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Country Statement by Brunei Darussalam

Presented by
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Bismillahir Rahmaa Nir Rahiim.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good morning/afternoon.

Chairman,

Excellencies,

Madam Executive Secretary of United Nations ESCAP,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Brunei Darussalam delegation and myself, I would like to express our deep appreciation to the United Nations ESCAP for the excellent arrangements made for this Session of the Commission. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the people and the Royal Thai Government for the warm hospitality extended to us.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

As we come towards the end of our target year for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we are glad to share that the Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has made great achievements in the MDGs: extreme poverty has already been eradicated and we are progressively improving on equity; net enrolment ratio in

primary education in Brunei Darussalam has almost reached 100%; educational opportunities are available for girls and boys alike at all levels; Brunei Darussalam has been able to reduce the under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR) drastically over the past 40 years; all pregnant women receive antenatal care, and on average makes about seven antenatal visits during her pregnancy which is above the WHO requirement of four visits per year; HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years is just at 0.008%; and Brunei Darussalam continues to expand its relationship with foreign counterparts within the international, regional and sub-regional arena.

As you all know, sustainable development requires an integrated, multi-dimensional approach to policy formulation and decision-making in economics, social and environmental aspects. The greater challenge, however, is to implement such an approach. To achieve our development goals, participation of all stakeholders, State and non-State actors alike, is essential. This is consistent with the fundamentals of the sustainable development framework that stresses on the importance of the role of partnership, resilience, shared and sustained prosperity.

We thus, support this year's theme on balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development from integration to implementation and finds it very timely and relevant with the post-2015 Development Agenda.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Our National Vision, the Wawasan Brunei 2035 is in line with the MDGs in such a way that allowed for almost all of these development goals to be realized ahead of time in our country. By the year 2035, we envision Brunei Darussalam to be recognized for the accomplishments of its well-educated and highly skilled people; quality of life; and a dynamic, sustainable economy.

The three dimensions of sustainable development are integrated in our national vision through the twelve development strategies: namely education, economic, security, institutional development, local business development, infrastructure development, environmental, social security, health, religion, land use, and communication and info-communications. Here, we are able to appreciate the interconnection and interrelatedness of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

In ensuring the strategies and policies relating to the national development agenda are coordinated systematically towards Vision Brunei 2035, the Wawasan Council was established in 2014. The Council is spearheaded by His Royal Highness Prince Hj Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Chairman of the Wawasan 2035

Executive Council. The Council addresses the core challenges of development by the realignment and coordination of policies and strategies within the ambit of sustainable development.

The twelve development strategies of the Wawasan Brunei 2035 are then implemented through the five-year National Development Plan (NDP), which started with the 9th NDP (2007-2012) and continues through the current 10th Plan (2012-2017).

The National Development Plans at its implementation stage have taken into account the economic, social and environmental aspects along with designated performance indicators and accountability mechanisms.

Having said that, we believe that our national development goals will also be in line with the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as we, together with the rest of the world, strive for the world we want. We expect to at least keep our development on track with the proposed SDGs.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Brunei Darussalam, throughout its development journey, has always put the environment as a part of its national policy. At the regional level, Brunei Darussalam is proud to be a part of the Heart of Borneo initiative, a coordinated transboundary approach that goes beyond conservation of rainforests alone. Borneo is currently home to 6% of the world's

biodiversity, and we believe that this initiative will help us ensure long-term, sustainable economic growth and development.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

At all levels of our development, Brunei Darussalam strives to incorporate all three dimensions collectively. We would like to share that since the 1950s, when the first National Development Plan was introduced in Brunei Darussalam, the social and economic aspects of development have been included and prioritized. From the 1980s, we continuously take into account the environmental aspect of development through environmental impact assessments. Our commitment to the environment is evident as Brunei Darussalam is currently ranked 37th globally in the 2014 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), and is second among ASEAN countries.

As we are all aware, our challenge has always been to provide a good balance between economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. In Brunei Darussalam, as mentioned earlier, we are trying to address this multi-dimensional approach over a few decades already. In this light, we believe that ESCAP provides a beneficial platform to share best practices and also to initiate cooperation amongst Member States in taking up such challenges.

Therefore, we commend the Commission's work on these ongoing efforts in promoting sustainable development within the Asia and the Pacific region. Brunei Darussalam, as with other members, is supportive of this endeavor within the region and hope ESCAP the utmost success.

Thank you for your kind attention.

*Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakatuh.*