THE EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AGENDA ITEM 3. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

BANGKOK, 22 APRIL 2025

Reference Document:

https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/ESCAP_81_4_2400464E_E_0.pdf

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Urban areas are central to achieving the SDGs.

2. In our region, cities are the engines of economic growth, but they are also where vulnerabilities are most concentrated…
   ➔ from climate-related risks, inadequate housing, and limited access to essential services.

3. To deliver on the 2030 Agenda, we must strengthen our cities….
   ➔ through bold and collective action.

4. Indonesia stands firmly behind this shared imperative….
   ➔ placing **sustainable urban development** at the heart of its national policy priorities.

5. Through our medium-term development plan, we are advancing a **polycentric urban system**….
   ➔ driving equitable growth beyond major cities….
   ➔ And bridging regional disparities.

6. Strategic investments in cities such as Makassar, Medan, and Semarang are improving housing, transport, water management, and local governance…
   ➔ strengthening resilience where it matters most.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

7. The Indonesian government also takes this opportunity to express its utmost appreciation to UN ESCAP for the excellent support and continued collaboration….
   ➔ which plays a vital role in supporting our national efforts.

8. Not to mention, Indonesia's partnership with UN ESCAP to develop **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)** in Indonesian cities namely Surabaya, West Java, and soon in Padang.

9. These reviews represent a practical model for accelerating SDG localization….

- ➔ helping local governments align their SDGs priorities and build capacity to monitor progress.
- ➔ We believe it is a model worth expanding across the region.

10. We also value UN ESCAP's support through the **Urban-Act Project**…
    - ➔ especially in Medan and Padang, where national and subnational readiness for climate finance has been assessed and strengthened.

11. The development of **bankable climate project pipelines** in cities like Banda Aceh, Batam, and Padang have already unlocked access to international financing….
    - ➔ demonstrating the value of strong local planning….
    - ➔ and multi-stakeholder coordination.

12. These are concrete results with real potential for replication and scale across the region.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

13. Indonesia believes that peer learning and regional cooperation are essential to address the fast-evolving urban challenges.

14. We support expanding platforms for **knowledge exchange**, **technical assistance**, and **joint innovation** among cities across the region.

15. We also encourage the establishment of a regional dialogue on **innovative urban financing mechanisms**, so that more cities…
    - ➔ especially mid-sized ones…
    - ➔ can access the needed capital to deliver sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient development.

16. Indonesia stands ready to share its experiences, and to collaborate with partners across the region to build cities more livable, equitable, and future-ready.

Thank you.

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Word count: 411 words