

Thank you Distinguished Chair for giving the floor to Malaysia and we would like to start by congratulating UNEP for the successful organization of UNEA5.1 despite the challenges we face due to covid19 pandemic.

Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,

The COVID-19 had put a challenge for us to build resilience as we wade through this pandemic, and the road ahead has to be on a green recovery pathway. We need to keep the balance and embrace the planetary health approach to understand that going green is also development.

Sustainable development and green technology need to play a vital role in driving the economy. A green recovery approach would not only spur the economy and social well-being, it will also drive the nation's development trajectory on a low carbon and climate resilience pathway.

The Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA) is currently spearheading the **Environmental Sustainability Roadmap in Malaysia** towards sustainable development. This document has clear targets and indicators towards a green and sustainable pathway from 2020 to 2030.

The **National Policy on Climate Change and the National Green Technology Policy** will continue to be used as a guidance in integrating climate change issues as well as sustainable development in the planning and implementation of any national development programs, including in any decision making process.

Specifically, the **Green Technology Master Plan (GTMP)** strategically outlines approaches up to the year 2030 for green technology development to create a low carbon and resource-efficient economy. The success of the plan draws upon effective collaborations across various sectors to maximise its collective potential benefit.

Malaysia is also taking steps to move towards a **Circular Economy** which covers a whole range of elements in managing end-of-life impact of products and diverting waste from the landfill and open environment. For this purpose, we are embarking on EPR implementation especially for plastics.

To **further address marine litter**, Malaysia aspires for a more targeted intervention in addressing this issue in its entirety. A **step wise approach** is needed to ensure countries like Malaysia can successfully address

plastic marine pollution and microplastics. To address this issue, a multi-layered approach consisting a combination of national, regional and international measures is needed.

In moving forward, we strongly believe for this Assembly to chart a concrete pathway for member countries to mainstreaming environmental appreciation at national and sub-national levels. While we also believe that a comprehensive international cooperation is important in addressing environmental issues, especially transboundary in nature, the effectiveness of execution and implementation should be guided by (but not limited to) the following principles and approaches:

- common but differentiated responsibilities
- transparency and accountability
- precautionary principle
- polluter pays principle
- ecosystems-based approach
- life cycle approach
- participatory approach
- involvement of major groups

We believe that all options come with a set of circumstances and challenges, especially at the national and sub-national levels. These circumstances need to be cautiously deliberated upon before options can be considered. And to conclude, it is thus important in the name of objectivity, to reflect all views in an engaging and inclusive manner.