

Country Statement
Sixth Session of the Committee on Environment and Development
9 December 2020

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 1. On behalf of the Malaysian Government, I would like to congratulate UN ESCAP for hosting and making this meeting possible via a hybrid platform. Thank you for inviting Malaysia to be a part of this important meeting.**
- 2. Malaysia welcomes the proposed agenda to be deliberated in this 2-day meeting. As all countries are vigorously fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, it is timely and necessary for us to directly acknowledging the linkages between environmental health and human health. In view of this, we need to urgently address the pressing issues of unsustainable socioeconomic activities in urban areas, as well as environmental pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity.**
- 3. The COVID-19 has surely affected our daily lives and livelihoods and disrupted economic activities. When the pandemic hits the world earlier this year, most countries have resorted to the “lockdown” measure, including Malaysia. This measure has led to breaking the infection chain and to some extent improved the environmental quality, particularly air quality.**
- 4. However, we may be facing another environmental problem related to waste. High volume of waste are being generated, particularly clinical waste due to the use of face masks and PPE as well as household waste,**

in particular plastics and food packaging. This necessitates improvement in waste management.

- 5. Most countries are facing economic constraints during this difficult period. Public budget are being directed to fight the pandemic and its impact on people and businesses. This means less funding for other activities, including environmental protection and conservation efforts.**
- 6. Apart from taking effective measures to combat the COVID-19, we need to identify robust recovery measures to build back better as well as enhance the sustainability and resilience of the region, in line with the 2030 Agenda.**
- 7. We need to put in place multi-pronged measures through adoption of the planetary health approach that will control the spread of the pandemic, allow socioeconomic activities to operate, sustain people's livelihood and safeguard the environmental health.**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 8. With this in mind, there is an urgent need for a green recovery that addresses the issues mentioned and contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. In this regard, for the next five years, Malaysia has identified strategies to advance the green growth agenda in the country. An agenda that ensures balanced priorities on the people, economy and environment, for long-term sustainability.**
- 9. These include transition to a circular economy; promoting green cities, energy, mobility and market; prioritising environmental health; intensifying biodiversity conservation and protection; and enhancing resilience to withstand impacts of climate change and disasters.**

- 10. SDG Localisation is significant during these times as local governments have an important role in mobilising resources and ensure no one is left behind. Solution projects in localising SDGs are mainly to address socioeconomic and environmental issues at local level.**
- 11. Acknowledging the importance of ecosystems health in ensuring sustainable economic growth and human wellbeing, Malaysia has delivered a budget that benefits the people, economy and environment, aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**
- 12. Our next year budget, among others, is allocated for implementation of SDGs-related initiatives, environment-related enforcement activities and biodiversity conservation efforts as well as green financing schemes to support development of green projects.**
- 13. Mr. Chairman, Malaysia believes this will be a successful meeting, particularly in identifying ways to address the prevalence environmental and development issues. With heightened collaboration among countries and the right support, in terms of capacity building, knowledge sharing and financial assistance, we can together accelerate the efforts in sustainable development. We are ready to learn from others and share our experience and best practices in this meeting or in other platforms.**
- 14. We look forward to a fruitful meeting and solid outcomes. Thank you.**