

India – Statement

**“Linking national, regional, and global dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**

*Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of India on implementation of the 2030 Agenda and opportunities for accelerated progress with greater linkage at national, regional and global levels.

India presented its 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR in 2020. Between 2017 and 2020, the process, pathways and instruments for implementation and monitoring saw many substantive and deep-rooted changes that have not only improved results, but set up sustainable mechanisms for generating better results. Also came along many opportunities for new collaborations for accelerating progress.

Both at the federal and provincial levels – now increasingly at the district level - there are institutional structures and roles for following up on SDG-oriented implementation and monitoring. There are indicator frameworks at national and State levels and in more and more districts now to analyse progress in concrete terms. The national SDG Index Reports annually calibrate progress and compare performance at national and sub-national levels. India being a vast country, we are now going for regional SDG indices within the country to bring out more granular analysis and directly guide planning and action. For instance, we are right now initiating an Index for our North Eastern States and for cities. So, SDGs do provide contextualised platforms for effectively linking local development issues to national goals and aspirations.

Simultaneously, SDG partnerships have grown in diversity and depth. Partnerships are now more “whole-of-society” having expanded from all levels of government – federal, State and local – to communities, civil society, academia and businesses. One telling instance was the large number of direct consultations across the country with vulnerable social groups for the VNR in 2020. While these partnerships have a lot of distance to traverse, mutually assisted learning and action by various stakeholders have made the SDG implementation process much more competitive, productive and result-driven.

At the regional level, we can learn more naturally from each other. For instance, deeper conversations around areas related to monitoring, indicators and data would be very useful. Hence, there is a need to have more regional knowledge management interfaces to improve our adopted strategies and practices. There are many targets that have a wider issue universe crossing geographical boundaries. In such cases, a regional action agenda can be more fruitfully pursued. The COVID-19 pandemic has very acutely demonstrated the need for joint action on many fronts, such as, research; production and supply of drugs and other accessories; vaccination; management of the virus, etc. There is a need to develop long-term pandemic

preparedness at national, regional and global level through collaborative action. It is important to strategize these linkages which can improve out effectiveness at achieving the SDGs.

I thank you once again, Madam Chair, for this opportunity.

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