

CLOSING REMARKS

BY

**H.E. MR. COLLEN V. KELAPILE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

AT THE

**78TH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)**

27 MAY 2022

14:00 – 16:00 HOURS

**UN CONFERENCE CENTRE – ESCAP HALL
BANGKOK, THAILAND**

- **His Excellency Mr. PHAN Chi Thanh Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to ESCAP and Vice-Chair of the 78th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;**
- **Madam Executive Secretary;**
- **Excellencies;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**

1. It is a great honour to join you today at the closing of the 78th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Especially, as the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of ESCAP come to an end.

2. It has been truly encouraging to hear how the deliberations during the session have provided an opportunity to discuss and shape the future of regional cooperation to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. History has shown that the Asia-Pacific region has always built on past crises to strengthen regional cooperation and regain momentum after a setback. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and the damage from natural disasters that recur with increasing frequency and intensity, pose a formidable challenge for the region.
4. Hard-won development gains are being lost and the pandemic alone has pushed back 85 million people into extreme poverty.
5. It is therefore of critical importance that the Commission, under the theme of **"A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,"** has identified mechanisms and means to build the resilience of people and nations in Asia and the Pacific to reduce the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. As one of the outcomes of the session, the Commission adopted the *"Bangkok Declaration*

Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”.

7. The Declaration highlights areas for strengthened regional cooperation to advance sustainable development in the region. It draws from the priority areas identified by Member States in the declaration for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, and on the proposals put forth in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”.

8. It is also a testament of the countries in Asia and the Pacific demonstrating a renewed commitment to leave no one behind, to protect the planet, to build resilience and to align financial resources so the aspirations of all people can be met.

9. In sum, it is a commitment of the countries of Asia and the Pacific to accelerate action to advance sustainable development.

10. As countries come together to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, I am certain that the “Bangkok Declaration” will serve as a pillar to guide countries in their efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. As the ECOSOC Bureau continues its discussions to make sure that ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies are well aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the resolution entitled “*A conference structure of the Commission to advance sustainable development*”, adopted by the Commission, is extremely timely. The resolution will allow the Commission to be fit for purpose to help accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve more inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic recovery.

12. The Commission has also adopted resolutions that will advance civil registration and vital statistics in the region; and that will galvanize efforts towards the development of sustainable transport systems, two key elements of the 2030 Agenda and of for the sustained post-pandemic recovery of the region.
13. I commend the members of the Commission for these important outcomes.
14. Let me finish by recognizing the ongoing support that member States have expressed to the work of ESCAP. As the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the region, over the last seventy-five years, the Commission has enhanced regional cooperation by influencing both people and planet and has therefore contributed to the socioeconomic progress of the region.
15. This is a remarkable contribution to the people of Asia and the Pacific, and I can only extend my appreciation for this work and for the invitation to

participate in this important session of the Commission.

16. I thank you and I look forward to our continued collaboration to advance sustainable development.