

Checked as delivered

COUNTRY STATEMENT BY

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MALAYSIA

THEME FOR 40th SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE:

“CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY”

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Mr. Chairperson,
His Excellency Director General of FAO,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is indeed a great privilege for me to speak on behalf of my delegate in this 40th Session of FAO Conference. I wish to congratulate the Director General on the organization of this conference under his leadership and for guiding this organization for the past five-year-and-a-half towards the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. The weather pattern has become unpredictable due to climate change. Unexpected heavy rainfalls and temperature rise caused heavy floods and droughts which has become common phenomena or disasters.

3. Climate change has shown significant impact on agriculture by increasing water demand, limiting crop productivity and reducing water availability especially in the areas where irrigations is most needed. This phenomenon have a negative impact on crops, animal husbandry and aquaculture. The productions of important crops such as rice, vegetables and fruits are susceptible to extreme weather patterns during their varying stages of growth.

4. Being a tropical country, Malaysia has been experiencing frequent natural disasters namely massive floods and prolonged droughts which have affected our food production.

5. Malaysia experienced one of our worst floods in 2014 which has destroyed settlements and affected almost 2 million people. We have lost USD 87 million of our agriculture production, infrastructure, and the value chain of agro-food sector.

6. As for drought, the most significant one was the 1997/98 El Nino which caused extensive impact to our agro-food sector. In March 2016, we were again tested by the impact of El Nino, which affected crops, animal husbandry and aquaculture.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Recent study conducted by the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute in our northern granary area showed that a 2°C rise in temperature could cause the yield of rice to drop up to 13%. On the

other hand, the occurrence of flood (15% increases in rainfall) and drought (15% decrease in rainfall) during early growing season could cause the yield to drop as much as 80%.

8. The Government of Malaysia has always been very committed to face these challenges. Throughout the years, we have formulated our National Policy on Climate Change (2009) and the National Green Technology Policy (2009), to collectively guide the nation towards addressing climate change, ensuring climate-resilient development, developing a low carbon economy and promoting green technology.

9. Subsequently, we developed the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016-2020), from which one of the strategy focuses on climate resilient development (infrastructure, seedlings and Reserach&Development) that incorporates climate change considerations into policy and development planning, evaluation and implementation.

10. To reduce the effect of climate change, under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Malaysia has pledged and committed to cut its greenhouse emissions by 45% by 2030 and have already introduced measures to do so. These include developing new cities that are carbon neutral, giving tax incentives to companies that report and limit their emissions, procuring more environmentally-friendly Government assets and planting 13 million new trees since 2011.

11. Looking further ahead, the Government of Malaysia is actively engaging its people in formulating 'The National Transformation Plan 2050 (TN50)', aimed to gather views and hopes of the people, particularly youths, to generate a new 30-year transformation plan for the country that

truly reflects the people's vision. The development of the agricultural sector will be amongst the highlight of TN50 in aligning food security and competitiveness as well as sustaining environment and natural resources for the future generation.

12.

Ladies and Gentleman,

13. Malaysia urges FAO to continue prioritize its work where it maintains a comparative advantage by supporting Members Countries. These include increasing members' capacity in adapting and mitigating the impact of climate change. This could be achieved through:

- i. promoting knowledge sharing;
- ii. sharing of good practices and innovation;
- iii. mobilizing expertise;
- iv. supporting members in identifying and prioritizing of country-specific actions; and
- v. assisting development partners in joint mobilization.

14. We must play a more aggressive role in addressing the effect of climate change especially its effect on agriculture and food security which could jeopardize our effort to eliminate poverty and hunger. The developing nations need FAO's strong leadership to improve the current global scenario. More climate finance is needed to fund developing countries' actions on climate change. Helping smallholders adapt to risk of climate change is the key for global poverty reduction and food security.

15. More efforts also needed in the area of conservation to ensure balanced development in pursuit of green growth and contribution to the

global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030. Partnerships that emphasize the SDGs as part of its objectives are laudable. Malaysia and Denmark for instance has forge collaboration in circular economy which can deliver key environment benefits and at the same time significantly strengthen our capacity across the agriculture sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

16. There are still huge challenges in front of us, and Malaysia believe that FAO is doing its best together with member countries to transform these challenges into opportunities. We must take note climate change poses a major and growing threats to food security. Let us face these challenges and support each other to overcome it. I would also like to urge all member countries, brothers and sisters, to continue our strong collaboration in responding to all the threats in front of us.

Thank you.