

**NATIONAL STATEMENT ON SECOND ASEAN-MRC WATER
SECURITY DIALOGUE**

**18 September 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR
Deputy Under Secretary Water Resources Division**

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates, esteemed colleagues,

On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, it is my great honor to address this esteemed gathering at the Second ASEAN-MRC Water Security Dialogue. I would like to record Malaysia's appreciation and thanks to Lao PDR as Chair of ASEAN 2024 for inviting Malaysia to this Dialogue. It reflects that all ASEAN nations are collectively addressing water security issues be it within the Mekong region or at the broader ASEAN region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report (IPCC) has made it clear: climate change is threatening both food and water security, hindering global efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Nearly half of the world's population experiences severe water scarcity for part of the year due to climate and non-climate factors. Disruptions in weather patterns have led to more extreme events; between 2001 and 2018, around 74% of natural disasters were water-related, including droughts and floods. These events are only expected to intensify with climate change.

I would like to share that Malaysia attended the World Water Forum in Bali on 18-25 May 2024. Our participation was fruitful as we learned important lessons from other nations including ASEAN states on managing and

safeguarding water resources that are facing the same issue. Malaysia welcomes this dialogue as a coordinated platform committed to working with regional partners towards better water management.

Performance for SDG 6

We hope today's dialogue will seek a more active role in the regional and global discussion on achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 on access to water and sanitation. Malaysia is fully committed to improving our performance for SDG 6. We are implementing SDG 6.5 focusing on SDG 6.5.1: Integrated Water Resources Management and SDG 6.5.2 in promoting transboundary water cooperation and sustainable management of water resources. We firmly believe that the achievement of these indicators can be significantly enhanced through ASEAN collaboration by sharing knowledge, exchanging best practices, and utilizing regional platforms like this dialogue thus accelerating progress toward our common SDG goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Lessons Learned from the Mekong River Commission

We acknowledge the vital role the Mekong River Commission (MRC) assumes in promoting collaboration between the countries that share the Mekong river basin. Water plays a pivotal role in shaping a country's wealth and prosperity - it is even more critical when water is shared between countries. Malaysia supports and promotes this partnership to ensure the continued growth, prosperity and security of the Mekong River.

The successful framework for collaboration along the Mekong River offers an example of how a country manages shared resources in a fair and sustainable manner. This collaboration promotes regional peace and stability in addition to being essential for sustainable development. Malaysia seeks to learn from the MRC collaboration model to improve transboundary water cooperation.

Increasing Investments for a Resilient and Connected Water Future

Water security is a regional issue that requires collective action from ASEAN countries, which share rivers, ecosystems, and vulnerabilities. Malaysia emphasizes that by establishing existing institutions like the MRC and the ASEAN water framework, we can create stronger linkages between our policies to ensure a more connected, resilient, and Water-Secure ASEAN and Mekong Region.

Increasing investments in water infrastructure is vital to ensure resilience and sustainable water management. Thus, Malaysia looks forward to each country bringing their experiences to the table, sharing successes and failures to guide future investments including infrastructures such as dams, irrigation systems, flood control structures, and monitoring systems.

Technology development is key to addressing water security challenges. Malaysia invites ASEAN and Mekong countries to make investments in technology and shared data platforms that offer up-to-date data on water resources. Building regional hubs for water data and research will improve our ability to react to new threats like flooding and droughts. Therefore, Malaysia would like to share the National Water Balance Management

System (NAWABS), a Decision-Making Support System solution for water scarcity and drought in the parallel technical session.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Water connects us across borders and cultures, and by working together we can guarantee the preservation of our water resources. Malaysia is committed to being an active partner in securing the region's water future.

Thank you.