



MALAYSIA'S STATEMENT

**H.E. THE HON. DATO' SRI MUSTAPA BIN MOHAMED
MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT
(ECONOMY)**

2022 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**“Building Back Better from Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) While
Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development”**

His Excellency Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the United Nations
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC),

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, I would like to thank the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for graciously hosting this auspicious High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2022. I am pleased to be invited here to further strengthen our partnership as we build back better post the global pandemic and the ever-present threat of climate change that continue to pose significant challenges in our social, environmental and economic development.
2. Against this backdrop, I am proud to reaffirm Malaysia's commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as reflected in our current national development plan, the 12th Malaysia Plan. Malaysia always has and will continue to emphasise a people-centric and collaborative approach based on the spirit of *Keluarga Malaysia* towards pursuing sustainable economic growth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. As we all are well aware, climate change and the corresponding natural disasters are already threatening food production, livelihoods and human health worldwide. Unless we work together, these problems will only worsen, and the poorest and most vulnerable will suffer the most. This will inevitably lead to instability and social unrest. We must take decisive action to shift towards more sustainable consumption habits and better manage our resources. We must accelerate the transition towards a circular economy and increase the use of digitalisation and innovative technologies to build a more sustainable future.

4. It is imperative for all of us to acknowledge and respect the planet's limits and value our natural endowments. In this regard, we must remain committed to address and curtail all forms of actions that are detrimental to the environment and continuously pursue higher climate ambitions.

5. In this light, I take great pride in stating that Malaysia has announced its aspiration to achieve a net zero GHG emission by 2050. The Malaysian Government is committed to keeping at least 50 per cent of its land area under forests and tree cover in line with its commitment at the Earth Summit in 1992. We have presented the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to reduce the GHG emission intensity to GDP up to 45% by 2030. Through the 12th Malaysia Plan, we are also implementing strategies to advance green growth for sustainability and resilience that will contribute to better planetary health.

6. As a small and open economy, Malaysia believes in the spirit and effectiveness of the rules-based multilateral trading system for a more inclusive and sustainable global economic recovery. This is particularly important in the era of increased digital trade. Ensuring a resilient global supply chain requires stronger international cooperation and commitment, particularly in policy coordination and trade facilitation.

7. As the underlying goal is to ensure a sustainable growth path, we have always prioritised Research, Development, Commercialisation, and Innovation (R&D&C&I), and this is in line with the aspirations of SDG

9. Efforts to strengthen the capacity and capability of R&D&C&I as well as nurture the right talent in science, technology and innovation have been ongoing.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. Digital infrastructure is also equally crucial in ensuring sustainable economic growth and inclusive development. Malaysia has implemented a national digitalisation plan, more commonly known as the *Pelan Jalinan Digital Negara* (JENDELA). The plan was formulated through a public-private partnership approach to ensure equitable access to broadband connectivity, particularly for students in geographically remote areas.
9. Thus far, Malaysia's 4G coverage has reached about 95.53% as of this year's first quarter under Phase 1 of the JENDELA initiative. In addition, JENDELA has accumulatively fiberised more than 2 million premises, upgraded over 32,000 base stations, and constructed over 1,000 new mobile towers nationwide.
10. Despite the challenge of adjusting global SDGs to a local context, it represents a crucial step towards building back better. Our priority is to continuously pursue inclusive, sustainable economic growth and ensure that no one is left behind.
11. With that, I must reiterate that we welcome the cooperation from member countries to continue to share their best practices, knowledge and technical expertise through capacity building in areas of climate change, poverty eradication, digitalisation and innovation to accelerate

our journey in realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.