Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.

Malaysia’s journey toward building a society that respects and values every generation is founded on the principles of intergenerational solidarity. Malaysia also recognises the importance of multistakeholder partnerships in our efforts to overcome socioeconomic inequalities.

2. In 2020, the youth, constituting 44.0 percent of Malaysia’s population, played a vital role in our nation's growth. The National Youth Policy of 2015, along with various other initiatives, provides a framework for planning and implementing youth programmes. Our focus lies on fostering youth participation, ensuring their well-being, education, and active involvement in societal development.

3. Political will and stakeholder commitments have paved the way for successful policies, exemplified by the National Policy and Plan of Action
in Reproductive Health and Social Education. Strategic collaborations between the public and private sectors have strengthened our efforts, and community engagement initiatives have ensured that even the most vulnerable among us are not left behind.

4. At the same time, we find ourselves at the crossroads of a demographic shift, where 10.7 percent of our population is aged above 60, and by the year 2030, this figure is expected to rise to 15 percent. Financial vulnerability among older adults is a grim reality, with a significant portion having insufficient savings for their twilight years. Women, often engaged in informal or non-working roles, bear a higher risk in this regard.

Chair,

5. In response to these challenges, the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (2021-2025) charts a course to address these issues head-on. By leveraging the care economy, this Plan aims to foster an inclusive, efficient, and sustainable Long-term Care industry. It encourages private investment, quality care provision, and innovation in elderly-friendly products and services. Furthermore, a comprehensive action plan seeks to transform healthcare service delivery, incorporating traditional family support into community-based care.

6. But our efforts extend beyond our national borders. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN, adopted in 2015, showcases our commitment to promoting healthy, active, and productive aging not only within our nation but across the ASEAN community. The establishment of the ASEAN-Wide Research
Networking on Ageing Project in collaboration with National Population and Family Development Board and funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, further underscores our dedication to advancing research and knowledge in the field of aging.

7. Malaysia is dedicated to sustainable and inclusive development, integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans. Emphasising governance, social cohesion, and partnerships, we actively engage with Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring a resilient recovery from COVID-19 and addressing economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

8. Looking ahead, our plans align with the Twelfth Plan, emphasising a green growth agenda and inclusivity. In the face of climate change, Malaysia adopts a resource-efficient, climate-resilient model, emphasising sustainable consumption and production. Malaysia has developed a comprehensive statistics system for compiling and disseminating SDG indicators, enhancing planning and monitoring capabilities. Malaysia is also actively engaging in collaborative partnerships and regional initiatives and these efforts demonstrate our belief in the importance of partnerships and regional cooperation in addressing multifaceted challenges.

9. Recognising the essential role of international collaboration, Malaysia is dedicated to achieving our shared objectives through these strategic partnerships.

Thank you.