



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**OPENING SPEECH**

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**MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**FOR**

**DIALOGUE ON POST UNFCCC-COP28 AND CLIMATE CHANGE BILL**

**8 FEBRUARY 2024 (THURSDAY)**

**ALOFT KUALA LUMPUR SENTRAL,  
KUALA LUMPUR**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam Sejahtera.

## **SALUTATION**

**Yang Berbahagia Dato' Razali Mohamad;**

Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES)

**Yang Berusaha Tuan Haji Rahimi L. Muhamud;**

Chairman, Board of Directors, Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC)

**Yang Berusaha Ir. Ts. Shamsul Bahar Mohd Nor;**

Group Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC)

**Yang Berusaha Encik Ahmad Farid Mohammed**

Deputy Undersecretary, Climate Change Division, NRES

Our esteemed moderators and panellists;

Representatives from the ministry, agencies, the private sector and NGOs,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

## INTRODUCTION

1. Let me begin by thanking everyone for attending this inaugural **Dialogue Session on Post UNFCCC-COP28 and the Climate Change Bill**. Both are issues of the utmost, even existential importance to Malaysia and they are arguably intertwined.
2. The NRES Ministry therefore knew a session like this was necessary because fighting climate change and protecting our environment is everyone's responsibility and in everyone's interest. So again, thank you all for being here and thank you to everyone who helped make today possible.
3. The **UNFCCC-COP28**, hosted by the United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 12 December 2023 was a historic occasion. While there are a variety of views about its outcomes, it produced the epochal "**UAE Consensus**", with **first Global Stocktake** at its heart, outlining the ambitious actions needed to keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C within reach.

Ladies and gentlemen,

## MALAYSIA AT COP28

4. I am also proud to say that Malaysia turned out in force for COP28. It was an honour to witness the active participation of our delegation, comprising 700 dedicated members. Ranked 17<sup>th</sup> among the 199 countries present at COP28, Malaysia's substantial representation underscored our deep commitment to global efforts to combat climate change.
5. Indeed, our delegation did not just show up; we were actively immersed in discussions, negotiations, and collaborations, showcasing Malaysia as a key player dedicated to sustainable and climate-friendly practices internationally.
6. The presence of the-then Yang Di-Pertuan Agong symbolised our unwavering commitment to fostering a future of positive transformation. Adding a tangible dimension to this commitment, the launch of the Malaysia Pavilion by His Majesty provided a space dedicated to collaboration and the showcasing of innovative solutions.
7. Our government officials from various ministries and agencies played an invaluable role in navigating the intricate climate change negotiation processes.

8. Simultaneously, our representatives from the ministries and agencies, state governments, the private sector, and non-governmental organisations also engaged passionately in diverse programmes and activities at the Malaysia Pavilion and elsewhere, contributing significantly to the global discourse on climate action.

## THE MALAYSIA PAVILION

9. Throughout the two-week conference, the Pavilion became a nexus for collaboration, featuring **138 international and local speakers, sealing 17 MOUs and partnerships, and unlocking the potential for a staggering USD9 billion in businesses.** All of this was accomplished through a packed schedule of over **60 talks**, showcasing the depth of our commitment in just two weeks.
10. But the Malaysia Pavilion was more than just a place for us to gather. It arguably showcased our values. The Pavilion was a hub of knowledge, innovation, and collaboration, displaying Malaysia's proactiveness in addressing climate change using a whole-of-nation approach.

11. The theme of: "**Going Beyond Green Growth, Resilient Community, and Sustainable Planet**," reflects our dedication to prioritising climate action while harmonising economic growth with protecting our people and the natural environment.
12. The NRES is hence grateful for the support and participation of the many VIPs, including His Royal Highness the Regent of Pahang, the Governor of Bank Negara Malaysia, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, our thought leaders such as Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood and Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid for their strong presence at COP28. Through these dialogues, we demonstrated Malaysia's ability to facilitate constructive and inclusive conversations on the most pressing issues of our time.
13. Special thanks likewise to our sponsors and partners, for their generous contribution in making the Malaysia Pavilion a resounding success. I extend heartfelt appreciation to all speakers, partners, members of the Advisory Panel, the Consultative Panel, and all stakeholders for your unwavering support and commitment.
14. At the heart of COP's agenda were negotiations addressing critical aspects such as the global stocktake, global goals on adaptation, and other matters of great importance.

Our dedicated Malaysian negotiators, who poured their hearts into safeguarding our national interests at COP28, deserve our heartfelt appreciation and admiration.

