

**STATEMENT BY
DEPUTY MINISTER
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, MALAYSIA
THE EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP 80)
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTER, BANGKOK THAILAND**

**AGENDA ITEM 2 THEME TOPIC: "LEVERAGING DIGITAL
INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC"**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I am honoured to represent Malaysia in this **Eightieth Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP 80)** and would like to extend our gratitude to the UNESCAP for providing this platform.

2. Malaysia has been dedicated to sustainable development agenda with the launch of the New Economic Policy (NEP) in the 1970s, focusing on poverty eradication and societal restructuring. Subsequent five-year national development plans have prioritised on inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication, quality education, and environmental conservation.

3. The whole-of-nation approach with inclusive decision-making and follow-through processes, is crucial in bringing the SDG goals to a common agenda. In Malaysia, the Prime Minister chairs the SDG Council representing the highest governing body to steer the

implementation of SDG with participation by the public and private sector, civil society organisations and academicians.

4. In the recent mid-term review of the 12th Malaysia Plan, innovative solutions and digital technologies was adopted where focus was given in boosting digitalisation and advanced technology including enabling faster and more reliable connectivity in adopting emerging technologies such as, artificial intelligence, internet of things and bigdata analytics.
5. Strategies currently under implementation creates enabling environment for the growth of the digital economy, expanding digitalisation, strengthening capacity and capability in research & development & commercialisation & innovation (R&D&C&I) in-line with the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint, the National Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Policy and Public Sector Digitalisation Strategic Plan (PSPSA). It is expected that the digital economy and e-commerce will contribute 25% and 15.7% of Malaysia's GDP, respectively by the year 2025
6. Since June 2021, Malaysia gazetted communication services as a public utility, to ensure access to communication services for every individual. The fixed broadband connectivity will allow reliable and high-speed internet connection to houses and business premises. In this regard, it is targeted that Malaysia will attain 100% 4G coverage in populated areas and more than 100 megabits per second (Mbps) speed of mobile broadband by 2025.

7. Government Technology (Govtech) was introduced to enhance public service delivery which will enhance governance and provide a universally accessible citizen-centric public service.
8. For instance, we have recently embarked on Central Database Hub (PADU), which will act as a centralised national database of socioeconomic information for every household in the country. Additionally, Malaysia's digital identity (MyDigital ID) registry will enable individual identity authentication, enabling digital transactions and e-government services.
9. National Information Dissemination Centre (NADi) is another initiative introduced by the Government to ensure Malaysians in remote areas are equipped with relevant digital knowledge and skills. With 911 operational centres, it aims to transform rural and underserved areas into community learning centres, empowering locals in the digital economy and improving quality of life.

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10. The achievement of SDGs requires strong regional **cooperation and transformative partnerships** and Malaysia calls for enhanced support and assistance for developing countries through adequate funding, technical knowledge, technology transfer, and continued capacity building.

11. In conclusion, Malaysia has and will continue to leverage digital innovation for better policy interventions and improved social protection programmes in meeting the sustainable development agenda.

Thank you.