MALAYSIA COUNTRY STATEMENT

SEVENTH ASIAN AND PACIFIC POPULATION CONFERENCE

15 NOVEMBER 2023 (WEDNESDAY)
(09:30 - 12:00 UTC+7)

Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.

I would like to express my gratitude to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for organising this crucial event. The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference presents a valuable opportunity for us to assess the progress of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

2. Malaysia is dedicated to sustainable development, incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national plans with a focus on governance, social cohesion, and partnerships. Despite challenges like poverty and healthcare demands, the country actively engages in SDGs through initiatives such as Voluntary Local Reviews, addressing economic, social, and environmental dimensions.
3. Malaysia’s population has grown significantly, reaching 33.2 million in 2020 and projected to reach 36.7 million by 2030, accompanied by declining fertility rates and urbanisation. Despite challenges, the nation achieved health-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, displaying resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. To promote sustainable consumption and production, Malaysia aligns national priorities with SDG 12, emphasising green growth and enhanced planning capabilities, reaffirming its commitment to inclusive economic growth and sustainability, particularly post-COVID-19.

4. Malaysia’s healthcare system provides high-quality, affordable services to over 70 percent of the population through universal health coverage, with 98 percent of costs subsidised by the government. In sexual and reproductive health, Malaysia adopts a comprehensive approach, offering accessible family planning services, comprehensive education on sexual reproductive health, and inclusive initiatives, aligning with socio-economic goals outlined in the updated National Policy and Plan of Action on Social and Reproductive Health Education (PEKERTI) 2022-2025.

5. In Malaysia, inclusivity and equal opportunities are promoted through various policy initiatives. The MYFutureJobs portal, utilising advanced AI technology, ensures universal access to employment services, fostering social inclusion, especially for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Additionally, Malaysia emphasises inclusive education through policies like the National Inclusive Open Educational Resources Policy, providing equitable access to educational materials. The Zero Reject Policy and guidelines for disability inclusion in higher
education institutions demonstrate Malaysia’s commitment to providing quality education for students with special needs, enabling every individual to thrive and contribute meaningfully.

6. Malaysia actively engages in collaborative partnerships and regional initiatives, evident through projects like the Regional Plan of Action on Ageing and the ASEAN-Wide Research Networking on Ageing Project, emphasising elderly care and cross-border knowledge-sharing. These efforts demonstrate our belief in the importance of partnerships and regional cooperation in addressing multifaceted challenges. Recognising the essential role of international collaboration, we are dedicated to achieving our shared objectives through these strategic partnerships.

7. In closing, I want to express my gratitude to everyone involved in the Seventh Asia-Pacific Population Conference, especially the Chair, ESCAP and UNFPA. Malaysia firmly believes in the power of international collaboration and regional partnerships as crucial drivers for a brighter and more sustainable future. As we move forward, let us continue to work hand in hand, leveraging our collective strengths to innovate solutions and ensure a better tomorrow for all.

Thank you.