

## STATEMENT BY MS. NURUL SYAZA AZLISHA FIRST SECRETARY OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT FOR THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYSIA

## 11th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 13 JUNE 2018, CONFERENCE ROOM 4, UN HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, allow me to extend our utmost appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made thus far in this 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. The 14th General Election of Malaysia was recently held on 9 May 2018. Following this, a new Government has been formed and currently matters concerning the development of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are under the purview of the Department of Social



Welfare of the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. Having ratified CRPD in 2010, Malaysia strongly believes that the CRPD provides an important avenue to generate momentum towards the full realisation of gender equality and upholding the rights of the PWDs, to be align with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the realization of the commitments to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

3. Under the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016-2020), the Government gives continued importance to a development agenda that is inclusive. This reaffirms the Government's commitment to the people, and the belief that growth cannot be measured by economic success alone. The wellbeing of the citizens, and a commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth are necessary hallmarks of an advanced nation. The progress that Malaysia has made and actions that we have taken is in line with this year's theme of "Leaving no one behind through the full implementation of the CRPD".

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Today, various programmes and activities have been implemented to enhance the quality of life for PWDs. These actions are undertaken vigorously throughout the nation. Advocacy and online registration of PWDs via the Management and Information Systems for

PWDs have been aggressively implemented to provide better and appropriate services for them.

- 5. Those registered, currently totaling 469,377 have benefited from more than 25 privileges and services provided by the Government and private sectors. These include free international passport facility, hospitalization benefits, 50% discount from all major transportation service providers, free driving licenses and road tax, 100% excise duty exemption on national vehicle purchased by the PWDs and financial assistance from the Department of Social Welfare.
- 6. In the 11th Malaysia Plan, the Government announced the formation of seven Independent Living Centre (ILC) in various parts of the country to improve the quality of life for PWDs.
- 7. To encourage PWDs to venture into small businesses, the Department of Social Welfare also provides launching grants up to a maximum of RM2,700 (USD 676).
- 8. Besides this, to encourage PWDs to be economically independent the Government introduced the Business Encouragement Assistance Scheme for PWDs, tailored to assist disabled entrepreneurs to enhance their businesses, including offering them with employment opportunities. The scheme offers an amount up to a maximum of RM100,000 (USD 25,000).

- 9. The National Policy for PWD in Malaysia espouses equal rights and opportunities towards encouraging the full participation of PWDs in. It also recognizes the dignity, respect and liberty to enable them to live independently.
- 10. In conclusion, I wish to assure you that Malaysia will continue to share our experiences and contribute effectively at the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Thank you.

(3.1 minutes)