Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
A very good afternoon to everyone.

Madam Chair, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair, and I would like to assure you of my delegation’s full support for a successful Conference. I wish to also congratulate the Secretariat on the excellent arrangements made in organising this Conference.

2. Efforts to **advance the status of women** in Malaysia are executed through **capacity building programmes** and by **addressing challenges** that hinder the development of women’s potential.

3. Malaysia’s commitment in ensuring the increased involvement of **women in decision making position and political leadership** is seen with the appointment of the Rt. Hon. Dato’ Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Dr. Wan Ismail as the first women Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of
Women, Family and Community Development. This commitment is also reflected through positive development in the Cabinet whereby women currently make up 17.86% of Ministers and 14.81% of Deputy Ministers.

4. To increase **female labour force participation**, the Government has improved social support system by increasing allocation for childcare centres at the public sector work place from USD2.3 million in 2019 to USD7.2 million in 2020 as announced in recent budget speech. To encourage women to return to work, the Government will give an individual income tax exemption of up to 12 months to eligible women returnees.

5. In providing **social protection for women**, the Government has introduced the Employees Provident Fund Voluntary Contribution Scheme with Special Government Incentives for Housewives which will involve 2% voluntary contribution to the wives’ retirement savings.

6. Taking into account the importance of **gender mainstreaming**, the Government has collaborated with the UNDP to develop training modules and will be getting public training institutes on board to carry out these trainings. Malaysia has also taken steps to expose youths, specifically students at higher learning institutes, on the importance of gender sensitization. To support this initiative, we, at the Ministry have established a Special Project Team involving experts from the government, academician as well as non-governmental organizations to prepare a bill on anti-discrimination against women and another bill on sexual harassment.
7. To address the **issue of discrimination and better protect women**, the Government has also established a Domestic Violence Committee at federal level which comprises not only of representatives from Government agencies but also NGOs, so that collective improvements can be made in the aspects of policy, services and law enforcement.

8. And last but not least, ladies and gentlemen, in conjunction with the **International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women**, Malaysia would like to share a short video presentation on our latest initiative to raise awareness on the importance of the involvement of every level of the society in eliminating violence against women.

Thank you and please enjoy.