

PM: G20 MUST END GLOBAL CRISES

Leaders should adopt firm positions on Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine, says Anwar

JOHANNESBURG

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called on G20 countries to show stronger resolve to end the atrocities in Gaza and pressed for solutions to crises in Sudan and Ukraine.

He said this was the clear expectation of nations in the Global South as leaders of the bloc convened here for the G20 Summit.

He was speaking at the opening session, themed "Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Leading No One Behind".

He said that the location of the meeting — a country that endured the brutalities of apartheid and colonisation — held special significance.

This history, he said, should compel world leaders to adopt firm, just positions on conflicts in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine.

"The expectation from countries in the South for the G20 to pursue an agenda that is just and fair. We must be unequivocal in our resolve to end the problems in these three places," he said.

Anwar later said that Egypt had asked Malaysia to jointly organise an international conference on Gaza's reconstruction.

The proposal was conveyed by Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly on the sidelines of the summit, who passed on greetings from President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi before outlining the plan.

"He asked us not only to attend but to co-organise the conference. I told him I would ask our Foreign Ministry to study the details first."

He added that Malaysia supported efforts to rebuild Gaza.

Egyptian news portal Ahram Online said Egypt was preparing to host a major conference on Gaza's recovery and reconstruction, supported by Arab states and expected to involve the United States.

The efforts to organise the conference come as Egyptian teams are clearing rubble to reopen major roads following the ceasefire in the Palestinian territory.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says a coordinated, multi-level global effort is needed to address climate change, BERNAMA PIC



SHARANJIT SINGH

Israel's two-year war in Gaza has killed nearly 70,000 people and injured over 173,000, mostly women and children, while destroying 83 per cent of buildings and leaving 61 million tonnes of debris.

During the summit's second session on disaster-risk reduction and climate change, Anwar said a coordinated, multi-level global effort was needed.

Southeast Asia, he said, remained a global disaster hotspot, accounting for half of worldwide disaster fatalities and more than US\$4.4 billion in losses.

He said that while climate change was not the sole cause of these events, it worsened their impact and hampered recovery.

He said global momentum to combat climate change appeared to be faltering amid concerns about rising costs and job risks.

Anwar urged countries to adopt "technological pragmatism", citing the importance of carbon capture, utilisation and storage, methane abatement and industrial decarbonisation.

Malaysia, he said, was investing

heavily in these areas, including developing carbon capture and storage hubs.

Without stronger adaptation, he said, tens of millions of people could face hunger by 2050 due to climate-related declines in agricultural productivity.

Separately, in a podcast interview with Dr Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh, Anwar criticised the lack of progress in addressing global trade inequities.

He said that while the G20 had discussed ambitious reforms, the mechanisms to close economic gaps between nations remained insufficient.

"For too long, unfair trading practices and the exploitation of poorer countries' resources have gone unaddressed."

"We don't want hectoring, lectures or pious platitudes. We want concrete action."

He said Global South nations were capable, informed and prepared to assert their interests.

On Malaysia's bid to join BRICS, Anwar said major members, including South Africa, China, India and Russia, supported the application.

What matters most, he said, was ensuring BRICS prioritised technology, intra-regional trade and sustained engagement with the US and Europe.

This year's G20 Summit is the first to be held on African soil, bringing together members from across the world, as well as the African Union and the European Union.