



MALAYSIA

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STATEMENT BY
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DEVELOPMENT, MALAYSIA

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE
PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF
ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK, 22 SEPTEMBER 2014

Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary General, the Executive Director of the UNFPA and member states for their comprehensive report on the Assessment of the Status of Implementation of the Programme of Action (POA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).
2. Malaysia shares the view that the current state of the world's population is one of unprecedented diversity and change, reflected in new patterns of fertility, mortality, migration, urbanisation and ageing. The continuation and consequences of these population trends will present both opportunities and challenges for the formulation and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Achievements

3. I am pleased to report that Malaysia has achieved **most of the objectives and goals** of the ICPD-PoA. New policies and programmes are being implemented to respond to the changing socio-economic conditions and emerging challenges for Malaysia to become a high income, developed nation by 2020.

4. Key enabling factors such as our political stability, an efficient civil service, a harmonious social environment, unity and strength in diversity, an educated and trained workforce, abundant natural resources, and effective partnerships with stakeholders and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have contributed to our success in achieving the ICPD-PoA and other development goals. This has resulted in **significant poverty reduction, more balanced economic participation and wider coverage of essential services such as healthcare and education nationwide.**

Poverty Reduction

5. Poverty eradication programmes have been highly effective in reducing the incidence of poverty from 8.7 percent in 1994 to 1.7 percent in 2012. During the same period, the incidence of hardcore poverty decreased from 2.0 percent to 0.2 percent. The reduction in rate was due to inclusive poverty eradication initiatives which aimed to improve immediate welfare as well as provide income-earning opportunities to ensure sustainability.

Education and Gender Equality

6. With regard to education, the enrolment rate at **primary education increased** from 95.05 percent in 2001 to 96.59 percent in 2013, while the enrolment rate at **secondary education increased** from 85.85 percent in 2001 to 91.12 percent in 2013.
7. The Government of Malaysia has given special attention to education for women. This is evident in the enrolment of women for first degrees in public universities which has been consistently above 62 percent for the period 2009-2012. I am also pleased to inform you that **68.02 percent** of 41,573 new students for first degrees for the 2013/2014 academic year in public universities **are female students.**
8. The Government of Malaysia has set forth a plan to increase women's participation rate in the workforce to 55 percent by the year 2015. Due to our efforts, **the participation rate of women in the work force increased** from 46.8 percent in 2010 to 49.5 percent in 2012 and **rose to 52.4 in 2013.**
9. Malaysia's latest initiative to empower women economically is **micro-franchising.** Most women franchisees are in the food and beverage, services and maintenance as well as clothing and accessories business. To date, the micro financing scheme has benefited 264 entrepreneurs. Out of the 264 entrepreneurs, **52.2 percent are women entrepreneurs.** Without a doubt, micro-franchising businesses has helped women entrepreneurs in generating incomes.

10. With better educated women entering the workforce, Malaysia has achieved the Policy of At Least 30 Percent Women in Decision Making Positions in the Public Sector. Proactive implementation of this policy has seen the percentage of women holding decision-making positions in the public sector increase from 18.8 percent in 2004 to 33.7 percent in 2013.
11. The same target was set in 2011 for women at decision making levels in the corporate sector. Following the implementation of this policy, women representation in the Boards of Directors of Government Investment Companies increased from 14 percent in 2012 to 15.34 percent in January 2014.

Health: Mortality and Life Expectancy

12. Owing to its excellent health system, Malaysia has one of the **lowest mortality rates** among developing countries, which is 4.6 deaths per thousand population in 2012 compared to 4.7 deaths per thousand population in 2011.
13. The average life expectancy at birth in 2013 was 72.6 years for males and 77.2 for females compared to 70 years for males and 74.7 for females in 2000.

Health: HIV

14. In Malaysia, the number of reported HIV cases has declined steadily. However, while the epidemic was initially dominated by transmission through drugs users, there has been a rise in HIV cases attributed to heterosexual intercourse and this phenomenon is prevalent among the younger cohort (aged between 15 to 24 years old). To address new challenges, Malaysia formulated the **National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS 2011-2015**.
15. The National Strategic Plan incorporates a multi-sectoral strategy that takes into account young people's vulnerability and provides the delivery of free first line treatment for all patients at government hospitals and clinics, provision of sexual reproductive health education and services as well as encouraging HIV testing through voluntary testing and counselling.
16. With regard to reproductive cancers, Malaysia is one of the first countries in Asia to introduce a **National Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination Programme** to prevent cervical cancer. USD3.2 million was allocated in 2010 to implement the vaccination programme for school girls aged 13 years old. Since its inception in 2010 until May 2013, a total of 672,970 school girls have benefitted from this programme.
17. In addition, another *HPV Vaccination* programme has been introduced for women aged 18 years who missed the *National HPV Vaccination* programme. The

programme for the *catch-up* group was implemented through an allocation of USD15.7 million in 2012 and USD3.2 million in 2014.

Adolescent Reproductive Health

18. The Government of Malaysia has adopted various approaches to address issues related to the reproductive health of adolescents. The introduction of the National Policy on Reproductive Health and Social Education and its Action Plan in November 2009 has paved the way for increased access to reproductive health education, information and services for adolescents and youth.

Challenges and Policy Issues Beyond 2015

19. Despite the achievement of almost all ICPD objectives, we are constantly assessing the changing socio-economic conditions, such as the **decline in fertility** and **population ageing**.
20. **Malaysia's total fertility rate declined** from 2.9 in 2000 to 2.2 in 2006 and to 2.1 in 2012. The decline in fertility level will have profound **effects on the nation's population size and composition**. This will result in significant age structural shift and population ageing that will determine future labour supply.
21. In addition, Malaysia's total population of older persons in year 2013 was 8.6 percent from the total population of the country (2.57 million out of 29.95 million). **By 2030, Malaysia will be in the category of ageing nations** with older persons constituting **more than 15 percent of the population**.
22. Ageing can be considered from both the health and socio-economic perspective. Hence, **comprehensive policies, programmes and services** to ensure the well being of older persons should be initiated and implemented.

Concluding Remarks

23. Finally, Mr. Chair, I wish to reiterate that Malaysia will give her full support to all deliberations of this Special Session of the General Assembly on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

Thank you.