle this issue, it focusses not only on economic development priority but on uplifting the well-being and quality of life of the lower income. Affordable housing is central to my Ministry and 500,000 homes have been targeted under the 12th Malaysia Plan.
11. We are also not spared with the impact of Climate Change, where heavy rainfalls have caused intense flooding all over the country. As part of Malaysia's effort to address climate change, a resource efficient and climate resilient development model has been adopted. Our National Climate Change Policy emphasises on shared responsibility, with commitments at

all levels of government and community to address adaptation and mitigation measures. Circular economy and decarbonisation are high on our agenda, with efforts to manage waste holistically, create green markets, invest in green technology, with targets to achieve 20% renewable energy capacity mix by 2025 to ultimately attain carbon neutral by 2050.

12. As cities consume the most of energy, we also encouraged our cities to be low carbon and the National Energy Policy 2022-2040, launched in September 2022, not only calls for enhancement of macroeconomic resilience and energy security, but emphasise on ensuring social equitability and affordability, as well as environmental sustainability.

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13. Moving forward, Malaysia's national urban development priorities will continue to align, integrate, and localise SDGs and implement the New Urban Agenda. This is critical in advancing the sustainable development agenda by identifying priority areas, key enablers, and critical accelerator points to transform our cities sustainably.
14. Malaysia's continued partnership with the global community and international organisations is an essential part of this sustainable pathway. We have hosted the 7th Session of Asia Pacific Urban Forum in 2019, and the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanisation was established among 16 organisations in this region to continue the discussion, collaborate towards shared knowledge and undertake joint programs and projects. We will soon pass the baton to Suwon, South Korea for APUF8 in November 2023. Thus, we hoped to grow the partnership further and for Malaysia to continue having a strong and effective role.

15. In addition, Malaysia recognises the importance of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) disclosure requirements especially via global regulations such as European Union (EU). Therefore, the government is working closely with various agencies including private sector to accelerate ESG disclosure by following recognised international standards. As Malaysia embraces SDGs and ESG, we believe Malaysia offers many advantages as an ideal investment destination.
16. Malaysia would also like to express its support on the work of the United Nations to organize the 2023 SDG Summit in this coming September. As the 2023 SDG Summit marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, we look forward on the sharing and guidance from the high-level on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the target year of 2030 for achieving the SDGs.
17. I would like to close by thanking the Chair for this opportunity to share Malaysia's progress and once again we wish to reaffirm our commitments to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank You.

Ministry of Local Government Development

23 March 2023