

**Statement by Ms. Sang Hee Hong, Director of Development Policy of  
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Korea  
at Agenda Item 2  
8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (11:30-12:30)  
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Thank you, Madame Chair.

Please allow me to congratulate on your assuming new chairmanship of ESCAP and I would also like to express my appreciation to the secretariat of ESCAP for organizing this year's Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development during these very challenging times.

There is no denying that the COVID-19 pandemic is the defining challenge of our generation. Today the Asia and Pacific region has an important opportunity to come together to seek a more sustainable and resilient future for all by sharing our experiences and commitment. Against this backdrop, I would like to make four points.

First, we need to invest in strengthening national health system. Korea, under our Building TRUST ODA initiative, has been actively assisting countries respond to COVID-19. We provided health assistance to over 120 countries, while sharing our experiences in pandemic response. And to help ensure equitable and affordable access to vaccines for all countries, we are taking active part in the COVAX Facility and positively considering to increase our contribution.

Second, there is a pressing need for climate action. Joining the growing global coalition, Korea pledged to go carbon-neutral by 2050. And this coming May, Korea will host the second P4G summit to reinforce global partnership for inclusive green recovery toward carbon neutrality.

Third, we should harness innovation. Building on Korea's competitive edge in innovative technologies, the Korean government is expanding our assistance of digital ODA to partner countries with a particular attention

given to the needs of those who have borne the brunt of this crisis such as women, children, and the disabled.

Last but not least, we should intensify multi-stakeholder partnerships with local governments, international organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society. To this end, the Korean government has established the Implementation Plan for the Policy on Partnership with the Civil Society and formulated the 4<sup>th</sup> National Basic Plan for Sustainable Development with the updated K-SDGs, nationally adjusted goals for SDGs. All together, we are striving to strengthen the capacity of all segments of societies for a resilient and sustainable recovery.

Madame Chair, I would like to conclude by rendering Korea's strong support for the ESCAP's continued leadership in catalyzing the collective action of all stakeholders in the region towards the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you very much. /END/