



**MALAYSIA INTERVENTION REMARKS FOR
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III)
17-20 OCTOBER 2016 QUITO ECUADOR**

Thank you Mr Chairman and Madam Co-Chair, Honourable Guests, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. Chairman,

1. Malaysia wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77.

Distinguished Delegates,

2. On behalf of the Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government of Malaysia, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to UN-HABITAT and the Government of Ecuador for hosting Habitat III. It is a great honour to be able to participate in the meeting today.

3. Malaysia has always been cooperating closely with UN-Habitat, particularly in addressing various human settlement issues in Asia and the Pacific region. To strengthen more of this effort we are now working together towards the Ninth World Urban Forum (WUF9) in 2018 where Malaysia will be hosting this eminent event, which marks a new dimension into the relationship between the Government of Malaysia and UN-Habitat.

Distinguished Delegates,

4. Malaysia is committed to support and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Looking at the current development strategies and goals of the country, Malaysia is on the right track towards achieving the global 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda.

5. This is reflected in the Eleventh Malaysia Plan with the theme **Anchoring Growth on People** which is premised on people as the centrepiece of all development efforts and guiding policy for a sustainable development in the country.

6. Malaysia is also committed to ensure a high quality of life in urban and rural areas in line with Malaysia's aspiration to become a developed nation. This means that both urban and

rural areas will be attractive to live in, with quality housing and amenities.

Distinguished Delegates,

7. Habitat III offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge in planning and managing cities, towns and villages in order to fulfil their role as drivers of sustainable development.

8. Habitat III will adopt the New Urban Agenda which aims to ensure that sustainable development is contributed by the cities to be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

9. Malaysia endeavours towards realizing this New Urban Agenda within our country and global levels, by looking seriously at the different national realities, our capacities, levels of development, our national legislations and practices, as well as policies and priorities.

10. Malaysia further wishes to highlight that the concept of federalism in Malaysia entails the division of legislative jurisdiction between the Federal and State Governments. It is observed that a number of the aspirations of the New Urban

Agenda are explicitly under the jurisdiction of the States Governments.

11. Therefore, mindful of this intricate division of legislative jurisdiction, Malaysia asserts that the adoption of the aspirations of this New Urban Agenda shall be carried out in accordance with our Federal Constitution and guided by Malaysia's legislative framework.

12. In light of this, Malaysia, in line with our national policies and legislations, will further undertake the appropriate consultations and coordination with the States Governments, local governments and the relevant stakeholders.

13. Malaysia further regards this New Urban Agenda as a collective vision and a political commitment to promote and realize sustainable urban development in an increasingly urbanized world.

Distinguished Delegates,

14. Malaysia is also preparing our 2nd National Urbanisation Policy which aims to create a city in line with the national vision that is to provide a safe and healthy living as well as peaceful

and beautiful environment to promote socio-economic growth for a disciplined and developed Malaysian community.

15. Malaysia is committed to ensure that the environmental sustainability will be realized through the various measures undertaken by Malaysia such as the National Climate Change Policy, the National Green Technology Policy and the National Policy on Biodiversity which specifically address issues of climate change and sustainability of natural resources.

16. Malaysia has further introduced the Green Neighbourhood Planning Guidelines that have taken into consideration the social, environment, application of green technology and wellbeing of the people.

17. The Malaysia National Council of Local Government chaired by our Deputy Prime Minister has approved a **transformation plan** for local authorities in Malaysia which aimed to improve the local councils' delivery system, transparency and accountability.

18. The transformation plan is based on six thrusts namely human capital development, excellent services, financial strengthening, people's wellbeing, people's involvement and effective communication.

Distinguished Delegates,

19. Public security is one of the important pillars of nation building towards becoming an advanced nation by 2020. A secure environment is vital for robust and sustained economic growth and wellbeing of the society. Recognising its importance, various crime prevention programmes were implemented during the Tenth Malaysia Plan, 2011-2015 which is to reduce the crime index.

20 In the Eleventh Malaysia Plan, 2016-2020, crime prevention and law enforcement efforts will be strengthened to provide a safer living environment and ensure public order.

21. Malaysia is progressively moving towards achieving its goal of becoming an advanced nation by 2020. However, the nation's aspirations go beyond just achieving high-income status. Malaysia wants to be a truly advanced country where people enjoy high income along with a greater level of public wellbeing.

22. To achieve this, the Malaysian Government is applying the Blue Ocean Strategy principles of high impact, low cost and rapid execution.

23. Malaysians across the country are being encouraged to actively contribute to community transformation. Through NBOS, resources across federal, state and local agencies and private sector are being engaged to support local communities and marginalised groups to improve and maintain local infrastructure, and create new economic opportunities to raise income levels.

24. Under this strategy, one of the programme is My Beautiful Neighbourhood (MyBN) programme which involves repairing, painting and beautifying low-cost housing areas and also nearby public facilities such as children's playground, sidewalks in residential areas and car parks. The programme is delivered at low-cost by rapidly mobilising resources across federal, state, local governments and resident association to low-cost housing neighbourhoods.

24. In a nutshell, Malaysia is also committed to participate in Habitat III in order to demonstrate the benefits of a sustainable economic pathway for rapidly urbanising communities.

25. Last but not least, Malaysia will contribute towards strengthening partnerships between various stakeholders in the quest for development of Malaysia's New Urban Agenda for the next 20 years and beyond.

Thank you.

Datuk Mohammad Mentek

Secretary General

Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government of Malaysia

19 October 2016

Quito Ecuador