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**Statement by Malaysia  
Annual Half-Day Panel Discussion on the Rights of Indigenous People  
Theme: Impact of Social and Economic Recovery Plans in the COVID-19  
Context  
51<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of the Human Rights Council**

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Mr. Chair,

2. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Malaysia's food security level remains stable, stepping up from the 48<sup>th</sup> place in 2020 to the 39<sup>th</sup> place among 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) published by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Group.

3. Given the importance of the issue of food security, the Government of Malaysia established the Cabinet Committee on Food Security Policy chaired by our Prime Minister to formulate a holistic food security framework. This is followed by the launching of the National Agrofood Policy 2.0 in October 2021, aimed at implementing policies which are conducive to provide a sustainable ecosystem for the agro-food industry.

4. A majority of the Indigenous People of Malaysia are smallholder farmers and food producers and their lives and livelihood were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Post-pandemic, among the efforts of NAP 2.0 is to create a dedicated fund to accelerate the implementation of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technology to allow farmers to modernise their agricultural operations and market their produce digitally using e-commerce platforms.

5. Distinguished panelists, in your opinion, how can the government convince the indigenous smallholder farmer community to take the leap of faith to incorporate traditional farming methods with the 4IR technology?

Thank you.

**GENEVA**

**28 September 2022**