### MALAYSIA
#### PFD Reassessment Reporting Template

| Long-established historical links with the region which may include significant security links | Malaysia has established warm and friendly political relations with the Pacific Island countries. Bilateral cooperation encompasses areas such as trade and investment, capacity building and education. Moreover, Malaysia has long-standing historical link with Fiji whereby the Republic of Fiji Military Force (RFMC) was part of the Commonwealth armed forces from 1952 to 1956 in the campaign against communist insurgency during the Malayan Emergency. |
| Level of trade and investment links with the region | Trade and investment primarily underscore Malaysia's bilateral relations with the Pacific Islands countries. Malaysia's investment is significant in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Fiji and Solomon Islands. Bilateral trade with PNG and Fiji are encouraging although Malaysia’s trade with the smaller islands countries is rather limited due the tyranny of distance and small market. |
| Long term commitment to the region through:  
(a) participation in regional and sub-regional organizations/networks and/or;  
(b) the establishment of diplomatic missions and/or;  
(c) through regular political dialogue with the Forum | (a) Malaysia participates in the Pacific Islands Post-Forum Dialogue (PFD), Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS).  
(b) Malaysia has established diplomatic missions in Suva, Fiji as well as Port Moresby, PNG. The High Commission of Malaysia in Suva is accredited to Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu while the High Commission of Malaysia in Port Moresby is accredited to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Whereas the High Commission of Malaysia in Wellington is accredited to Samoa, Cook Islands and Niue.  
Meanwhile PNG, Fiji and Solomon Islands have established their High Commissions in Malaysia.  
(c) Bilaterally, Malaysia has established Senior Officials' Dialogue with PNG and Fiji. |
| Cultural and social identification with communities in the region | Exchange of visits between Ministers and government officials are limited, with the exception of PNG whereby there have been active visits particularly study visits from PNG to Malaysia. |
From Malaysia, social mobility is limited to business person but there have been universities and non-government organizations (NGOs) delegation visiting the Pacific Island countries from time to time to conduct social outreach programmes. From the Pacific Islands countries, most of the travels to Malaysia would be to attend trainings/courses/meetings in Malaysia.

**Development effectiveness and ODA assistance to the region through bilateral, regional and multilateral programmes.**

Malaysia fosters good bilateral relations with the Pacific Island countries through capacity building courses offered by the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

These fully-sponsored training by the Government of Malaysia is catered for qualified civil servants and involves ten (10) key areas of technical assistance namely: agriculture; economy, finance and trade; education; environment; industrial technical training; diplomacy; public management and administration; professional services; social development; and science, technology and ICT management. From 1981 up to June 2015, about 1,435 participants from the PIF member states have participated in various short-term courses of the MTCP.

The Malaysian Government has pledged US$ 1 million to fund the capacity building programme under the MTCP beginning 2015 for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Since January 2015, about 54 participants from SIDS, of which 36 were from the PIF countries, have attended various courses offered by MTCP.

**Shared interests or common positions on key international issues.**

Malaysia enjoys close cooperation with the PIF countries at the international/multilateral fora. Common shared interest/positions on key international issues between Malaysia and PIF countries are as follows:

i. **Post-2015 Development Agenda;**

Malaysia fully endorses the need for greater partnership and cooperation in the Post-2015 development agenda which requires a multi-faceted approach to ensure active, full and meaningful engagement of all stakeholders. Malaysia has announced its 11th Malaysia Plan that will run from 2016 to
2020 in parallel to the first 5 (five) years of the Post-2015 development agenda, both of which would be crucial to Malaysia’s journey towards becoming a fully developed nation.

ii. **Combatting Terrorism and Extremism**:

Fighting terrorism demands effective international action that is in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Currently, there is an urgent need to accelerate global efforts to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism. Malaysia will continue to work closely with Pacific Island Countries in the future at all multilateral and international fora, including the United Nations.

iii. **Climate Change**:

Malaysia’s position on climate change has always been clear and consistent. It upholds the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol and the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities”.

Malaysia is of the view that developed countries have a historical responsibility and are in a better position to lead in tackling climate change, given their higher economic, technological and human resource capacities. Hence, the developing countries should not be expected to adhere to binding commitments towards carbon emission reductions until the developed countries have abided by their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

iv. **Poverty Eradication**:

Malaysia has done remarkably well at the national level and is on track to achieve the eight (8) of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 which include poverty eradication. The Government of Malaysia has recently launched the Eleventh Malaysia Plan on 21st May 2015.
The Plan consists of initiatives to elevate the livelihood of the B40 households, which consists of poor households. The B40 households is referring to the bottom 40 (B40) group or 40 per cent of Malaysians whose monthly income is below RM3,050.00 (approximately USD 825.00) per month. The initiatives include the raising of income and wealth of the B40 households; to address increasing cost of living and to enhance delivery system in B40 programmes. Among the examples of the strategies outlined under these initiative are as follows:

