



KEMENTERIAN PEMBANGUNAN
KERAJAAN TEMPATAN



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

NATIONAL STATEMENT

**The Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
Conference Room 2
5 June 2023**

His Excellency Mr Erasmo Martinez

President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. It is my utmost pleasure to be here, and as head of delegation for Malaysia, we congratulate and express our deepest appreciation for the good work of UN-Habitat, under the leadership of the Executive Director, Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

Excellencies,

2. Malaysia recognizes the urgency and importance of addressing global crisis. COVID-19 has disrupted the global economy, affected livelihoods, and widened inequality. And climate change crisis has caused floods and natural disasters, impacting our people's well-being and puts our planetary health at risk.
3. In view of the above, this calls for coherence and global cooperation. And it is now most urgent to take bold steps, to pursue the last 7 years of achieving the sustainable development goals before 2030.

Excellencies,

4. Malaysia commits to the **2030 Agenda**. Under the leadership of our PM Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia has introduced MADANI policy focus upon sustainability, innovation, and good governance with values of respect, trust, care, and compassion to attain racial harmony.

5. Malaysia is in Phase 2 of its National SDG Implementation. Our **Malaysia SDG Cities** encourages cities to develop their 2030 SDG Roadmap and empower local stakeholders to aligned to the global goals. Out of 155 local councils, 43 cities have already embarked on their roadmap that is align to **UN-Habitat SDG Cities Flagship** program.
6. Malaysia strongly advocates **Housing For All**. The goal is providing adequate, high quality, well designed and affordable housing. Our National Housing Policy is dynamic and progressive, with diverse programs and comprehensive delivery eco-system to improve ownership ability. Under our 12th Malaysia Plan, we target to build 500,000 units of affordable housing. To date we have completed more than a quarter million units and our national home ownership has exceeded 77%.
7. To this, we fully support the Assembly's call to accelerate progress towards the achievement of adequate, safe, sustainable and affordable housing.

Excellencies,

8. Looking ahead to 2040, Malaysia envisions a population of 46 million with urbanization rate of 85 percent. Our Fourth National Physical Plan (NPP4) supported by regional and local development plans, serves as spatial planning framework to manage growth sustainably, address needs and plan for the dynamics of urban growth.

Excellencies,

9. Our nature is our pride. Malaysia is ready to **Reconnect our Forests** and have completed our **Central Forest Spine Ecological Linkage Masterplan**. This will protect our forest area network, enhance its biodiversity and targets to increase our forest coverage from 43% to 50%, making Malaysia one of the country with the highest percentage of natural forest reserve. Adding to this, our urban greens include **11,773 public parks and 58 million trees** have been planted, as part of our **100 million** targets by 2025.

10. Another challenge is waste management. A blueprint for **Circular Economy in Solid Waste Management** is prepared and adopts new technologies and integrated solutions to turn **Waste into Energy**. While material recovery and recycling facilities will be intensified by our **Waste to Gold** program to improve our recycling rate of **33% to 40 per cent by 2025**.

11. In conclusion, Malaysia remains fully committed to the sustainable urban agenda. We express full and continued support for the work of UN-Habitat. We look forward to the positive outcomes of this Assembly and we call for transformative and accelerated actions to address global crisis, promote sustainable development, and leaves no one behind.

Thank you.