

UNESCAP GUIDING QUESTION

Agenda Item 3: Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia-Pacific through environmental solutions

How are countries and cities taking actions to promote sustainable urbanization including through advancement of the thematic pathways of The Future of Asian & Pacific Cities Report and subsequent outcomes of the Seventh Session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum?

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving Malaysia the floor.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

1. Malaysia acknowledges the importance of sustainable urbanisation, more than ever, especially post-coronavirus disease pandemic. We will continue to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for better environment and wellbeing of the people.
2. Following from the Seventh Session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum held in October 2019, we have established the **Penang Platform Sustainable Urbanisation (PPSU)** at regional level as an effort to address the emerging issues identified in the Future of Asian and Pacific Cities Report.
3. Among the key programmes undertaken in the PPSU, include;
 - (i) **Support to cities to undertake Voluntary Local Review (VLR)**. In this regard, with the assistance of UNESCAP, 6 pilot cities are developing their VLR report, including Subang Jaya from Malaysia.
 - (ii) Secondly, **the launching of the Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines on VLR** in October 2020, in conjunction with the regional commemoration of World Cities Day 2020; and

(iii) **Advocacy to promote the role of Asia-Pacific cities in accelerating sustainable development.**

4. In accelerating the achievement of the SDGs, **Malaysia SDG Cities** has been developed as a guiding framework to support cities and regions to deliver the 2030 Agenda. This will further encourage cities to establish their roadmap and action plans that will be aligned to the SDG goals and targets.
5. Towards promoting inclusive debates and discussions in realising sustainable agenda, the **Malaysian Urban Forum** has been established at national level. This platform provides opportunities for various stakeholders to increase capacity building, engagement, awareness raising and policy advising as well as providing innovative solutions to changing trends and challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Malaysia is now preparing the **Twelfth Malaysia Plan**, a socioeconomic development plan for the next 5 years. One of the focus will be on promoting the development of sustainable cities. Emphasis will be given, among others, to strengthen urban planning and governance, adoption of smart and sustainable city approaches and enhance urban resilience.
7. Malaysia is also in the midst of developing the **Fourth National Physical Plan (NPP4)**, a national strategic spatial planning document that will be the main land use planning guidance for the country. Among the key measures include improving built environment, implementing green and low carbon building practices as well as promoting sustainable energy resources.
8. To conclude, we believe with greater collaboration and partnership among fellow members states and supports from UNESCAP will further accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.