

**EIGHTH ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC (UNESCAP),
23 to 26 MARCH 2021**

COUNTRY STATEMENT

Agenda Item 3: Linking national, regional and global dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I would like to congratulate the UN ESCAP for organising this forum, in time for Malaysia to review the progress of our achievement of the SDGs, and for our upcoming second VNR 2021.
2. Malaysia acknowledges the lessons learned from the first VNR, and from the countries that have presented their VNR in previous years. We would like to thank UNESCAP and UN Country Team Malaysia for the assistance and support throughout our VNR preparation.
3. Our formal inception workshop of VNR 2021 attended by more than 300 participants from both public and non-public sectors and our consultations with different targeted focus groups recently completed last Friday. Even before the pandemic started, Malaysia has started conducting consultation with various stakeholders for the formulation of the 12th Malaysia Plan. As Malaysia has embedded SDG into our five-year national development plan, the relevant findings and data collected for the upcoming 12th Malaysia Plan and the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Malaysia 2019 report launched in December 2020, will be utilised for our second VNR. As our first VNR report in 2017 was more government-centric reporting, Malaysia will feature more initiatives from non-public sector by taking into account a whole-of-nation approach in the second VNR.

4. In 2020, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) have identified data for 126 out of 247 indicators are available, as compared to 99 out of 244 indicators available in 2019. The Department of Statistics Malaysia have also developed MyLocal Stats that provides access to statistics at the district and local levels for the planning of local development, and at the same will enrich the data for the SDG Dashboard. Currently we have 122 available indicators, plus improvements of 16 indicators at the district level. It should be noted that for 2019, there were more input from the relevant Ministries as compared to the indicators collected in 2018. Given this, the second VNR will be more comprehensive in providing evidence based data as compared to the first VNR in 2017.
5. Malaysia is also looking to implement SDG Localisation and one of the possible initiatives is the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) through the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in six selected cities. This is envisioned to foster SDG localisation and evaluate the performance of evidence-based policies at the local level.
6. Malaysia hopes the UN and member states will continue to **share their best practices, knowledge and technical expertise through capacity building** in realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.