Chair
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Chair,

I wish to congratulate you Mr. Chair for your leadership and appreciating for organizing the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Timor-Leste, like many small island developing states and least developed countries, faces numerous development challenges. Poverty, malnutrition, food insecurity, inequality, climate change, and other social and economic issues all threaten our sustainable future. It is through the implementation of the 2030 agenda that we can address and ultimately overcome these challenges to create a better world for all by 2030.

Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 SDGs agenda through VNRs requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders. Timor-Leste has prioritised the SDGs, through aligning our National Strategic Development Plan with the SDG’s. The results of our first and second VNRs have been used to support our priority setting and resource allocation decisions for our national policies, plans, and budgets.

We see the VNR as an essential part of our national monitoring and evaluation framework and our experience in conducting the first VNR and second VNR has allowed us to identify our gaps, challenges, and opportunities and progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Furthermore, the VNR promotes transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement, as we engage with civil society, academia, the
private sector, and other stakeholders in the SDGs implementation process.

This forum and the HLPF, provide the opportunity for us to share our experiences and challenges, and also to learn from other countries’ experiences to progress the SDGs with leaving no one behind.

I thank you.