

Excellencies, distinguished delegates I have the privilege of reporting to you the outcome of the associated event on “SDG 10: reducing inequalities within and among countries in Asia and the Pacific” which I chaired.

The discussions were informed by presentations of country experiences and civil society perspectives on addressing inequalities. The discussions during the event highlighted the following key issues: Inequality was considered as a crosscutting issue within the entire SDG agenda. The multidimensional and interlinked nature of inequality in Asia and the Pacific, which comprises inequality of opportunity and outcomes, and inequalities across population groups such as gender inequality, was emphasised. It was noted that despite impressive economic growth, a significant proportion of the population in the region has not fully benefitted from this development. It was recognized that the causes and dimensions of inequalities vary according to context, and have to be carefully studied, and that inequalities have to be addressed by their root causes. The discussions highlighted the importance of identifying vulnerable groups, including through use of multiple and disaggregated data sources such as surveys, to understand the real nature and causes of inequality.

The experiences in implementing universal social protection schemes and services in achieving reductions in inequalities were shared, and the complementary role of different actors, including civil society, and the importance of ensuring effectiveness and innovation in Government institutions and service delivery was also emphasised.

Thank you.