Mr. Chairman,

I join other delegates in congratulating you on your appointment as the Chair of the Conference on the Mid-term Review of the 6th Asian Pacific Population Conference. Thank you to ESCAP, UNFPA for this regional review process and all other relevant institutions for the follow up of the Ministerial Declaration, ICPD POA and 2030 Agenda.

We reaffirm our commitment to fulfil the ICPD PoA contained in the 2013 Ministerial Declaration (APMD). We believe that the progress on the declaration’s commitments will significantly contribute to the attainment of the SDG’s by 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mid-term Review on the 11 thematic areas indicates that we have achieved notable progress in achieving the ICPD/PoA objectives and our commitments in the 2013 Ministerial Declaration, but there remain some challenges which we are taking measures to overcome. In this brief statement, I would like to highlight some of our achievements and the remaining challenges.

1. **Firstly, on poverty eradication.** The Malaysian economic policies have been underpinned by the development philosophy of growth with distribution, focusing on poverty eradication and reducing ethnic economic imbalances. Between 1970 and 2014, absolute poverty has been eradicated and the general poverty was reduced from 49.3% in 1970 to just 0.4% in 2016. The Gini coefficient has come down from
0.513 in 1970 to 0.441 in 2009 and 0.401 in 2014. Malaysia has eradicated hunger and greatly reduced malnutrition through sustained efforts to supplement the dietary needs of children from hardcore poor families. Despite these remarkable achievements, Malaysia has yet to achieve the SDG target of ending all forms of malnutrition by 2025, including the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children as the double burden of malnutrition is rising.

2. In the area of health, we have managed to maintain the low level of, maternal and child mortality due to comprehensive coverage of vaccinations, safe delivery and antenatal as well as postnatal care. The infant mortality rate has remained at below 7 per thousand births for about two decades, down from 14 per thousand births in 1990. The maternal mortality rate has been maintained at below 30 per 100,000 births. While these rates are lower than most countries in the region, more concerted efforts are being made to reach out to the pockets of population with high mortality. Although family planning services are available through wide networks of service outlets, the contraceptive prevalence rate has been stagnated at around 54 percent since the 1980s, and unmet need for contraception is an area that is off track in terms of ICPD and MDG targets. Reproductive and social health programmes in schools will be enhanced towards achieving the SDGs.

3. In terms of Education, Malaysia has made steady progress in raising the education level of the population. Primary education virtually universal. Literacy testing among primary school students has been carried out in Malaysia since 2010. Through the Literacy and Numeracy Screening (LINUS) programme and remedial interventions have improve literacy and numeracy. The gross secondary enrolment ratio increased from 84.7% in 2014 to 85.1%. in 2016, and tertiary enrolment ratio increased from 36.9% to 44.1% (31.1% to 40.6% for the males and 43.1% to 48.3% for the females.) Gender parity has been achieved in education since the early 1990s. Technical and vocational education and training will be one of the focus area in new Malaysia Plan.

4. [Ageing] Malaysia will be an ageing nation by 2030, and the tempo of ageing will be accelerating. Hence, the National Policy and Action Plan for Older Person were revised to enable the elderly to realise their potential and utilize all possible opportunities. In line with this, programs will focus on enhancing elderly-friendly infrastructure,
improving access to affordable health care, ensuring adequate provision of shelters and improving financial security and space for employment.

5. [Urbanization and Internal Migration] Malaysia is urbanizing rapidly, with an urbanization level of 75%. Intra-urban migration predominates the internal migration. The focus of housing policy in Malaysia is to eradicate squatters and provide low-cost housing. The zero squatter policy and the People Housing Programme (since 1999) and Housing Assistance Programme and other programmes have significantly reduced the number of households living in squatter settlements. Malaysia is a major destination of international migrants in the region. Besides an estimated 3 million registered migrant workers, there are an estimated 700,000 to 2 million undocumented migrant workers in the country. The continued influx of migrant workers is of concern. Under the 11MP (2016-2020), Malaysia is looking into improving the coverage of social protection programmes to the underserved groups, including foreign migrant workers.

6. In the area of Population and Sustainable Development, Malaysia is implementing a Green Growth strategy under the 11MP. Significant progress on all other dimensions of the SDGs have been made, and concrete measures have also been put in place. Malaysia is one of the countries that has adopted and implemented disaster risk reduction.

7. Malaysia engages actively in international collaboration and participates actively in international forums. We are also working closely with UN and other international agencies such as UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the World Bank. We are establishing a regional research network for the research on population ageing, and we will be convening a South-South conference on demography and population ageing in Kuala Lumpur on 4-5 December, 2018.

[CONCLUSION]

Malaysia has achieved almost all the objectives and goals of ICPD and MDGs. However, Malaysia is taking concerted efforts to achieve the SDGs. The APPC and its Mid-term Review provides excellent opportunities for us to take stock of our progress and to take the necessary measures to tackle the remaining and emerging challenges towards achieving the SDGs.