



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia**  
*to the United Nations*

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STATEMENT BY

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OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

THE 13<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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*[Please check against delivery]*

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement made yesterday by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

2. We have recognized that water, sanitation and human settlements are integral parts of sustainable development. We acknowledge that the lack of access to water and sanitation as well as inadequate human settlements are signs of extreme poverty and underdevelopment. There are still over 1 billion people who do not have access to safe drinking water. Some 2.6 billion people have no access to improved sanitation. Five years after the Millennium Summit and three years after the World Summit for Sustainable Development, the world has not progressed fast enough to be on track towards the proclaimed goals.

Mr. Chairman,

3. My delegation attaches great importance to the work of this Commission to develop policy options and implementable measures that could put our efforts on the right track to meet the internationally agreed goals and targets in relation to water, sanitation and human settlements. My delegation is mindful of the daunting challenges that we have to encounter in implementing the best options and measures to achieve those goals. Unless we are prepared to match our commitments with sufficient political will to provide the much-needed resources, it would be doubtful if we could make any real progress towards achieving the agreed targets.

4. In the last session, my delegation had highlighted the need to evaluate the reasons and constraints for the lack of progress in the means of implementation in addressing the issues of water, sanitation and human settlements. As we embark on efforts to develop policy options and practical actions on these three themes, it has become clear to us that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Countries are characterized by their own peculiarities, needs and constraints. However, there are constraints that most developing countries have in common: they lack financial resources and technical capacity.

5. It must be recognized that resource mobilization and technology transfer remain among the pressing issues before us. My delegation believes that developing countries have strived to fulfill their obligation within their limited resources to address the issues of water, sanitation and human settlements. They have put their commitment into action. However, many will not be able to achieve the desired progress without international support.

6. The partners in developed countries must continue their efforts in meeting their pledged obligation to meet the ODA target. We must continue to intensify our efforts in international partnership, which has so far lagged behind. The problems faced by highly

indebted countries must be seriously addressed to free them from their debt burden, hence enabling them to have the well needed resources to build their capacity to provide water and sanitation services and develop adequate human settlements.

7. The partners in developed countries must also engage actively in the transfer of technology, which is one of the most fundamental factors required to enable developing countries develop their own technical capacities. Without such support, sustainable supply and management of water resources, as well as the provision of adequate sanitation services, and the development of adequate housing and shelter will be difficult to achieve.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Malaysia, on its part, is strongly committed to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. The provision of water services has been an integral part of Malaysia's development strategies. We have achieved 100% coverage in the provision of piped water in urban areas. The Government has also expanded the people's access to safe and drinking water to 87% of the rural areas. The Government has targeted that by the year 2020, 100% of the population will have access to water supply. With this encouraging achievement, the Government is now embarking on ensuring that high quality of water is supplied throughout the whole country. During the Ninth Malaysia Plan covering the period from 2006-2010, the Government would be spending USD 2.4 billion in upgrading and replacing the existing water pipe system to ensure that high quality water reaches the population.

9. Malaysia is also committed to the successful implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). The establishment of the National Water Resources Council since 1998 has paved the way towards achieving this objective, notwithstanding that water resources management are under the jurisdiction of each State Government as provided under the Malaysian Constitution. A national study for the effective implementation of IWRM is being planned with the aim of creating awareness and generating advocacy in IWRM and developing capacity building among implementing agencies.

10. On sanitation, Malaysia has achieved almost 100% coverage in the provision of sanitation services. The Government's commitment in promoting environmental sanitation to improve the health status of the population dates back to the 1970s. As a result, almost the entire urban population in Malaysia has been supplied with reticulated sewerage system and septic tanks by local authorities, while in the rural areas, sanitary latrines have been provided to 99% of the population since 2000. The Government, under the Seventh Malaysia Plan (1996-2000), had embarked in engaging the private sector in the provision of sewerage services, involving 84 local authorities.

11. Housing policy in Malaysia is aimed at providing adequate, affordable and quality houses to all Malaysians with particular emphasis to the low-income group. While the

Government has been substantially involved in the construction of houses for the low-income groups, private housing developers are obliged to allocate 30 per cent of housing development projects to low-cost homes, and to put land aside for the construction of community amenities. The success of the Government's housing strategies in human settlements can be seen from the construction of over 850,000 houses between 1996-2000 and 615,000 houses from 2001-2005. The government has also introduced the Integrated People's Housing Programme to resettle squatters into new housing areas with all basic amenities. The Programme is well on track in meeting the 0% squatters target by the end of 2005.

Mr. Chairman,

12. I wish to conclude by reiterating the importance of urgent resource mobilization and technological support for developing countries in meeting the agreed targets on water, sanitation and human settlements. Without these the targets set out in the JPOI and the Millennium Declaration would continue to remain elusive.

Thank you.