



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DATUK SERI ABDUL RAHMAN DAHLAN
MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017**

NEW YORK

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Mr. Chairman,
Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. At the outset, I wish to align my statement with the statement made by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Malaysia is committed to realising the Agenda 2030 and the goals. Indeed, Malaysia's development agenda has always been people-focused, and it runs parallel to the aspirations of the SDGs.

3. The Eleventh Malaysia Plan, 2016-2020 with its theme of “*Anchoring Growth on People*” continues the Government’s development focus of balancing the needs of both the people economy and the capital economy. The six strategic thrusts of the 11MP – enhancing inclusiveness towards an equitable society, improving well-being for all, accelerating human capital development, pursuing green growth for sustainability and resilience, strengthening infrastructure to support economic expansion and re-engineering economic growth for greater prosperity - mirror the 17 SDGs.

4. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Malaysia has taken steps to localise and implement SDGs, within the national context. In 2016, Malaysia established a governance structure headed by the Prime Minister for monitoring and reporting the SDGs; and is finalising the National SDG Roadmap, which will constitute the main reference for SDG implementation in Malaysia.

5. Given the time allocated, let me just share our progress with respect to Goal 1 on poverty eradication and Goal 5 on Gender.

Mr Chairman,

SDG1: Poverty Eradication

6. In 1970, the incidence of poverty in Malaysia was 49.3%. Malaysia was among the few countries that rapidly realised the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of halving poverty (from 16.5% in 1990 to 8.5% in 2000), long before the target year of 2015. As of 2014, Malaysia has reduced the incidence of poverty to 0.6%, achieving low poverty rates

across ethnicity, gender and rural-urban stratum. Additionally, the incidence of hard core poverty, which is also the food poverty line, is low at 0.2%.

7. Malaysia's approach to eradicating poverty has been premised on providing access to education and skills development to all segments of society, creating employment and income generating activities, providing entrepreneurship support, facilitating participation in unit trusts and investment schemes and ensuring basic infrastructure and amenities.

8. Malaysia has now expanded its measurement of poverty beyond income and has introduced its own version of Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to take into account other dimensions of poverty, namely education, health and quality of life.

9. Moving forward, Malaysia is committed to further uplifting the incomes and quality of life of the bottom 40 (B40) percent households. We have targeted to double their mean monthly income (from RM2,537 in 2014 to RM5,270 in 2020). This is being pursued by enhancing their accessibility to higher education and skills training, increasing their productivity through modern technology and ICT, promoting social-based enterprises and attracting investments into rural and B40 populated areas.

Goal 5: Gender Equality

10. On gender equality, in recognising the important role of women in community and economic development, Malaysia has been consistent in its

efforts to promote women and girls' rights. The National Policy on Women (1989) accords women equality of status and the same fundamental rights given to men, as enshrined in the Constitution. The Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (2010-2015) was formulated to operationalise the National Policy on Women to further integrate women in development and r elevate their status in society.

11. The Federal Constitution (Article 8(2)) was amended in 2001 to prohibit gender discrimination. Malaysia has also ratified CEDAW, the Cairo Programme of Action 1994, and the Beijing Platform for Action 1995 and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Vienna Plan of Action on Human Rights. Most recently, Malaysia has formulated the Sexual Offences Against Children Bill 2017 to offer greater protection to children. The 11th Malaysia Plan will focus on strengthening the family institution by creating a more conducive working environment and increasing the number of women in decision-making positions.

12. In this regard, various measures have been taken to encourage women to return to the workforce, such as implementation of the minimum wage beginning 1st July 2016, introduction of incentives to encourage the establishment of child care facilities at the work place, career comeback programmes and increasing maternity leave and flexible work hours. Female labour force participation stands at 54% in 2016 and we target to increase it to 59% in 2020 Malaysia is also committed to implementing at least 30 percent participation of women in decision-making positions. This target has been achieved in the public sector and is work-in-progress in the

private sector. In 2015, the percentage of women in top management positions in public listed companies stood at 26.3.

Conclusion

13. Allow me to conclude by saying that Malaysia is making significant progress in implementing the SDGs and is committed to realise its full implementation. The Government will deliver the SDGs in partnership with non-governmental and civil society organisations, and the corporate sector. While we acknowledge the challenges ahead, we recognise that the urgent need to operationalise sustainable development for the greater good. Malaysia also stands ready to work with regional and global partners to ensure the realisation of Agenda 2030 and that no one is left behind.