REMARKS

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
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AT

77TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
(UNESCAP)

MONDAY, 26 APRIL 2021
Executive Secretary of the UNESCAP, Armida Alisjahbana, and all Delegates,

1. The COVID-19 Pandemic has shown us
   - of the weakness of health infrastructures at the national, regional, and global levels.
   - And how fragile our economy is from external shocks.

2. Therefore together, we must reflect upon ourselves and correct our course.

3. The Asia and Pacific region must soon come out from the pandemic and become stronger.

4. Recover together...recover stronger.

5. Allow me to share some thoughts.

6. First... we must expand investment in strengthening regional health resilience.

7. The region’s health expenditures are still low.
   - In South Asia, for instance, at only 3.48% of the GDP, while East Asia and the Pacific at 6.67%.
   - Compared to in Latin America 7.96%, in the European Union 9.85%, and in the United States 16.89%.

8. This needs to be corrected.

9. UNESCAP must become the catalyst in strengthening the region’s health infrastructure, through ... 
   - Enhancing the quality of health personnel
➔ Collaborating in health, pharmaceutical, vaccines, and medical raw materials industries … and
➔ research and technology in the health sector

10. The capacity for pandemic early warning in the region must also be strengthened.

11. **Second… we have to adapt towards economic recovery**

12. Investment on digital-based economy must be scaled up.

13. Innovation to support safe tourism must be undertaken.

14. The strengthening and expanding of regional supply chains must be enhanced including MSMEs access to the supply chain.

15. UNESCAP can be the catalyst to expedite post-pandemic regional economic recovery.

16. **Third… our investment on green economy and development has to be accelerated**

17. Economic recovery **must not be at the cost** of the environment.

18. The threats of climate change are real… especially for our brothers and sisters in the Pacific.

19. Now is the time to invest on a **green economy**.

20. And there are plenty business opportunities on green economy and development

➔ They can reach up to 10.1 trillion US Dollars … and
➔ open up around 395 million new job opportunities until 2030.
21. This sector becomes one of Indonesia’s priorities as we approach the centennial of our independence in 2045.
   ➔ Transitioning to more environmentally-friendly energy,
   ➔ Developing biofuels,
   ➔ Developing lithium battery and electric vehicles industries,
   ➔ Developing green industrial park, the world's largest, that we will build in North Kalimantan.

22. We need to have the courage to **make breakthroughs**.

23. **Technological innovation** is an absolute necessity.

24. UNESCAP needs to push the formulation of green economy and development agenda, target and incentives in the region,
   ➔ Including, support for countries in the Pacific.

25. Indonesia is committed to **support economic recovery and green development** of our friends in the Pacific.

**Excellencies,**

26. Next year marks the **75th anniversary** of UNESCAP.

27. This pandemic must become a **momentum** to improve and make giant leaps forward.

28. Now is the time for us to build **a better region ... a better world**.

29. Thank you.

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