

**9TH ANNUAL FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
25-27 NOVEMBER 2019, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

***TIME TO ACT: GOVERNMENTS AS CATALYSTS FOR
BUSINESS RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS***

Excellencies

Mr Chair,

Malaysia is committed to implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and since June 2019, have initiated our domestic process to formulate a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP-BHR).

To this end, the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department Malaysia (BHEUU) have been working closely with the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to plan and prepare for this undertaking at the national level.

We have thus far undertaken a number of awareness programmes, national high-level dialogue, knowledge sharing sessions and most recently, sharing of best practices from Belgium and the Netherlands, both which have already developed their respective NAPs. We believe that these initiatives, and more of such engagements in the near future, will be key in ensuring the buy-in and commitment of various stakeholders involved in the development, and subsequent successful implementation and monitoring of the NAP strategies.

From 2020-2021, Government of Malaysia will accelerate the process of developing the Malaysian NAP, by first and foremost, establishing the governance structure and institutional mechanisms in order to facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination; as well as to ensure sufficient budget allocation and estimated timeline as government's commitment to taking forward this important policy paper. The Government, as well as the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, will continue to carry out

more awareness programmes, engagement activities; as well as hold more targeted and technical stakeholder consultations which will inform and contribute to the drafting of the National Baseline Assessment (NBA).

Recognising the importance of the NBA, which in turn will determine the important areas or most serious issues that Malaysia's first NAP-BHR shall target to rectify and resolve; there is a need to ensure a comprehensive and extensive consultation with the wider community. With this in mind, the Government, through the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department, will work on forging trust and smart partnerships with various organisations (both international and local), with businesses and corporations, government departments, civil society organisations (CSOs) and academicians; to conduct risk analysis of various sectors, to identify where the need is highest, and henceforth design a combination of strategies that will form the core content of the Malaysia's NAP zero draft. The development of the NAP-BHR is expected to be completed in 4 years.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates, I would like to conclude by reaffirming our commitment to recognising, promoting and protecting human rights throughout the conduct and operations of business activities in Malaysia. It is our aspiration that the development of the NAP-BHR will be an impetus for action towards addressing BHR issues, provide a common platform for cross-governmental policy coordination, and serving as a complementary force towards achieving Malaysia's development goals and foster Malaysia's international business competitiveness.

Thank you very much.