

**SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
DOHA, QATAR
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**HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE 1: STRENGTHENING THE THREE
PILLARS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT — POVERTY ERADICATION,
FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR
ALL, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

[Allocated time: up to 3 minutes]

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. Malaysia reaffirms that the three pillars of social development, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and social inclusion are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Progress in one strengthens the others; neglect in any risks imbalance and fragility. Guided by the *Ekonomi MADANI* vision and the commitments of the Doha Political Declaration, Malaysia's approach integrates economic reform with social justice and human dignity.
2. Malaysia's sustained focus on poverty eradication has been central to our national development since the First Malaysia Plan in 1966. Through evidence-based and inclusive strategies, the Multidimensional Poverty Index fell from 0.011 to 0.005 between 2020 and 2024, while income inequality narrowed with the Gini coefficient improving from 0.407 to 0.390. The incidence of absolute poverty declined to 5.8 per cent in 2024, reflecting recovery from the

pandemic. The establishment of PADU, a national household database, now enables data-driven policymaking and more equitable distribution of assistance.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Malaysia's efforts to achieve decent work for all are anchored in comprehensive labour market reforms under the Thirteenth Malaysia Plan. The reforms aim to create high-skill, high-value employment while ensuring that every Malaysian has dignified and meaningful work. The Multi-Tier Levy Mechanism, to be implemented in 2026, will reduce dependence on low-skilled foreign labour and direct levies towards automation and skills upgrading. Wages are being realigned towards the *living wage*, while reforms to the Employees Provident Fund and Social Security Organisation extend protection to gig and informal workers. These measures ensure that productivity gains translate into fairer incomes and stronger social resilience.
4. Social inclusion remains at the heart of Malaysia's development policy. Our programmes prioritise vulnerable groups, including Orang Asli, Anak Negeri Sabah, Bumiputera Sarawak, and low-income households across all ethnicities, through targeted skills training, entrepreneurship support, and improved access to health, housing, and digital connectivity.
5. Policies promoting childcare, reskilling, and flexible work arrangements are enabling more women to rejoin and remain in the workforce. Re-employment pathways for older persons and

expanded opportunities for persons with disabilities reflect our commitment to leaving no one behind.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. At the international level, Malaysia calls for renewed global solidarity to strengthen these three pillars. We must expand fiscal and policy space for developing countries, promote equitable access to technology and innovation, and align growth with climate and environmental sustainability. Malaysia's partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) demonstrates how collaboration can integrate social protection, green growth, and sustainable financing to accelerate inclusive progress.
7. Malaysia stands ready to work with all partners, North and South, public and private, to ensure that social development remains the cornerstone of global peace, equity, and resilience. Together, let us translate our shared commitments from Copenhagen to Doha into tangible action, to build a world where every person can live with dignity, participate fully in society, and enjoy the promise of decent work for all.

Thank you.

[Approx. 483 words]

3 minutes for 160 words/minute