



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY
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MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYSIA**

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE REALIZATION
OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OTHER
INTERNATIONALLY AGREED DEVELOPMENT GOALS
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**ROUND TABLE NO. 2: "POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND INCLUSIVE
DEVELOPMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES"
NEW YORK, 23 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Thank you Co-Chairs,

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as the Co-Chairs for this round table discussion. I am confident that under your stewardship, the proceedings of this round table will be conducted in a smooth and efficient manner.

2. Please allow me to share Malaysia's efforts on inclusive development for persons with disabilities. Malaysia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 19 July 2010, thus joining the global community in affirming the human rights of person with disabilities. Prior to the ratification, the Government of Malaysia formulated the National Policy and Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities in 2007. The Policy and its Plan of Action serve as the foundation to ensure persons with disabilities in Malaysia enjoy their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Subsequently, in 2008, the Persons with Disabilities Act, a law that exclusively addresses disability was enacted and enforced.

3. Malaysia is committed in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in the country. Thus, the Government of Malaysia has introduced inclusive development as the core of national development in our Tenth Malaysia Plan (2011 to 2015). In order to transform Malaysia into a caring and socially-inclusive society, we believe every citizen of our country, including persons with disabilities should be given the opportunity to realise their full potential.

4. I would like to highlight some of the work we are doing in Malaysia to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities into society. Persons with disabilities are less likely

to be in full time employment, more likely to be unemployed and significantly more likely to be economically inactive compared to persons without disabilities. Employment not only provides a source of income for independent living but also increases one's sense of recognition, dignity and self-respect.

Co-Chairs,

5. Several initiatives have been taken to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in the work force. In 1988, the Government of Malaysia introduced the Policy of 1 per cent Job Opportunities in the Public Sector for Persons with Disabilities. This policy aims to assist qualified persons with disabilities to be hired and hold suitable positions in the public sector. In 2010, this policy was revised and enhanced to include affirmative action to ensure the effective implementation of the policy. As of December 2012, there are 1,754 persons with disabilities employed in the public sector as compared to 1,294 persons with disabilities in 2009.

6. Meanwhile, the Labour Department, under the Ministry of Human Resources has introduced an online job registration and matching system known as the *Disability Placement System* for the private sector. This system allows the identification of jobs for suitably qualified persons with disabilities. Since the introduction of the system in 1990, a total of 13,339 persons with disabilities have registered and a total of 9,074 have been successfully placed for employment in the private sector.

7. To assist and sustain persons with disabilities in their employment and in the work force, the Government of Malaysia has, in 2008, established a smart partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to implement a programme known as "Job Coach". The job coaches trained under this programme provide the necessary support to link the persons with disabilities with their fellow workers to facilitate their acceptance into an organisation. In addition, the job coaches play an important role to convince employers of the capabilities of the persons with disabilities.

Co-Chairs,

8. The Government of Malaysia continues to empower persons with disabilities through relevant programmes that will improve their standard of living. As such, the Department of Social Welfare, under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development provides a launching grant of up to a maximum of USD 820 (RM 2,700) to encourage persons with disabilities to venture into small businesses. From 2007 to 2012, a total of 1,027 persons with disabilities benefited from this grant.

9. In addition, under the Business Encouragement Assistance Scheme for Persons with Disabilities introduced by the Ministry of Human Resources, entrepreneurs among the persons with disabilities are provided grants amounting to a maximum of USD 30,300 (RM 100,000) to enable them to expand their business. These entrepreneurs are also required to hire persons with disabilities when they expand their business. Since its implementation in 2007, a total of 914 persons with disabilities have received

this assistance, which has successfully created job opportunities for 1,597 persons with disabilities.

10. The Government of Malaysia is committed to make every effort to promote inclusive development of persons with disabilities. Smart partnerships between government agencies and civil societies are encouraged with the objective of reaching out to the society, including persons with disabilities. The cooperation entails providing skills training, care services and rehabilitation. The government in return provides the necessary funding in acknowledging and appreciating efforts made by the civil societies.

11. Malaysia looks forward to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the MDG's post 2015 development agenda. We can all play a part in the inclusion process, either as individuals, members of the society, employers, organisations or governments. Let us work together for the betterment of persons with disabilities.

Thank you.