15. I am also delighted to extend my gratitude to Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) for their generous support to implement carbon offset through carbon credits, for NRES and its agencies. This demonstrates our collective and significant steps toward our commitment of achieving net-zero carbon emissions as early as 2050. By embracing carbon offsetting, MAG has demonstrated remarkable leadership in environmental stewardship.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **MOVING FORWARD**

16. Let us now turn to the future. As noted, the main outcome from COP28 was the UAE Consensus. It boldly includes an unprecedented commitment to transitioning away from all fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly, and equitable manner in this critical decade.

This commitment aligns with the scientific imperative and aims to enable the world to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

17. This of course matters a great deal to all countries of the world, including Malaysia. Like it or not, we must prepare and be ready for the transitions it will invariably spark. We do not want our workers to lose their livelihoods, or for Malaysian companies to be shut out of key export markets, or for the *rakyat* to face endless cycles of natural disasters and skyrocketing costs of living due to failure to adapt to new global realities.
18. The UAE Consensus also gives added urgency to the Climate Change Bill. This piece of legislation, too, will be the means through which we not only address our commitments but also the overall challenge of climate change. And this is what brings us here today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **THE ROAD AHEAD**

19. The emergence of the UAE Consensus arguably vindicates the current Federal Government's approaches. We have placed sustainability at the forefront of our national ethos.

It is at the core of the Malaysia Madani and Madani Economy frameworks, as well as the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR) and the New Industrial Masterplan (NIMP) 2030.



20. On a more granular level, the NRES Ministry has taken proactive steps to initiate key actions that align with our commitment to a sustainable future. At the forefront of our efforts is formulating the **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Roadmap and Long Term-Low Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS)**—a strategic framework that charts our course towards becoming a net-zero nation.
21. Also in the pipeline is the preparation of **Malaysia's National Adaptation Plan**, awaiting approval from the **Green Climate Fund**.
22. Another significant moment in our global efforts to combat climate change is the launch of the **Post-COP28 Report**. This report is not a conclusion but a catalyst for continued action. It provides insights into what has worked, what needs improvement, and where our focus must be sharpened. It is a living document that invites us to learn from our collective experiences and adapt our strategies in the face of evolving environmental threats. I extend my deepest gratitude to all delegates and stakeholders who contributed to the richness of this report and for being part of the drivers towards Malaysia's sustainable future.

23. Meanwhile, the **Climate Change Bill** which we are drafting will be a robust foundation for our climate action initiatives, providing a legal framework to drive positive change and hold ourselves accountable for our commitments. At its core, the Climate Change Bill is designed to articulate a comprehensive framework that outlines our collective responsibilities, strategies, and actions in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
24. It will serve as a roadmap, guiding our nation's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable practices, and bolster resilience in the face of environmental changes. I am eager to gather more views today to support shaping policies that will safeguard our nation. Help us to put together the best Bill possible. As Minister, I place great importance in sessions like these because I realise inclusivity is key to successful policymaking.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

**WHOLE-OF-NATION & WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH CRUCIAL**

25. Indeed, this journey transcends governmental initiatives and calls for a collaborative effort involving the private sector, non-state actors, NGOs, vulnerable communities, and our dynamic youth.
26. Our commitment to sustainability also requires a transformative shift in the conversation within the business community. We must encourage companies to perceive decarbonisation not merely as a short-term trend or a bureaucratic requirement but as a sustained commitment in contributing to the greater good beyond profit generation as well as to ensure business continuity and competitiveness.
27. To effectively address the complex challenges that lie ahead, we must embrace a whole-of-society and whole-of-nation approach. This entails fostering collaboration across diverse sectors, engaging the expertise of various stakeholders, and collectively working towards comprehensive solutions. By uniting our efforts, we can create a resilient and sustainable future that leaves no one behind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **CONCLUSION**

28. Now, more than ever, the call for urgent action reverberates. Malaysia must maintain its unwavering commitment to tackling the challenges ahead, ensuring that the valuable momentum gained at COP28 propels our nation forward to deliver positive climate progress.
29. Let us carry the spirit of collaboration forward, catalysing sustained action for a greener, more resilient, and ultimately sustainable future for ourselves and the generations that follow.
30. Our journey continues. It's within our hands to shape a world that our children will be proud to inherit. Thank you for your commitment, dedication, and participation in this vital endeavour. May our collective efforts pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow.

Thank you.