Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.

Malaysia wishes to thank all the panelists for your insight and sharing, as it is very interesting and relevant to our topic today. We would like also to commend and greatly appreciate your hard work in ensuring that the issue of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights continues to be advocated for.

Chair,

2. Over the years, Malaysia has undergone a transformative shift in its approach to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and reproductive rights, marked by a departure from a population-centric focus to a comprehensive strategy aligned with socio-economic development goals. Various policies and programmes were implemented in the areas
of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and reproductive rights.

3. The revised National Policy and Plan of Action on Reproductive Health and Social (PEKERTI) 2022 to 2025 provides an important insight to enhance the effectiveness of sexual and reproductive health education. It is in line with Goal 3 and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and will support the achievement of Malaysia in International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action and SDG Agenda. This policy and plan of action encompasses strategies for advocacy, resource development, monitoring, research and inter-sectoral collaboration.

4. On the issue of adolescent sexual and reproductive health, Malaysia’s commitment to adolescent healthcare is evident in the National Adolescent Health Plan of Action (2015 to 2020) by the Ministry of Health, which has been updated for 2023 to 2030. The contents of this plan of action covers a wide range – information and awareness, service provision and research and development.

Chair,

5. Malaysia has long ago recognized the importance of addressing infertility and sub-fertility, and the National Population and Family Development Board plays a pivotal role in delivering affordable services to low- and moderate-income couples at a price lower than those offered by private centres. I am pleased to share that the Government has recently approved funding for the setting up of a National Subfertility Centre. Under this Subfertility Centre, we aim to enhance sexual and
reproductive health programmes by expanding access to reproductive health services, and reviewing the national family planning programmes.

6. Malaysia is also taking the necessary steps to address teenage pregnancies issue. The 2021 scoping review conducted by the Ministry of Health, guided by the World Health Organization’s Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Framework underlined the need for more data on sexual and reproductive health-related knowledge, attitude, perception and practice. Therefore, the Government is looking into re-evaluating and strengthening various sexual and reproductive health intervention strategies that are evidence-based, culturally appropriate, and adolescent-friendly to better address specific issues, with a focus on the vulnerable populations, such as persons with disabilities and those from low-income families.

Chair,

7. Despite commendable progress made, we are still facing several challenges, which are programme-related (such as paucity of data and information and lack of resources), as well as social-cultural issues. Malaysia is also facing the challenge of unmet needs, when about one in five married women have an unmet need for family planning. Serious efforts are needed to address this SDG indicator, especially among the vulnerable groups such as: adolescents, migrant, urban slum dwellers, refugees, and women in the postpartum period. We also believe that private participation in corporate social responsibility for sexual and reproductive health programmes needs to be increased to strengthen public-private partnership.
8. Malaysia will remains committed towards ensuring the issue of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as one of our priority agenda. We will continue to work diligently to ensure that no part of our society is left out. We are keen to collaborate with other Member States, multilateral institutions and the private sector towards achieving this goal.

Terima kasih. I Thank you.