1. Enlarging the Middle-Class Group;
2. Reducing School Dropouts;
3. Enhancing Accessibility to Higher Education and Skills Training;
4. Increasing Productivity Through Adoption of Modern Technology;
5. Enhancing Adoption of Information and Communications Technology;
6. Providing Investment incentives in Majority B40 Households Areas;
7. Increasing the Provision of Affordable Housing;
8. Increasing Access to Healthcare Services;
9. Enhancing Financial and Debt Management Programmes;
10. Strengthening Support to B40 Households; and
11. Complementing the Poverty Line Income (PLI) measurement with the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Malaysia believes that strategies and initiatives outlined in the Eleventh Malaysia Plan are attainable and can help to improve
the living standards among Malaysians particularly from the B40 households.

v. **Ocean Management and Regional Fisheries:**

The oceans are home to half the world’s biodiversity and are important for reserves of oil, gas and minerals. The Oceans provide job opportunities and income for various sectors such as fisheries, tourism and oil and gas. Malaysia notes that as the nation is progressing, the increasing of human activities i.e. overfishing and domestic waste dumping have caused the oceans to become vulnerable to threats such as oil spill and exposure to hazardous and noxious substances. These activities could pollute the oceans and endanger the marine ecosystem.

In order to deal with these issues, the Marine Department Malaysia has established the Marine Environment Protection Unit, specialized to prepare and manage an effective maritime contingency plan in ensuring maritime safety within Malaysian waters that is free from pollution and navigation obstructions.

At the international level, Malaysia has adopted four (4) international conventions related to marine pollution as follows:

1. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78);

2. International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990;

3. International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992; and

In dealing with hazardous materials contamination, Malaysia has adopted the “Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000”.

In addition, Malaysia through its The Fisheries Act 1985, is committed to manage, develop, conserve and control marine fishing and marine fisheries resources in Malaysian fisheries waters. This Act is an expansion of and improvement on the previous act, incorporating the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), consistent with relevant provisions in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to which Malaysia acceded on 14 October 1996.

vi. Childhood Education;

Malaysia reaffirms the principles and objectives on education for all, including young children, in relation to sustainable development set by the United Nations and the consensus reached in this area within the framework of United Nation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This commitment is evidenced by several policies, administrative decisions, programmes and amendments to laws, in the field of education, to ensure its competitiveness globally, as well as measures to up-grade education standards, benefits and budget allocations for the education sector.

Malaysia is confident that the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025 (Preschool to Post-Secondary Education) will prepare the young Malaysians in facing the demands and challenges of an increasingly globalised and connected society. At the same time, Malaysia remains open to learning from, and adopting the best practices of others, including the Pacific Island countries, to enhance the standard of education in the country.
vii. **Women Empowerment:**

Malaysia shares the same view with the Pacific Island countries on the need to design and implement participatory measures to enhance women employment opportunities. Towards this end, Malaysia has adopted various measures to mainstream gender perspectives into the development process. This includes:

1. Formulating relevant policies for the advancement of women in almost every sector;
2. Reviewing laws affecting women;
3. Improving the capacity of the national machinery for incorporating women’s perspectives into the development process;
4. Improving access to education;
5. Enhancing training; and
6. Upgrading health care.

In this regard, Malaysia continues to further its women empowerment agenda under the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016-2020). Malaysia is committed to increase women’s participation in the labour force and to develop the potential of women in all sectors, through the continuous implementation of the policy of 30 percent of women’s participation in the decision-making positions.

viii. **UN Related Matters:**

Malaysia greatly values the support given to Malaysia’s candidature to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2015-2016. Malaysia would continue to work together with UN Member States, including PIF member countries in the UN,
to ensure that issues relating to the maintenance of international and regional peace and security be given due attention and addressed accordingly in the Security Council for the good of all.

On 30 June 2015, Malaysia and Spain held and co-chaired an Arria Formula Meeting on “The Role of Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier to Global Security” during Malaysia’s UNSC Presidency. The initiative took advantage of the presence of relevant delegates at the UN General Assembly High-Level Debate on Climate Change on 29 June 2015.

During the Meeting, Member States shared the view that climate change could not only trigger humanitarian crises, but also political and economic instability, border disputes, ethnic tensions and large scale of migration of people around the world.

Member States shared similar concern with regard to the challenges faced by SIDS and low-lying coastal areas particularly on the issue of relocation of parts of their population due the raising of sea levels.

The convening of the Meeting delivered on the promise made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia to the Pacific Island states on taking forward the issue of climate change at the UNSC.

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