

**STATEMENT BY
THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYSIA**

**12th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PWDS
11 JUNE 2019, CONFERENCE ROOM 4
UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chairman,

1. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you as well as the secretariat on the excellent arrangements made thus far in this 12th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of PWDs.

2. Malaysia wishes to align ourselves with the statements delivered by the Republic of the Philippines on behalf of ASEAN and Chile on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older People (GOFOP) delivered earlier.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. The Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016-2020), marks the final phase for Malaysia towards achieving a developed and inclusive nation in line with the Vision 2020. The Eleventh Plan, with the theme “Anchoring Growth on People” focuses on the prosperity and wellbeing of the citizen.

4. Recently, the government published The Mid-Term Review of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan that reports the progress achieved in 2016-2017 and outlines the alignment of socioeconomic policies and strategies for 2018-2020, taking into account priorities of the new Government following the 14th General Election. The new government with new priorities and emphasis is committed to enhance good governance and transparency in ensuring greater wellbeing of the citizen including Persons with Disabilities or PWDs.

5. Efforts to enhance inclusive development and wellbeing of the citizen especially PWDs will be intensified during the remaining Plan Period. The development and enhancement of the quality of life and wellbeing of PWDs are vital in promoting inclusiveness in the community and in line with the CRPD.

6. In this regard, Malaysia wishes to highlight new initiatives that have been taken for the well-being, quality life and inclusiveness of PWDs. These include:

- i. Enhancement of Information Management System of PWDs in 2018 that provides more detailed information on PWDs for future planning and better services;
- ii. Classification of six sub-categories for Learning Disabilities category card on 7 March 2019. The measure enables teachers to identify and provide intervention to students according to their specific abilities;
- iii. A Standard Operating Procedure in handling persons with autism for The Royal Malaysian Police was introduced on

25 March 2019. The SOP contains detailed procedures for police personnel and officers in handling autistic persons;

- iv. A PWDs representative has been elected as a new Member of the Public Service Commission on 1st April 2019. This demonstrates the commitment of Malaysia towards achieving 1% PWDs in the public sector workforce; and
- v. Introducing the Zero Reject Policy in stages starting 2019 to ensure students with special education needs and undocumented children have access to education.

7. The Government of Malaysia has also continued its efforts to raise level of public awareness on the needs and rights of PWDs. Disability Equality Training and Disability Related Services Training have been conducted by the Department of Social Welfare which involved 2535 participants from government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and Communities.

8. In addition, hiring policies and job matching programmes are continuously conducted to further promote participation of PWDs in the workforce. Department of Social Welfare has implemented Job Coach Service Programme (JCSP) and since its implementation in 2012, 956 PWDs have been supported by job coaches in open employment.

9. Ministry of Housing and Local Government conducts a regular access audit accordance to Malaysian Standard 1184:2014 to ensure more premises are accessible for PWDs. 34 premises from 23 local authorities have been audited from 2014 to 2018.

10. In addition, a comprehensive review of the policies and legislations related to PWDs including making universal design a mandatory will be undertaken through engagement and consultation with relevant stakeholders including civil societies and PWDs associations.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. In essence, Malaysia strongly believes that the future development of PWDs in Malaysia will be accomplished through the adoption of a dual approach, encompassing CRPD as a global mandate and The Incheon Strategy “Make the Right Real” for PWDs in Asia and the Pacific (2013-2022) as the regional mandate will serve as a beacon in guiding Malaysia. The mandates and the Mid-Term Review of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan will enable Malaysia to further ensure the inclusiveness of PWDs as well as their needs and rights are met.

Thank you.