Statement of Republic of India at the 11th edition of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)
[3 Minutes]

Madam / Mr. Chair,

At the outset, we would like to thank UNESCAP for organizing the eleventh edition of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

We strongly believe that this forum would help in empowering and supporting Asia-Pacific countries in their efforts to achieve the SDGs and the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the world has witnessed profound changes. A devastating pandemic, conflicts and the irreversible effects of climate change have disproportionately impacted the world's poor and vulnerable, carrying significant global consequences.

During the G20 Presidency, India reiterated the requirement of redoubling global efforts to achieving the SDGs and called on G20 countries to take greater responsibility putting the 2030 Agenda’s time-bound targets back on track.

The New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration, adopted by the G20 leaders in September 2023, laid stress on accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

For its own part, India has firmly integrated the SDGs into its national development strategies. Government of India launched multiple focused interventions for each of the SDGs such as National Rural Livelihood Mission for economic empowerment of around 100 million women; Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna to provide LPG connections to more than 100 million households; and construction of over 115 million toilets.

Government of India has shifted focus from Women Development to Women-led development. Recently, India witnessed the historic moment, when one-third seats are being reserved for women in Lok
Sabha and State/Union Territory Legislatures, ensuring women's participation in decision and policy making.

Government of India also operates one of the largest food security programmes in the world in the form of Targeted Public Distribution System. Through this system, food grains are provided to more than 800 million beneficiaries every month. Significant increase in food grain production has enabled India to build resilient food stocks which was able to ensure food security for Indians during the last three years, despite the pandemic and geopolitical challenges. Midday Meal Programme that provides children healthy meals at school, have in turn helped raise the level of nutrition.

As part of the “International Year of Millets”, there has been a renewed focus on the cultivation, production, and marketing of millets, which are also climate resilient and climate friendly alternatives for food security.

Further, India’s Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has enabled to bridge geographic gaps and deliver benefits directly to the targeted beneficiaries of social protection schemes.

India has also been at the forefront of supporting action-oriented steps at the global level in response to climate change. India has achieved 40% of electric installed capacity through non fossil fuel sources, nine years ahead of the target for 2030.

India takes pride in its SDG localization model, based on four pillars: institutional ownership, collaborative competition, capacity building, and a whole-of-society approach. India’s growth outcomes result from systemic reforms, inclusive policies, and leveraging Digital Public Infrastructure.

As per the recent estimates, India’s multidimensional poverty is expected to have reduced from 29.2% to 11.28%, with 248 million people escaping multidimensional poverty in the last 9 years. Accordingly, India has likely achieved the SDG target 1.2 i.e. to halve the poverty.
India aspires to become a developed country by 2047, coinciding with the 100th year of our independence. Our unwavering commitment to SDGs extends to partnerships, including South-South Cooperation.

Thank you.

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