



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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**SECRETARY GENERAL
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

FOR

WOMEN IN ENVIRONMENT 2026

***“FROM SCIENCE TO POLICY: WOMEN DRIVING CLIMATE CHANGE
AND SUSTAINABILITY”***

GRAND MARGHERITA HOTEL, KUCHING, SARAWAK

18 AUGUST 2026 (TUESDAY)

Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Malaysia MADANI

1. Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh

Deputy Minister for Urban Planning Land Administration and
Environment Ministry of Natural Resources & Urban
Development, Sarawak, representing Yang Amat Berhormat
Premier Sarawak

2. Yang Berbahagia Datuk Nor Yahati binti Awang

Deputy Secretary General (Environmental Sustainability)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental
Sustainability (NRES)

3. Yang Berusaha Puan Sri Datin Amar NurAshima Aziz

Chairperson of Malaysian Nature Society Board of Trustee

**4. Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Abdul
Aziz bin Dato Haji Husain**

Chairman of Sarawak Economic Development Corporation

5. Yang Berusaha Madam Anna Wong

President of the Malaysian Nature Society

Good morning, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

1. It is a great honour and privilege to be with all of you today.
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the organisers for bringing us together to discuss a topic that is highly relevant to our shared future: **“From Science to Policy: Women Driving Climate Change and Sustainability.”**
2. This topic reminds us of an important reality addressing climate change is not only about understanding the science, but more importantly, about how we translate that science into policies, and how policies can create real change for people and the planet.
3. **Science gives us the evidence. It helps us understand the causes, risks and impacts of climate change through data, observations, research and projections. The findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have clearly shown that human activities are driving global warming, with increasing impacts such as rising temperatures, extreme weather**

events, changing rainfall patterns, floods, droughts and ecosystem disruption.

4. However, science alone cannot solve the climate challenge. Knowledge must be transformed into decisions, and decisions must be implemented through effective policies, strong institutions and collective action. This is where the connection between science and policy becomes critical.
5. Every climate assessment represents the realities faced by people and communities whose lives and livelihoods are affected by climate change. Climate change is no longer a future concern it is already imposing significant social and economic costs. In Malaysia, the Department of Statistics Malaysia reported that **flood related losses increased from RM755.4 million in 2023 to RM933.4 million in 2024, an increase of almost 24 per cent in just one year. In 2025, although total flood losses declined to RM636.9 million, floods continued to cause extensive damage to homes, public infrastructure, agriculture, businesses and livelihoods across all states.**

6. These figures show that climate change is not just a future risk. It is happening now and is affecting our economy, our communities and our development. This makes it even more important to strengthen climate resilience and accelerate adaptation efforts.
7. Beside economic losses, climate change also affects people differently. Women and girls often experience disproportionate impacts because existing social and economic inequalities increase their exposure and vulnerability.
8. This is where women play an essential role. **Women are not only beneficiaries of climate policies, they are also contributors, innovators, scientists, policymakers and leaders who help transform climate knowledge into practical solutions.** Their experiences, expertise and perspectives strengthen the way we understand climate risks and design responses that address real needs on the ground.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

9. Across Malaysia, **women are** contributing across **the entire climate action value chain**. Women scientists and researchers are advancing climate modelling, environmental monitoring and climate risk assessments. Women professionals are developing solutions in areas such as resilient infrastructure, renewable energy, sustainable finance and green technologies. Women entrepreneurs and community leaders are driving initiatives that promote sustainable livelihoods, environmental protection and climate resilience.
10. At the community level, **women often hold valuable knowledge about managing resources, supporting food security, protecting ecosystems and preparing for climate impacts**. This knowledge is critical in shaping adaptation strategies that are practical, inclusive and effective.
11. Women are also making important contributions in climate governance and international negotiations. Under the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, **women negotiators, experts and policymakers continue to strengthen global climate action by bringing diverse perspectives and ensuring that climate decisions reflect the needs** of different communities.

12. Malaysia recognises that the journey **from science to policy requires collaboration across government, industry, academia, financial institutions and society.** Through the National Climate Change Policy 2.0, Malaysia's Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and the development of the National Adaptation Plan (MyNAP), Malaysia continues to strengthen climate governance and promote climate action that is inclusive and sustainable.
13. The **Seventh Meeting of the National Climate Change Action Council (MTPIN)**, held on 8 July 2026, considered three strategic action plans to **support the implementation of Malaysia's NDC 3.0.** One of these is the **Gender Action Plan**, which aims to ensure that

climate policies and actions are more inclusive by recognising the important roles and needs of women and other vulnerable groups in addressing climate change.

14. As we move forward, **women must be placed at the centre of this transformation.** Whether in climate research, policymaking, energy transition, sustainable finance, agriculture, biodiversity conservation or community resilience, **women's participation is essential to ensure that climate solutions are innovative, inclusive and responsive.**
15. To achieve this, **we must continue creating enabling environments that allow women to access education, science, technology, finance and leadership opportunities.** Empowering women is not only about ensuring representation, it is about strengthening our capacity to develop better climate solutions and build a more sustainable future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. The journey from **science to policy is ultimately a journey from knowledge to action.** It requires scientists who generate evidence, policymakers who translate evidence into effective strategies, communities that implement solutions and women who lead change at every level. Moving forward, strengthening gender-responsive climate planning will ensure that women's knowledge, leadership and contributions are recognised across mitigation, adaptation and sustainability efforts.
17. Before I end my speech, I would like to call upon all of us to **continue working together to ensure that women are recognised not only as those affected by climate change, but also as powerful drivers of climate solutions.** By connecting science, policy and people, and by empowering women to lead, we can accelerate our transition towards a resilient, sustainable and climate-ready future for all.

Thank you.