

MALAYSIA'S INTERVENTION

**ITEM 11: PRIORITIZATION OF COUNTRY AND REGIONAL
NEEDS**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Mr Independent Chairperson of the Council,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies and Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia would like to join others in thanking and congratulating the Royal Government of Bhutan and FAO Secretariat for the excellent arrangement of this virtual conference.

I would like to congratulate FAO for the reports that were discussed at the Senior Officials Meeting, in particular, the progress that has been achieved in Asia and the Pacific. This provides good policy considerations for us at the national level and collectively at the regional level to respond and act towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The devastating and unprecedented impact of the Covid-19 pandemic transcends borders and it subjects many countries to

adopt and adapt into a 'new norm'. It is high time for us to review some of our priorities in order to better brace ourselves for any global health crisis in the future. This includes improving the state of food security particularly in developing countries. During the initial stage of the pandemic, Malaysia's food system was affected due to the sudden halt across the food distribution chain. However, food supply remains stable and under control as a result of immediate intervention and constant monitoring of the situation on the ground by the Malaysian Government.

Mr. Chairperson,

In line with the desire to ensure the implementation of a more holistic and sustainable agriculture, the government of Malaysia has established the high level Cabinet Committee on the National Food Security Policy on 25 March 2020. The Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises of ministers, senior government officers, academicians, agri-food experts, private sectors, industry players and NGOs to identify issues pertinent to food security.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the last APRC held in Fiji, we shared our commitment to further align national policy framework with 2030 agenda and the SDGs. In Malaysia, the National Agrofood Policy 2011-2020 guides our policy decisions on agriculture and the food systems. The objectives of this policy are to ensure food security and safety, to

develop the agrofood industry to be competitive and sustainable, and to increase the income of agricultural entrepreneurs.

As the National Agrofood Policy is nearing its final year, National Agrofood Policy 2.0 (NAP 2.0) 2021-2030 is currently being drafted to outline policy for the agrofood industry. Several global and domestic challenges affecting food supply will be evaluated before formulating suitable policy. The main policy thrust of NAP 2.0 includes:

- i. Embracing modernization and smart agriculture;
- ii. Producing demand driven and export oriented products;
- iii. Building talent that meets demand of the industry;
- iv. Advancing towards sustainable agriculture practices and inclusivity; and
- v. Creating conducive business ecosystem and robust institutional framework.

Mr. Chairperson,

In Malaysia's point of view, the understanding, strategy, and impact of implementing a sustainable food system in member countries should be shared for the benefit of all countries. We opine that the goal of sustainable food system is to meet food security demands without compromising the well-being and ability of future generations to fulfil their needs as well as safeguarding the natural resources.

Malaysia welcomes for further collaboration with FAO particularly in the aspects of sustainable agriculture and technology application through policy dialogue and medium to long term exchange of technical expertise. Malaysia looks forward to strengthening national agriculture investment capacities with innovative financing mechanisms to address domestic policy and make investment more sustainable. Through this, FAO could help Malaysia to foster a supportive environment for better investments in food security, nutrition, and rural development.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.