

## **STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA, DURING THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OPEN-ENDED MEETING/HIGH-LEVEL MIDTERM REVIEW**

*Agenda Item 2: Midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of the UN-Habitat for the period 2020-2023*

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor...

Mr. Chair, Madam Executive Director, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, my delegation thanks the Executive Director and the Secretariat, for organizing this meeting, as well as providing a briefing on this agenda item. Malaysia welcomes the lessons and achievements in the first period of the Strategic Plan, despite the strain posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and unpredictable funding.

In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the diversification of UN-Habitat's funding base, under its Resource Mobilization Strategy, and would like to encourage UN-Habitat, to continue innovating on the ways to secure predictable funding, as the improvement of cities, is not just a job for the government, but requires collective effort.

Further, my delegation also welcomes the connection between local governments and the Sustainable Development Goals. For this aim, Malaysia continues to align local-level action with national-level policy-making and the implementation of sustainable urbanization policies. The Malaysian Urban Forum (MUF) continues to be an important platform to ensure national and local governments working together to achieve the SDGs. With 153 local governments, the Malaysia has consistently implemented the recommendations of the KL Declaration (2018), and the Voluntary Local Reviews being piloted in several key cities, namely Subang Jaya, Shah Alam, Johor Bahru, and Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia continues to ensure alignment between VLRs and the Voluntary National Reviews, with technical support from Urbanice Malaysia.

As I conclude, UN-Habitat has profiled itself as a leading UN organization, in providing leadership in quality integrated urban policy advice to Member States, as they build back in a post Covid-19 world, as well as in the advancement in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you for your kind attention.