DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Statement

11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
Bangkok, Thailand 22 February 2024

Agenda Item 4: Review of regional progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and opportunities for achieving the SDGs

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We all recognize that on the halfway to the 2030 Agenda, the world is greatly off-track and in peril due to the unmatched challenges of the preceding years. The devastating consequences of COVID-19 pandemic, the climate change, escalating emergencies, conflicts and gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law further exacerbate inequalities and reverse the progress on the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals.

Just like many other countries, in these difficult times, Armenia had to navigate complex circumstances and adapt to rapidly changing international dynamics, requiring resilience and strategic decision-making to address the far-reaching implications of these crises.

In this vein, Armenia has been implementing major reforms aimed at improving transparency and accountability, eradicating corruption, enhancing independence of judiciary, promoting gender equality and youth participation.

Thanks to those reforms and against all odds, during the last four years, the Armenian economy maintained the pace of up to two-digit GDP growth year on year, lifting tens of thousands of citizens above the poverty line. With, strong macroeconomic governance and effective solutions, the financial system of the country remained stable and did not suffer serious setbacks.
The extensive construction of new roads, renovation of most community roads has had a tremendous impact on the mobility of people and goods within the country, while boosting the international transit potential of Armenia.

Nevertheless, Armenia continues to be vulnerable to many shocks and challenges, among them the climate change putting a huge pressure on the productivity of the agricultural sector and the sustainability of water resources.

Our country has recorded 1.3 degree increase of average temperature and 9 percent decrease of precipitation with evident loss and damage to our economy and agriculture.

Bearing this in mind, Armenia declared in 2021 its post-2020 climate actions, an NDC with a 40% greenhouse reduction target by 2030. Recently, we developed long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) to guide us towards carbon neutrality. Our climate ambitions are largely anchored in the carbon-neutral energy transition. By 2030, we aim for a 15% share of solar energy in our total energy production.

Thus, the unprecedented investments in renewable energy and the biggest refurbishment of the country’s sole nuclear power plant in full conformity with the international nuclear safety and security standards has allowed to project a steady and sustainable growth of the energy sector while creating potential for a green energy export to other countries.

However, the national efforts to combat climate change are not enough, and the major issue remains directly related to fossil-fuel locked-in economies, which is the main driver of greenhouse gas emission and the climate change.

Therefore, for the sake of future generations, it is of utmost importance to effectively transition away from fossil fuels. Armenia, as a member of the COP28 Bureau, in the capacity of one of its Vice Presidents, is glad that this commitment has been enshrined in the Global Stocktake of the COP28 in Dubai.

The pledge of the majority of economies, including Armenia to triple renewable energy production and double the energy efficiency made at the COP28 is also a step in the right direction. Armenia is ready to contribute to these efforts,
including by harnessing the immense potential of renewable and carbon-neutral energy in our country and creating opportunities for exporting this green energy to other countries.

In the context of the SDGs, Armenia believes that VNR is an important activity and that is exactly why we will present our already third VNR this year, and taking this opportunity I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to UN ESCAP for its invaluable support to Armenia in this matter. Based on our very positive experience, we would like to encourage other countries as well to use ESCAP’s expertise in their relevant VNR preparations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair