Cook Islands Interventions for UNESCAP Agenda Item 11

Intervention 1: Draft Resolution on Urban Development (L4)

The Cook Islands supports the draft resolution on regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific. As a small island developing state, we recognize the critical importance of sustainable urban planning, particularly in the face of rapid urbanization and climate change. We commend the resolution's emphasis on localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11, which aligns with our own efforts to create inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements. We particularly value the resolution's focus on empowering local and subnational authorities and promoting innovative, context-specific solutions that address the unique challenges of small island nations. We remain committed to contributing to the shared goals of sustainable urban development in the region.

Thank you

Intervention 2: Draft Resolution on the Astana Ministerial Declaration (L6)

The Cook Islands supports the draft resolution endorsing the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific. Digital inclusion is a cornerstone of our national development agenda, as we strive to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all our citizens, including those in our outer islands, have access to essential digital services. Our National Digital Strategy and Digital Inclusion Program reflect our commitment to leveraging technology for inclusive and sustainable development. We welcome the proposal for an Asia-Pacific digital solutions centre for sustainable development, which could provide valuable support and resources for small island developing states like ours. The Cook Islands looks forward to engaging with this initiative and sharing our experiences in digital transformation. We are fully-supportive of its objectives and will continue to contribute to regional efforts in digital inclusion.

Thank you

Intervention 3: Draft Resolution on Water (L3)

The Cook Islands strongly supports the draft resolution on strengthening cooperation on the water and climate change nexus for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. As a small island developing state, we are acutely aware of the existential threat posed by climate change, which manifests in rising sea levels, intensifying cyclones, and changing precipitation patterns that directly undermine our water security. Climate change exacerbates these challenges by contaminating freshwater sources with saltwater intrusion and disrupting rainfall patterns, threatening our very survival. We endorse the resolution's call for enhanced cooperation and integrated water resource management as essential tools to build resilience and safeguard our ecosystems. The Cook Islands has been at the forefront of initiatives for ocean protection and coastal protection projects, which are critical for preserving our water resources and biodiversity. Furthermore, we urge all member states to take bold and immediate action on climate change, including strengthening their Nationally Determined Contributions, operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund, and supporting initiatives that mitigate the impacts of severe weather and ocean events. We are fully committed to working with our regional partners to implement its objectives and ensure a sustainable and resilient future for all in the Asia-Pacific region.

Thank you