

**Intervention of Mr. Woochong Um
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**Session on the Special Body of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing
Countries and Pacific Island Developing States
Seventy-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
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Distinguished participants, ladies, and gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to share ADB's experience on this important topic.

Over the past two years, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have indeed suffered major setbacks, which are being felt most keenly in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and Pacific Island Developing States. They face a wide range of structural and climate change-driven fragilities at the best of times, and were already falling behind on the SDGs prior to the pandemic.

To help these countries achieve the SDGs, two prerequisites will be critical:

First, policy measures will have to be swift, comprehensive, and well-coordinated across all tiers of government. This is extremely critical to meet SDG targets, including localizing of SDGs.

Second, these countries will need to augment spending on SDGs. This is a tall order given their narrow economic base and limited fiscal space, especially at the local levels. Fundamentally, they need our help in mobilizing

resources, and in developing more innovative and flexible financing instruments and modalities.

In 2021, ADB adopted a Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations and Small Island Developing States Approach, and updated the regional Pacific Approach. These approaches apply in-depth context-specific analytics, adopt country differentiated, tailored processes and procedures, and develop capacity, institutional strength, and resilience for the long term.

On revenue mobilization, ADB established last year the Asia Pacific Tax Hub, which provides an inclusive platform for promoting strategic policy dialogue, improving knowledge sharing, and strengthening coordination on tax policy and administration. ADB has also been managing a multi-partner Domestic Resource Mobilization Trust Fund to share good practices, and strengthen tax policy and tax implementation capacities in our developing member countries.

ADB also supports the development of customized financing instruments. We are leveraging our concessional resources, including the Asian Development Fund and the Technical Assistance Fund to support our developing member countries. Under the current Asian Development Fund cycle, we have introduced an Economic Vulnerability Premium for the small islands developing states, which provides additional tailored support.

We also help mobilize and access climate adaptation finance from multilateral funds, such as the Climate Investment Fund, Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund. We have been catalyzing green and

social finance by providing blended finance, credit enhancement, and loan guarantees. We also develop theme bonds, which enable results-based private finance to participate in development programs.

I once again thank ESCAP for organizing this session, and enjoin all development partners to continue supporting least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and Pacific Island Developing States.

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