

PM



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

**AGENDA ITEM 3: GENERAL DEBATE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL  
OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND ITS  
CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE 2030  
AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**FIFTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON  
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
1 - 5 APRIL 2019, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I join other delegates in congratulating you and the members of your bureau for convening the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of CPD.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action. We take cognizance of 2013 Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Asian and Pacific Population Conference and its Mid-term Review in 2018. We thank the Secretary General for a very comprehensive report and we support the theme of this year's session of CPD that is "review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Mr. Chair,

3. The population of Malaysia has increased more than three-fold from 10.5 million in 1970 to about 33 million today. The population was growing at around 2.5 percent per annum for the period 1970-2000 but it has declined to 1.7 percent between 2010 and 2018.

4. Our total fertility rate has dipped well below replacement level to 1.9 children per woman in 2017 as compared to about 3 children in 2000. Adolescent birth rate for women aged 15-19 has fallen from 19 per thousand women in 1990 to 10 in 2016. Nevertheless, adolescent pregnancy remains a concern.

5. Contraceptive prevalence rate increased from about 49 percent in 2004 to 52.2 percent in 2014. Unmet need for modern contraception remains at a very high level, at almost 35 percent. Efforts are being made to reduce unmet need for contraception, with emphasis on the use of modern methods, especially long-acting methods.

6. The Ministry of Health and other implementing agencies provide comprehensive health care services including contraceptive and sexual and reproductive health services. The adoption of the National Adolescent Health Plan of Action (2006-2020) and the establishment of the youth friendly centres known as kafeTEEN by the National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB) are to widen the accessibility to reproductive health education, information, and services for young people.

7. The National Reproductive Health Education and Social Education (PEKERTI) Policy and Action Plan was adopted in 2009 as part of the strategies to ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being of the population, in line with Goal 3 of the SDGs. Strategies have been formulated based on the four main aspects of advocacy, human capital, research and development, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. Chair,

8. Between 1970 and 2010, life expectancy in Malaysia rose by 10.7 years to 72.7 years for males and 11 years to 77.6 years for females. The gain in life expectancy is reflected by the decline in age-specific mortality rates.

9. Malaysia's levels of under-5 mortality, infant mortality and neonatal mortality are much lower than the ICPD-PoA and SDG targets. The maternal mortality rate has declined from 44 per 100,000 births in 1991 to 26.1 in 2010, but rose to 29.1 in 2016. This rise in MMR has caused a great deal of concern, although it is likely that such an increase is due to improvement in registration, especially among the undocumented migrants.

Mr. Chair,

10. Malaysia is moving towards becoming one of the aged countries by 2030. Hence, the National Policy for Older Persons and its Plan of Action were reviewed in 2011 to acknowledge the older persons as citizens with varied background and experiences, have the rights to enjoy a comfortable and respected life and contribute to the development of the nation. This policy is the government's commitment to create a conducive environment for older persons who are independent, with dignity, high sense of self-worth and respected by optimizing their self-potential through a healthy, positive, active, productive and supportive ageing to lead a well-being life.

11. The Ministry of Economic Affairs serves as the focal point for SDG implementation and the Department of Statistics is the focal point for database for SDG indicators. Efforts to strengthen population and development data systems, especially locally and gender disaggregated data will continued to be prioritized, so that progress towards ICPD and SDG goals and targets can be monitored closely.

12. To conclude, Malaysia supports the principle that all the people of the world, regardless of race, culture and religious beliefs, should enjoy the benefits and fruits of development throughout the entire span of their life. It is our collective responsibility to make this happen. To this end the Government of Malaysia will continue to work towards creating consensus and policy prescriptions to move forward on this issue and to ensure that we leave no one behind. We hope that this conference will result in a strong and effective resolution on these very important issues. Let us work together towards this common goal.

Thank you.