



**STATEMENT BY
MR ABDUL SHUKUR ABDULLAH
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL POPULATION AND FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**GENERAL DEBATE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES, HUMAN MOBILITY
AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

**FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
9 - 13 APRIL 2018, NEW YORK**

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Mr. Chair,

I join other delegates in congratulating you on your appointment as the Chair of the 51st session of the Commission.

2. I wish to also take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the reports submitted by the Secretary-General on the special theme of this year Commission's session on "**Sustainable Cities, Human Mobility and International Migration**". These reports provide the basis for our deliberation on population issues and served as a guidance for us to address the Sustainable Development Goals' challenges and implementations.

3. At the outset, allow me to applaud the efforts and spirits of participants towards the consensus of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, adopted during the 9th World Urban Forum (WUF9) in Kuala Lumpur in February recently. We strongly believe that this declaration reflect our common commitment to localise and scale up the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chair,

Sustainable Urbanization

4. Since 1970s, Malaysia has been experiencing almost a triple percent increase in urbanization level, and is expected to increase to 80 percent in 2025.

5. At the same time, Malaysia also recognizes that internal migration nowadays is not only characterized by rural to urban stream, but also involves intra-urban migration, for jobs and better economic opportunities.

6. Population concentration in the cities and other major cities has brought with it many challenges such as traffic congestion, increased carbon footprint, increased dumping of domestic and commercial waste, unaffordable housing and rising cost of living.

7. Cognizant of these, Malaysia has taken the necessary measures to address these issues, including the implementation of the National Urbanization Policy 2 and the National Physical Plan 3, along with the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, aimed at making our cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

8. Malaysia has taken the initiatives to systematically coordinate sustainable urban planning and development, with emphasis on a balanced development; physically, environmentally, socially and economically, such as through the introduction of the Safe City Concept, and Go Green Kuala Lumpur Car-Free Morning.

9. This includes the introduction of at least 30 percent of urban development areas as green areas by 2020, under the National Landscape Policy. Malaysia has also launched affordable housing schemes such as the 1Malaysia People's Housing Programme (PR1MA) and My First Home Scheme.

Mr. Chair,

Migration

10. International migration is indeed a huge challenge. As we speak, delegations are involved in the ongoing negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

11. Over the past decades, Malaysia has experienced an influx of migrant workers, and has become one of the main destinations. In 2016, there were an estimated 3.1 million migrants in Malaysia, which comprises of 1.3 million skilled workers and 1.8 million unskilled workers.

12. Malaysia recognizes the significant contributions of migrant labour in relation to the physical productivity and economic development of the country. Thus the Government has introduced several initiatives such as the Foreign Workers Rationalization Programme to legalize illegal workers. Several MOUs were signed with labour exporting countries to facilitate the recruitment of foreign workers through proper channels. These measures are to ensure the rights and welfare of workers are not exploited and protected.

13. As reflected in our five-year national development plans (2016-2020), the Government of Malaysia is committed to improve the management of migrant workers in the country by reducing the dependence on low-skilled migrant workers, and by streamlining the recruitment process for migrant workers.

Mr. Chair,

14. As part of this strategy, the Government plans to formulate “a comprehensive immigration and employment policy for foreign workers taking into account the requirements of industry and the welfare of foreign workers to cap the proportion of migrant workers in the workforce at 15

percent by 2020. Malaysia is also committed to “eliminating the role of outsourcing companies and intermediaries” by 2019 to ensure the efficiency.

15. The Government has also undertaken to establish a One Stop Centre that will determine the requirement of migrant workers by sector, verify and approve applications for migrant workers, and monitor and respond to all matters related to the welfare of migrant workers.

Mr. Chair,

16. Finally, we wish to reiterate that Malaysia is fully committed to work closely alongside all stakeholders, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to ensure development efforts are geared up toward making cities that not only compact and efficient, but sustainable in ensuring the well-being of the urban dwellers.

I thank you.