National Statement

Statement by Mr Paul Stephens, Permanent Representative, and Deputy Head of the Australian Mission

Progress Report on the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

Check against delivery

[Acknowledgment of country]

I start by paying my respects to the traditional owners of this land, and to acknowledge their Elders past and present, as well as recognising any First Nations people present joining this meeting.

Madame/Mr President

Australia welcomes the opportunity to consider our collective progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.

Today we focus on three key goals – food security, health, and climate change.

Goal 2 – Ending Hunger

Australia is focusing closely on food security through a range of investments:

- Under the Global Agricultural and Food Security Program, Australia has invested $150 million (2010-2024), collectively helping over 153 million farmers
- With the **Market Development Facility** (Phase 2) Australia invested $69.5 million (2017-2022) to drive partnerships between private and public sector organisations to ‘build back better’ with small businesses and farmers.

- Together with the World Economic Forum, Australia invested over $15 million in **Grow Asia Partnership** (2014-2022), reaching more than 1.7 million smallholder farmers to access markets and support livelihoods.

**Goal 3 – Health**

Australia has contributed over $700 million to global vaccine development and equitable access efforts including:

- $80 million for vaccines for developing countries through the **COVAX Facility’s Advance Market Commitment** (AMC)

- Australia’s **$523 million initiative** to provide further vaccine support to countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific

- and most recently we committed **$100 million for a landmark vaccine partnership** with Quad partners, which will provide over one billion vaccines to the Indo-Pacific by 2022.

**Goal 13 – Climate Change**

Australia is committed to efforts to address climate impacts and reduce emissions.

- Australia has **exceeded our $1 billion climate finance commitment** from 2015 to 2020 by over $400 million — a testament to our efforts in mainstreaming climate in our development program.
- Australia will **increase our global climate finance target by 50 per cent to $1.5 billion** between 2020 and 2025, including $500 million for climate and disaster resilience in the Pacific, and
- Through our $140 million **Australian Climate Finance Partnership**, we’ll leverage up to $700 million in low emission, climate resilient solutions for the Pacific and South East Asia.

These are brief snapshots of the range of work Australia is achieving in partnership with others.

We recently published our development cooperation ‘Green Book’ ([Australia’s Official Development Assistance: Statistical Summary, 2019–20](dfat.gov.au)) which captures our development reporting, including the way our international development partnerships contribute to our shared 2030 Agenda.

We look forward to building our road to recovery together and getting our regional agenda back on track in this Decade of Action.

(390 words)