Honourable Chair,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to sincerely express my appreciation and thanks to all members, associate members and partners for attending in-person and virtually in this 78th Commission session.

Let me also express gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly and His Excellency Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council, for their presence and valuable guidance during the session.

It’s a recognition of ESCAP’s valuable contribution to the region.

Excellencies,

Please allow me to share a few final thoughts:

First, I applaud the adoption of the “Bangkok declaration commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.”

As a regional development platform, the ESCAP secretariat, along with the rest of the United Nations system and relevant partners, stands ready to support and take necessary actions to deliver on this concrete action agenda.

More fundamentally, the adoption of this resolution shows an unprecedented commitment and genuine engagement of member States to join forces to overcome current complexities: solidarity at its best in Asia and the Pacific.
History would surely look back on the moment and celebrate the way in which members and associate members came together in the ESCAP platform during these challenging times and forged consensus to safeguard the development aspirations of the people.

Second, I am pleased to note that the Commission has decided that the theme for the 79th Commission session will be “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific to 2030 and beyond”.

Climate change implications and systemic risks have no border and boundaries.

We must invest all our resources to mobilize climate action together.

As we harness regional and subregional cooperation and coordination for building resilience; the spirit of multilateralism, trust and friendship must be at the core of our efforts.

Third, let me also thank all member States and partners that have pledged additional financial support to scale up our programme support for implementing the priority areas of work in these challenging times.

Fourth, I would like to thank the Commission Bureau, the Chair: His Excellency, Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand; and the six Vice-Chairs:

- H.E. Mr. Thongphane Savanphet, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao’s People Democratic Republic;
- H.E. Mr. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister, President of National Committee for ESCAP and First Vice President of Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance, Cambodia;
- H.E. Mr. Arman Issetov, Ambassador-Designate and Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to ESCAP;
• H.E. Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to ESCAP;
• H.E. Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Nepal to ESCAP; and
• H.E. Mr. Phan Chi Thanh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to ESCAP.

for so skilfully conducting proceedings to their successful conclusion.

Fifth, I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all Heads of State and Heads of Government who provided such inspiring statements at the special opening session to set the vision and possible pathways for our way forward.

In this regard, I am also grateful to the keynote and high-level speakers who eloquently crafted action-oriented messages in shaping regional coalitions on the priority areas related to health, sustainable connectivity and climate action.

Excellencies,

As always, all of us at ESCAP remain grateful to our gracious host - the Royal Thai Government.

I would like to thank the ESCAP secretariat staff who have worked hard, tirelessly and professionally to make this session a truly special occasion for everyone.

Thank you.