

**WRITTEN STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY DATO DR. MANAF METUSSIN
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY (ECONOMY)**

**AS ACTING GOVERNOR OF
THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK
FOR BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته**

Your Excellency Dr. Hala Helmy El Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors;
Fellow Governors;
President of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group;
Excellencies Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, I would like to convey our sincerest appreciation to the Government and the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the warm welcome and generous hospitality. Our appreciation also to His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, President of the IsDB Group and the Bank Secretariat for the excellent Meeting's arrangements.

Mr. Chairman and fellow Governors,

Since its establishment in 1975, the IsDB has been in the forefront to assist the global Muslim community to enhance its socio-economic development and in the betterment of the everyday lives of the Ummah. The Bank has continuously reinvented itself in order to meet the changing and growing needs of its diverse membership. For this, we would like to voice our acknowledgment on the IsDB commitment and relentless efforts.

The global environment is getting more volatile, uncertain and complex. Risks are on the rise, in which if not managed appropriately, can reverse the development gains achieved so far. It is in this context that we would like to suggest the IsDB to prioritise efforts in fostering resilience in three (3) areas.

First, the health systems. Investments in health and well-being remain a priority. Pandemics, as we have experienced, are no longer deemed just as a health issue, but also a socio-economic and political one. With threats of new diseases and viruses occurring more frequently now, it is critical that health systems be strengthened. Brunei Darussalam commends the IsDB for the assistance given to member countries on this front and encourages the Bank to sustain and enhance these efforts.

Second, food security. The scarring impacts of the pandemic, increasing geopolitical tensions, global supply chain issues and now geo-economic fragmentation have pushed prices of food and essentials at a rate that causes concerns among policy makers especially those of small and vulnerable countries. Given the complexities affecting the global economic linkages, international collaboration remains crucial in rebuilding the food supply chains become more sustainable, inclusive and efficient.

On this note, IsDB has the opportunity to play a catalytic role in channeling investments to new technologies could foster such system. We view that the Engage platform is a good platform that can encourage large-scale partnership that facilitates the adoption of new technologies and other innovations to transform food production, distribution and consumption. The research arm of the IsDB, the Islamic Research and Training Institute, can also play an important supporting role in this by providing the necessary analytics and research.

Lastly, supply chains. The continued disruption of global supply chains have led to the prolonged socio-economic challenges. Therefore, having supply chains that are able continue or quickly recover from any sort of disruption is critical to bring economic balance. It is in this vein, that we would like to suggest that the IsDB look into how best member countries can work together to collaborate and coordinate in addressing long term challenges as well as promoting greater supply chain resilience.

Mr. Chairman and fellow Governors,

This year's theme of "Beyond Recovery: Resilience and Sustainability" is indeed relevant and a timely direction. It is a direction not only applicable to member countries but also the Bank itself. It is an opportune time to re-visit the Bank's policies, framework and operational components that can contribute to the resilience and sustainability of the Bank so that it can withstand the test of time.

With that, I wish to conclude by wishing the IsDB a successful year and pray may all of us always remain under the protection and blessed guidance of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala.

Thank you.