Ms. Lin Yang  
Deputy Executive Secretary  
ESCAP  

Closing remarks  
Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference  
Friday, 17 November 2023  
15:20-16:00  
ESCAP Hall  

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Chair, and Vice-Chairs,  
My big sister, Diene Keita, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  

As we conclude the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, I would like to thank each of you for taking part in this important Conference. In the past three days, we have reviewed the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration and the ICPD Programme of Action in Asia and the Pacific in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.  

In our deliberations, we have been guided by two documents on population and development: the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration, and the ICPD Programme of Action.  

In the spirit of those documents, we have very candid and constructive discussions to identify good practices, lessons learned, and both new and continuing challenges.
We continue to foster collaboration and strengthen partnerships, including with CSOs.

We have re-affirmed our commitment to a people-centered, rights-based, gender-sensitive, and inclusive approach to implementing the population and development agenda.

We are committed to invest in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating disaggregated data. Evidence makes the invisible visible.

**Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

The importance of this Conference cannot be overstated, given that Asia and the Pacific account for 60 percent of the global population. Beyond sheer numbers, this gathering reflects our shared commitment to addressing the population dynamics unique to our region. The collective resolve, constructive dialogues, and solution-oriented approach evident throughout the conference underscore our potential to make substantial contributions to ICPD30 and position ourselves for the post-2030 population and development agenda. As underscored by Ambassador Noemi, the Chair of the 57th session of the CPD, "Let's make solutions a reality."

Looking ahead, we are presented with milestone opportunities. We must ensure that collective commitments of this Conference are carried forward to the Commission session in 2024, and the key messages are elevated at the Summit of the Future.

As mentioned by many delegations and echoed in insights from other regional conferences, what is fast becoming universal is that the world is
ageing. This not only emphasizes the importance of grappling with the demographic shift but also underscores the significance of fostering intergenerational relations and solidarity, a critical topic for the Summit of the Future.

Excellencies,
I thank the forty-one member States who actively participated in this Conference. I thank our UN colleagues and the many CSOs, including the youth groups that engaged with such energy and passion.

Let me thank our strong and committed partner, the United Nations Population Fund, for its collaboration on many aspects of the Conference over many month and throughout this meeting. We hope to continue to build on this partnership in the future. I thank Diene in particular for her dedication and participation throughout the conference.

We are particularly grateful to the Royal Thai Government and to His Excellency, Varawut Silpa-Archa, the Minister of Social Development and Human Security, for serving as the Chair of the Conference. Your cross-sectoral perspective added a lot of value to the discussion.

I thank the two Vice-Chairs, Ms. Lisa Grace Bersales, Undersecretary and Executive Director, Commission on Population and Development, Philippines, and Ms. Eselealofa Apinelu, High Commissioner of Tuvalu to Fiji.

I also would like to extend my gratitude to the roundtable speakers and moderators.
Lastly, I wish to convey sincere thanks and appreciation to the dedicated staff of the ESCAP secretariat for their tireless efforts in organizing this meeting.

Wishing everyone a safe journey back home.