MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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AT

KUALA LUMPUR SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 2026

TOWARDS NET ZERO: ACTION BEYOND BOUNDARIES

BEYOND PLEDGES: MOBILISING MALAYSIA'S 2026 CLIMATE MANDATE

7 OCTOBER 2026

KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, a very good morning, and *Salam Malaysia Madani*.

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Nor Yahati Awang
Deputy Secretary-General (Environmental Sustainability), NRES

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Khalid Mohamed
Deputy Secretary-General (Natural Resources), NRES

Yang Berusaha Mr Ahmad Farid Mohammed
Division Secretary, Climate Change Division (BPI), NRES

Yang Berusaha Mr Saiful Adib Abdul Munaff
Group Chief Executive Officer,
Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC)

Distinguished guests, leaders from government and industry, investors, development partners, members of civil society, ladies and gentlemen.

1. It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the Kuala Lumpur Sustainability Summit 2026 (KLSS 2026). Over the next three days, we will address the full spectrum of sustainable development, from policy and finance to industry, nature, and social well-being. Under the Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda, these priorities are not separate streams, they are integrated and indivisible. Every choice we make directly influences

Malaysia's economic strength, climate resilience, and social equity.

2. This brings us to our core question - How does a nation grow and prosper in a changing climate? Answering this requires far more than setting targets. It means making practical choices, where we direct capital, how we construct our infrastructure, what our factories produce, and how we empower local communities to adapt.

3. Climate change is no longer a distant threat for Malaysia, it is an immediate economic reality. Extreme weather events already cost our economy hundreds of millions of ringgit each year in damaged

infrastructure, disrupted supply chains, and lost household income. Bank Negara Malaysia estimates that a major flood event could erase up to 4.1% of our GDP by 2030.

Distinguished guests,

4. Under our updated National Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.0 framework, Malaysia has moved from relative carbon-intensity targets to a decisive absolute emission reduction of 15 to 30 million tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) equivalent by 2035, relative to our peak levels. Translating this ambition into reality requires turning climate targets into practical economic policy. That means clearing regulatory pathways for clean

power, supporting export industries as they decarbonise, empowering local authorities with reliable risk mapping, and establishing strict disclosure standards to prevent greenwashing.

5. To anchor these actions, NRES provides overarching direction through the National Policy on Climate Change 2.0 and the forthcoming National Climate Change Bill, or RUUPIN, which gives statutory force to our climate goals. The purpose behind this legislation is practical - institutions need clear authority to coordinate delivery, industries need standardised emissions data to make informed choices, and markets need predictable rules before deploying long-term capital.

6. Concurrently, adaptation is a fundamental economic requirement. The most cost-effective decisions are made well before a crisis occurs. These include designing resilient infrastructure, protecting river catchments, and securing coastal communities before severe weather hits. We must treat climate resilience not as an environmental burden, but as a core investment strategy that protects communities, stabilizes supply chains, and safeguards national wealth against recurring climate shocks.

Distinguished guests,

7. Climate policy achieves lasting results only when it is woven directly into our broader economic agenda. The Thirteenth Malaysia Plan establishes green growth and sustainability as core national priorities. Alongside it, the National Energy Transition Roadmap drives the structural overhaul of our energy mix toward 70% renewable energy by 2050, while the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 accelerates green manufacturing and decarbonisation across key industrial sectors. Together, these policies answer a single imperative - building a high-value, competitive Malaysian economy that actively reduces its exposure to climate risk.

8. Complementing these national plans is our newly launched National Carbon Market Policy (NCMP), which provides the financial engine needed to fund this industrial shift. While policy mandates set the direction, well-governed carbon markets mobilise private capital, particularly for heavy industries facing complex decarbonisation challenges.

9. Above all, this transition must be a Just Transition that keeps people at its core. The costs and opportunities of climate action will not fall evenly across our economy. A policy that works on paper is meaningless unless it facilitates small businesses adapting to new carbon standards, provides continuous reskilling

opportunities for industrial workers, and safeguards vulnerable coastal and forest communities. Under the MADANI framework, our goal is clear: no worker, enterprise, or community will be left behind as Malaysia shifts toward a low-carbon economy.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

10. In just a few weeks, the global community will gather at COP31 in Antalya, Turkiye. Malaysia arrives in Türkiye with our NDC 3.0 already submitted, seeking the international climate finance, technology transfer, and partnerships needed to scale up our ambition. But our most persuasive message to the world will not be words on paper, it will be tangible proof of domestic

execution, showing how policies unlock real investment, how public-private partnerships take root, and how climate risk is actively mitigated on the ground.

11. This Summit is design to advance that exact work. As you deliberate policy and finance, explore how we make climate action bankable and transparent. As you examine natural stewardship, focus on how federal, state, and local institutions can jointly protect our natural capital. And remember the core purpose of our mission, which is to deliver better livelihoods, resilient communities, and equitable growth across Malaysia.

12. As we conclude, I urge every participant to turn agreement into action. Grand targets define our destination, but consistent, ground-level execution is what takes us there. Let us move beyond pledges and deliver results together.

Thank you.