

Agenda Item 10
STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
23rd November 2022

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum WBT and a very good morning

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor,

**Madam Executive Director of UN-Habitat,
Excellencies and Members of the Executive Board**

First and foremost, we would like to thank and congratulate the Under Secretary and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Madam Maimunah Mohd Sharif for her leadership and in leading the works of UN-Habitat successfully during one of the most challenging times that the world is facing today. And we thank her for the comprehensive reporting that has been delivered to all of us from the 1st day of the Executive Board meeting.

In order to further support the work of UN-Habitat, the Government of Malaysia has agreed to make a non-earmarked contribution of 1 million USD for this year. I just received an update that the contribution will be transferred by today. The Government of Malaysia hopes that the contribution will help to ease the financial burden faced by UN-Habitat.

Mr Chairman

Moving on to the presentation of UN-Habitat Assembly, we acknowledge that the world's urban population is fast increasing, and that sustainable urbanization has become more urgent than ever before. With much crisis that we face today, cities are at the forefront and has become more vulnerable, where even the smallest concern raised in cities today that affects our daily life have a direct linkage with global sustainability.

Hence sustainability is and must be a collective effort and requires a collaborative approach to address pressing and urgent issues. Inclusive urbanization requires us to ensure no one, and no place is left behind. Thus, high level dialogues, meetings and agreements need to be translated and localized at community and grass-roots levels. This linkage is important as communities today are more connected, more aware, more resilient and wants to be empowered.

Malaysia has developed its Malaysia SDG Cities program, aligned to the flagship program of UN-Habitat. We believe that by localizing the SDGs, cities can and will be the transformative agent of change; where local consumption and production patterns need to be more responsible, and sustainable urban practices will help ensure that local natural resources are managed and utilized responsibly. COVID-19 has made us realized the importance of nature in cities and the role nature must improve communities' health and well-being. This relates directly to the importance of climate change agenda in cities as more cities today faces unexpected disasters because of climate change. However, at the same time cities can be the solution partners, where they can adopt and practice resource efficiency, climate

neutrality, environmentally sound technology as well as develop appropriate resilient and green infrastructure.

Hence, Malaysia also calls for more Financing for sustainable urban development, where cities can have easier access to funds to accelerate their commitment towards the sustainable agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the 2nd UN-Assembly in 2023 will be a great opportunity to deep dive into these issues as we paved our way for the last 7 years towards achieving the sustainable development goals. Malaysia believes that strengthening our views and ideas collectively will lead to greater success of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the SDGs. We hope that the theme of UNHA will take note of the issues faced by Member States.

Lastly, Malaysia supports the work of the Secretariat and Executive Board to ensure the smooth planning and implementation of the work plan. However, Malaysia hopes that Member States will be given ample time to consider all the resolutions to be tabled during the Assembly.

Thank you