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MALAYSIA COUNTRY STATEMENT

BY

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MALAYSIA

17/18 JUNE 2013 (tbc)

Mr. Chairperson,

H.E. 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 38th Session of FAO Conference. I wish to congratulate the DG on the first conference under his leadership and for guiding this organization for the past year-and-a-half towards the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition.
2. The Malaysian Government has always attached great importance to national food security and placing agricultural growth, rural development and farmer's welfare as its top priorities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Malaysia would like to support the report in State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA 2013) and especially in choosing nutrition as its main focus of debate in this year's conference.
4. As reported in SOFA 2013, 12.5% of world population or 868 million people are undernourished; with the majority of them are our children. Geographically, 70% of the undernourished children live in Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen

5. Undernourishment or malnourishment is often seen as one of the neglected issue of the world. However, the fact stated earlier only confirms that this issue need to be tackled urgently.
6. There are many contributing factors to this global issue, like poverty, harmful economic system, conflict and climate change, just to name a few. This is a complex issue and need a holistic approach to deal with. But more importantly, all efforts need a strong commitment from the leadership of all countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. It is no doubt that Malaysia is very close in eradicating extreme poverty, but we must admit that there are still works need to be done in reducing the number of malnourished in the country.
8. In dealing with this issue, The National Plan of Action for Nutrition of Malaysia (NPANM) has been framed and implemented since 1996 following the call from the World Declaration on Nutrition and Plan of Action adopted by the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) in Rome, 1992.
8. Currently there is already an established and strong collaboration in nutrition and health sectors between Ministry of Health Malaysia and various ministries and agencies including Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism and Ministry of Rural and

Regional Development. Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry of Malaysia has long been one of the major players in this collaboration especially to ensure that the people have access to adequate, nutritious and safe foods. All these collaboration are mainly coordinated through the National Food Safety and Nutrition Council.

9. Therefore, to ensure sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition in Malaysia, improving household food security is one of the enabling strategies stipulated in the NPANM. Some of the major activities carried out to facilitate the implementation of this strategy are as follows:

- i. Continue existing food aid programmes for the vulnerable groups such as the Rehabilitation Programme of Malnourished Children and Supplementary Feeding Programme.
- ii. Provide nutritious and safe supplementary foods to eligible pre-school and primary school children.
- iii. Ensure access to affordable, safe and nutritious foods in schools.
- iv. Develop food service and management guidelines for boarding schools, special homes and institutions.

10. In 2011, Malaysia has launched the National Agro-Food Policy. This policy has been put in place to address the issue of sustainable agriculture with food safety and nutrition aspects along its value chain. The National Agrofood Policy has incorporated strategies that are in line with nutritional aspect of the food system among them are:

- i. On-going nutrition awareness campaigns about the advantages and benefits of local food products;
- ii. Special campaign for those who have nutrition related health problems;
- iii. Special programmes to ensure safe and adequate food supply to specific groups such as children and pregnant women; and
- iv. Healthy eating programmes in schools and special programmes for low income group.

11. Malaysia would like to reiterate our commitment to share our knowledge, experience and expertise with other countries in dealing with this issue.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. In ensuring food and nutritional security, one of the main focus that need FAO special attention is post-harvest losses. Post-harvest losses in Asia is estimated at about 30% of annual food production, which valued at five billion US dollar. It is also important to note that post-harvest losses not only refers to loss in volume but also to the value of food in terms of nutritional value and physical condition.

13. This losses can be attributed to factors along the value chain, namely constraints of farm inputs, mechanization, processing, packaging, handling, storage, distribution and marketing infrastructure.

14. Malaysia believes the issue of post-harvest losses is critical in Asia especially for the smallholders in this region. I would like to request FAO to give a greater priority in solving this issue especially in Asia

Region. The region need FAO assistance in value chain development and in capacity building in order for us to enhance our effort in feeding the region.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. As a way forward I would like to urge FAO to step up its action to fight malnutrition and food insecurity. The member countries especially the developing nations need your strong leadership in improving the current global scenario.

16. There are still huge challenges in front of us, and Malaysia is well aware that FAO is doing her best together with member countries to transform these challenges into opportunities. I would also like to urge all member countries to continue our strong collaboration in responding to all the threats in front of us. Together we can make a better world for our children.

Thank you.