Macao, China's Statement for
81st Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Regional Cooperation for Resilient and Sustainable Urban Development in Asia and the Pacific

Honourable Chairperson,
Madame Executive Secretary,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct honour to represent Macao, China, at the 81st session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). At the outset, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Thai Government for the gracious hospitality, as well as to ESCAP for its efforts in advancing sustainable development across our region.

The successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle has provided Macao, China a solid foundation for pursuing more sustainable development. Promoting economic diversification and fostering regional cooperation remain the cornerstones of Macao, China's sustainable development strategy.

Striving for economic diversification, Macao, China is dedicated to facilitating the local business sectors to access a broader market by strengthening the economic and trade ties with neighbouring regions. The Mainland and Macao Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) has effectively enhanced trade in goods and services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, substantially supporting the integrated economic development of both sides.

Recent CEPA revisions have further relaxed the entry threshold for Macao service providers to access the Mainland market. This does not only enable Macao enterprises to expand their businesses into the Mainland more smoothly, but also provides excellent opportunities for international companies to fully leverage Macao's advantages and deepen their integration into the Mainland market under the CEPA framework.

Within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)—a dynamic economic region comprising Hong Kong Special Administrative

Region, Macao Special Administrative Region and nine cities of Guangdong Province—we have continuously expanded our development horizons through close regional collaboration, driving comprehensive regional economic integration. Taking CEPA as an example, the latest revisions have introduced pilot measures in the GBA that support Macao enterprises registered in the GBA to choose Macao law as the applicable law for their contracts, promoting the alignment of rules and the connection of mechanisms between Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao.

Another major regional cooperation initiative is the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, which is strategically located adjacent to Macao and operates under the principle of "mutual discussion, joint construction, joint administration, and shared benefits". The Cooperation Zone focuses on cultivating emerging industries such as traditional Chinese medicine, modern financial services, high technology, among others. This partnership continues to inject fresh momentum into our economy while creating enhanced living standards and employment opportunities for our residents. With the aim of supporting our economic diversification efforts, we will continue to take forward the integration between Macao and Hengqin.

As the key platform connecting China and Portuguese-speaking countries, Macao, China has successfully convened six Ministerial Meetings of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries. These meetings have driven remarkable growth in economic partnerships between China and Portuguese-speaking counterparts, with bilateral trade volume reaching USD 220.9 billion in 2023—representing a twenty-fold increase since the Forum's establishment. The "Strategic Plan for Economic and Trade Cooperation (2024-2027)" adopted at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting in 2024, marks a milestone in this fruitful collaboration.

In embracing the transformative digital and technological era, Macao, China has implemented targeted initiatives to accelerate technological innovation. Our "Technology Enterprise Certification Program" provides policy support for tech companies, empowering their robust growth. Additionally, our "SME Digitalization Support Service" promotes the digital transformation of traditional SMEs, helping them enhance

production efficiency and optimize management models to achieve sustainable business modernization.

Looking ahead, Macao, China remains committed to striving for sustainable development and actively participating in regional cooperation with a higher level of engagement. We believe that through our joint efforts, we can achieve a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.

I conclude by expressing my heartfelt thanks to ESCAP for providing this vital platform, enabling us to collectively explore and promote sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific. I wish this session every success.

Thank you.