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ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND
RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
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Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and our 52 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Asia Pacific, we welcome this focus on reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises in the Asia Pacific.

Despite historical strides towards improvements in food security and eradication of poverty, countless communities still find themselves facing increasing crises, exacerbated by climate and weather events, stretching their coping mechanisms. Over the last years we have experienced an escalating number of protracted crisis in Asia Pacific, exacerbated by a changing climate, which have far-reaching impacts across various aspects of society, including environmental degradation, human health, economic losses, displacement, migration and loss of livelihoods. Humanitarian needs are increasing because of inequality, exclusion and a lack of support when and where it’s needed most, underscoring the urgency of our collective response.

Amid these challenges, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have leveraged their unique position to support and prepare communities in Asia Pacific. Our efforts are directed towards enhancing local capacities, advocating for the prioritization of early warning systems, and fostering sustainable practices at the grassroots level, to address immediate needs and build long-term
resilience. Despite global efforts to increase climate financing, only 10 percent is reaching local communities, who are the most affected. As a way to help address this, IFRC has established a Global Climate Resilience Platform, to channel money to the local level and expand the community-based climate action with a focus on early warning and early action; nature-based solutions; and social protection programming.

We appeal to governments and partners to increase support to the local level for disaster preparedness and climate adaptation strategies, particularly in strengthening the allocation of funding and resources which is critical for the implementation of effective early warning systems and the promotion of resilient community infrastructures.

IFRC is also uniting with partners under the UN Secretary General’s Early Warning for All Initiative to ensure people are ready to respond to early warning messages to save lives and livelihoods. The initiative plays a vital role in enhancing resilience, promoting sustainable development, and achieving the SDGs by ensuring that no one is left behind in the face of emerging risks and challenges. Let me seize this opportunity to warmly invite you to the joint side event organized at UNESCAP this week on 23rd February on the Early Warning for All Initiative.

Let me conclude by thanking UNESCAP, as well as the governments and partners present here today. Our collective efforts are pivotal in ensuring that the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are fully realized, paving the way towards a more resilient and sustainable future for all.

Thank you.