STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA

SEVENTH ASIAN AND PACIFIC POPULATION CONFERENCE

ROUND TABLE 1:
POPULATION DYNAMICS, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

16 NOVEMBER 2023 (THURSDAY)
(09:00 – 10:30 UTC+7)

Chair,
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates.

Malaysia's demographic landscape has undergone significant shifts, witnessing the population increase from 22.9 million in 2000 to 33.2 million in 2020 and projected to reach 36.7 million by 2030. These changes, accompanied by declines in fertility rates and a significant shift toward urbanization, bring both challenges and opportunities to the forefront of our development agenda.

Chair,
2. In our relentless pursuit of sustainable development, Malaysia has made remarkable progress, as evidenced by our Human Development Index improvement from 0.721 in 2000 to 0.803 in 2021. Despite the formidable challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our economic recovery has been remarkable, with a GDP growth rate of 8.7% in 2022.
Moreover, Malaysia has achieved all health-related Sustainable Development Goal targets, showcasing our unwavering commitment to improving healthcare services and outcomes for our citizens.

3. However, challenges persist on our path to sustainable urban development. The city environment, in some instances, remains unconducive to fostering the well-being of its inhabitants. One notable challenge lies in the relatively low adoption of the Low Carbon Cities Framework, which hampers our efforts to achieve sustainable urban development. Addressing these issues is pivotal to mitigating environmental impact and advancing climate-resilient cities.

4. To overcome these obstacles and seize the opportunities presented, Malaysia has implemented Voluntary Local Reviews as a valuable instrument for localizing Sustainable Development Goals. These reviews, aligned with national plans and policies, offer innovative solutions and local priorities, bringing us closer to our sustainable development objectives. Furthermore, Malaysia is resolutely committed to elevating 120 cities to achieve sustainable city status by 2025, reflecting our dedication to expanding the scope of sustainable practices across our urban landscapes and fostering resilient, people-centric environments.

5. In conclusion, we would like to acknowledge the challenges and opportunities that arise from the intricate interplay of population dynamics, sustainable development, and climate change. By embracing innovative approaches, fostering collaboration, and learning from our successes and setbacks, we can pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient future for all.
6. Together, we can create a world where every community thrives, leaving no one behind.

Thank you.