

Statement from the Malaysian CSOs

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This is a collaborative statement of the Civil Society Organisations in Malaysia.

Malaysia's development planning adopted the 2030 Agenda as indicated in the Mid-Term Review of Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2018-2020). This is significant at the national policy level. However, while localizing SDGs at the grassroots, many challenges were recognised by the National SDG Roadmap, to be addressed through the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (2021-2025).

In the development of the VNR, CSO participation was included in the steering committee, and technical working groups aligned to SDGs under review.

While the government tried to include all right-holders, this could be improved with participation of more CSOs (Indigenous peoples, disabled, women, etc). How will the Government ensure transparency and clarity with regards to data collection and citizens consultation? Periodic consultations between VNR reporting is strongly recommended.

The Department of Statistics is commended for its open policy in engaging with CSOs and academics, in making its 2018 and 2019 reports and Malaysian SDG indicators data available publicly.

Malaysia has done well in SDG 1, 3, 4 and 6. Improvement is needed in SDG 5, 10, and 13, 14 & 15 (on Environment) to balance economic, social and environment interests. We lag in SDG 16, in the fight against corruption, and strengthening human rights. What steps will the Government undertake to address these issues in the Twelfth Malaysia Plan?

COVID-19 has further deepened the multidimensional inequalities and the scale and severity of the impact is felt more by women, ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees, Indigenous peoples, LGBT people, rural-urban poor, lesser educated in hard-to-reach areas, and, disabled.

The government needs to focus on a people-centric response, with recovery efforts from a whole-nation, inter-sectional, human rights based and multi-dimensional, multi-sectoral approach. COVID-19 is an opportunity to redesign and pave the way for innovative, inclusive and sustainable governance moving forward.