INTERVENTION NOTE
HEAD OF DELEGATION
MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

“Forward-looking policies to accelerate the implementation of the Incheon Strategy”

1. Thank you for the impactful and informative presentation.

2. Our honourable Prime Minister Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak has made a commitment since the 10th Malaysian Plan for a People-Oriented development. His commitment continues in the latest 11th Malaysian Plan from 2016 to 2020. This plan is the most crucial plan for us to achieve the Vision 2020 goal in building an advanced nation that is inclusive and sustainable. This plan will continue to have the rakyat or people as the focus of development.

3. In ensuring Vision 2020 is achieved, we can’t view business as usual. The first two Thrusts among the six Thrusts outlined in the Eleventh Malaysia Plan, namely Enhancing Inclusiveness towards an Equitable Society and Improving Wellbeing for All are particularly relevant in building an inclusive nation. These Thrusts align with Malaysia’s commitment to achieve the 2030 Development Agenda, more specifically in achieving the SDG 16 where the it “promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”, which is the main theme of this Forum. It will be the uphill task for Malaysia but we are committed to strive for the best for the people of our country.
4. Policy for Persons with Disabilities and the Plan of Action was approved by the Government on the 21st November 2007. The Policy for Persons with Disabilities and its Plan of Action are used as foundation to ensure persons with disabilities enjoy their full and effective participation in the society on an equal basis with others. In the 2016, Malaysia has revised and approved the new Policy and Plan of Action for Person with Disabilities based on Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons and Incheon Strategy. This new policy and plan of action will be implemented in year 2016 until 2022.

5. Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 [Act 683], an act that specifically and exclusively addressing disability was enacted and enforced in 2008. The National Council for Persons with Disabilities was established in August 2008 under section 3 (1) of Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 and functions as the focal point for the issues pertaining to persons with disabilities in the country. Among the functions of the Council as underlined in the Act is to monitor the implementation of the Policy and Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities and to make recommendations to the Government on all aspects of persons with disabilities including matters relating to support, care, protection, rehabilitation, development and well-being of persons with disabilities. The Council is also responsible to review and make recommendations to the Government on changes to the existing laws and to propose new laws in order to secure full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in the society, as well as to facilitate accessibility for persons with disabilities.

6. The Council which is chaired by the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development has a multi-sectoral composition, namely government agencies and persons with disabilities represented by the NGOs. Section 3 (1) of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 states that the Council shall consist of not more than 19 members whereby 9 of them are from the government agencies and not more than 10 of the members
are experts in matters concerning persons with disabilities. In addition, for effective implementation of policy decision by the Council, six subcommittees are set up and led by various agencies, as follows:

a) Education – Ministry of Education;
b) Employment – Ministry of Human Resources;
c) Registration of Persons with Disabilities – Department of Social Welfare;
d) Universal Design and Built Environment – Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government;
e) Transportation – Ministry of Transport; and
f) Quality Life Care—Ministry of Health.

7. There are numerous challenges in implementing all the measures and plan of action as follows:
   a) Lack of awareness on the rights and needs of persons with disabilities among policy makers and service providers;
   b) Lack of understanding on the requirement of the laws, regulations and guidelines by implementers pertaining to the needs of persons with disabilities;
   c) Lack of effective implementation by service providers and enforcement by the authority bodies;
   d) Negative perception of the public at large pertaining to the ability of persons with disability.

8. Smart partnerships between government agencies and civil society organisations will encouraged the objective of reaching out to society. The government, in return, provides the necessary funding in acknowledging and appreciating efforts made by civil society organisations and thus strengthening networking. As part from that, to response to the Incheon Strategy, Government put efforts in increasing awareness on the rights of
persons with disabilities to the public and service providers in order to remove the attitudinal barriers together.

9. We fully support the theme for this Forum and we are excited about the outcomes of the meeting and ready to collaborate with the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Thank you.