



MALAYSIA'S STATEMENT

*'OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
NEW URBAN AGENDA'*

**26TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, NAIROBI, KENYA
8-12 MAY 2017**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Honourable President,

Honourable Dr. Joan Clos,

Distinguished members of the Governing
Council,

First and foremost, on behalf of the Ministry of
Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local
Government of Malaysia, I would like to
extend my heartiest congratulations on the

convening of the 26th Governing Council session of UN-Habitat. It is a great honour to be able to participate as Malaysia becomes an official member of the Governing Council starting from 2016 until 2019.

PREAMBLE

Malaysia has always been cooperating closely with UN-Habitat, particularly in addressing various human settlement issues in Asia and Pacific region, and also in supporting the implementation of The New Urban Agenda. This is even more so now that we are working together towards the Ninth World Urban

Forum just around the corner where Malaysia will be hosting this eminent event from 7 to 13 February 2018, which marks a new dimension in the relationship between The Government of Malaysia and UN-Habitat.

The theme, **‘Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda’** would be the step forward for Malaysia and our cities towards further contribution to the agenda of sustainable and responsible urbanisation i.e. inclusive, safe, integrated development, resilient and adequate housing for a better future.

VISION, STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES

This year, 2017, Malaysians celebrate 60 years as an independent nation. From our humble beginnings, we have grown, evolved and think significantly into a modern economy and society. 'Transformasi Nasional 2050' or TN50 is an initiative to plan for the future of Malaysia for the period 2020 to 2050. From the vision of becoming a developed nation, we must strive to be a leading country in the world in economic development, citizen well-being and innovation. **(Our current Vision TN50)**

In tandem with Malaysia's rapid development, the urban population has increased to 73% in 2014 compared with 62% in 2000. The urbanisation rate will reach 77.2% in 2020 and is expected to increase to 79.8% by 2025 (Department of Statistics, 2010) and this will eventually reach two-thirds of 99.0% by 2050 along with the global population that are expected to live in urban settlements. This means Malaysia will be an urban nation and the New Urban Agenda is definitely significant and relevant. **(Urbanization)**

While the country is fast developing, we are challenged to ensure that our communities are moving forward in tandem with the progress. The emphasis is now in ensuring our countries are engaged and empowered to contribute and participate in planning and development of our cities and urban areas. The role of local government on third tier on government machinery, has to be strengthen and innovative to communicate and collaborate with countries.

Presently, most urban communities are insufficiently engaged, motivated, or

empowered to contribute. Oftentimes, administrators find it challenging to reach out to a large population in an urban area. However, innovative services can change the way the city's administration interacts with the people and how they deliver their services.

(Communities)

The commitment between the Government and the people in this country is a necessity in Malaysia Plan. It is a prerequisite for us as a developed nation, to improve the level of people's wellbeing as well as the sustainability of our living environment. In Malaysia, the

macro policies and strategic physical plans are readily supporting the initiative. Therefore, we trust that the communities - who are drivers for economic growth - will seek to exploit the readily available infra- and info-structures to further their personal and collective opportunities. Naturally, we will need to carefully consider and understand the local and global challenges before we devise our plans to push our cities into the next frontier. **(Government & policies derive)**

Government effort to provide adequate and quality affordable housing to poor, low- and

middle-income households also become the focus area in 11th Malaysia Plan 2016-2020. National Housing Department (NHD) plays a vital role in making sure Malaysian ranging from poor, low and middle income groups continuously supported in housing matters. The Government has formulated the National Housing Policy (NHP) in 2011, followed by the formation of National Housing Council (NHC) chaired by the Prime Minister in 2012. The formulation of the Policy and the establishment of the Council show the high commitment of Malaysian Government to provide adequate, comfortable, quality and

affordable housing with the ultimate aim to enhance the sustainability and wellbeing of Malaysian. Housing development in Malaysia is carried out by both the public and the private sector. Malaysia has a home ownership rate of 72.5%, comprising the ownership rate at 69.1% in urban area and 81.2% in rural. This is a relatively high number considering that home ownership rates in developed countries. The Government of Malaysia is confident to realize the target to build about 1 million affordable homes by 2018. This is because only 23.3% units need to be built next year to complete the goal. Of

the total, 76.7% of units affordable homes has already been completed as of September 2016. The breakdown of this engagement covers federal government, the state government and the rest by the private sector and ministries according to their respective target groups.

(Adequate housing & Affordable housing)

The Government recognizes the need and importance of achieving long term sustainability in providing conducive environment to the people. Malaysia has managed to launch several policies related to

environmental protection. These policies reflect the government initiatives on sustainable growth and development that provide direction and motivation for Malaysians towards greener solutions. We pledge our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the wellbeing of urban communities across the board. It is also hopeful that the New Urban Agenda can be synergized into the SDGs roadmap under the strategic collaboration with the stakeholders in Malaysia. With all these in place as the framework, we believe that Malaysia can become a showcase of

initiatives related to the betterment of urban planning and actions. **(Environment & sustainable)**

THE WAY FORWARD

Malaysia places a high priority on the development of more sustainable and inclusive communities due to our contribution to strengthen the economy, creating good jobs, using energy more efficiently, protecting the natural environment and contributing towards improvement in human health. Malaysia will contribute towards strengthening partnerships between various stakeholders in

the quest for development of the nation for the next 20 years and beyond.

Finally, we truly look forward to welcoming the delegates of WUF9 in 2018 to Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia, a land that offers vibrant experiences with open arms, warmth and best of care. Hopefully with all this in place, the quest for WUF9 to become a successful event is achievable as targeted.

Thank you.

HEAD OF DELEGATION
DATUK HALIMAH MOHAMED SADIQUE
DEPUTY MINISTER
MINISTRY OF URBAN WELLBEING, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MALAYSIA

9 MAY, 2017
NAIROBI, KENYA