

# Anwar: Reform of global governance structures vital

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TIANJIN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for the urgent reform of global governance structures, warning that the failures of the current multilateral system have left the world unable to prevent atrocities and aggression.

He said the United Nations (UN), in particular, is no longer seen as having the aspiration or will to reform itself as the gap between ideals and action continues to widen.

"Between aspirations and realities lies a shadow. It is alarming because it has caused disparity and allowed atrocities to be inflicted with impunity," he said at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Plus Meeting here on Monday, chaired by China's President and SCO chair Xi Jinping.

Anwar highlighted the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as a stark

example of the failure of global institutions.

He said killings of civilians are taking place "in front of our very eyes" while the global community remains powerless to act.

"Not only in Gaza and Palestine, they are affecting neighbours from Lebanon to Iran to Iraq. And the international community seems to be somewhat helpless."

Anwar said Malaysia supports China's Global Governance Initiative as a step towards restoring trust in multilateralism.

"There has been a deficit of trust in the international system because of our failures in trade, financial architecture and in dealing with climate change.

"There's always this disconnect between what's being preached, the sufferings that affect the masses and the action that does not necessarily commensurate with the ideals."

On the SCO, he said its agenda on

economic connectivity, public health, security and energy transition is consistent with Malaysia's position and Asean's priorities, Bernama reported.

He also thanked Xi and China for being a reliable friend to Malaysia and Asean.

Anwar underscored Malaysia's commitment to moderation and cooperation, referencing Confucius' principle of Chung Yung (balance and justice anchored in compassion, humanity and law) as a foundation of multilateralism.

The high-profile event was attended by more than 20 world leaders and 10 heads of international and regional organisations.

Among those present were Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Asean Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Houn.

Anwar's presence at the summit, at Xi's invitation, despite Malaysia not being an observer state or a dialogue partner to the SCO, underscores the country's deepening strategic ties with China.