

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

79th SESSION

**Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for
sustainable development**

**Statement by Director of the Economic and Technological
Development Bureau
Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region**

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Chairperson,

Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, Madame Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of Macao, China, we are delighted to participate in the 79th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of Thailand and the ESCAP Secretariat for their exceptional preparation and thoughtful arrangements, which have made our participation in this important event possible.

As global warming and extreme weather events continue to have devastating effects, it has become clear that climate change is a pressing global issue that demands collective action. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the significance of mitigating the impacts of climate change and promoting sustainable development, and calls for all countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a low-carbon economy.

The Second Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2021-2025) and the Environmental Protection Planning of Macao (2021-2025) feature initiatives aimed at promoting clean fuel and renewable energy, promoting low-carbon and green development, and enhancing the city's ability to withstand natural disasters, among other initiatives. Our ultimate goal is to achieve carbon peaking by 2030. These initiatives reflect our unwavering commitment to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and our efforts to build a more sustainable future for our region and the planet.

Promoting Clean Fuel and Renewable Energy

Despite its limited resource endowment, the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government remains steadfast in promoting energy conservation, energy

efficiency, and the use of renewable energy sources. With a view to reducing our long-term dependence on fossil fuels, the MSAR Government is prioritizing solar photovoltaic power generation.

To support the development of solar photovoltaic systems, the MSAR Government enacted Administrative Regulation No. 20/2014, which establishes safety and technical standards for the installation of grid connection solar photovoltaic. The MSAR Government has also implemented a multi-tiered feed-in tariff to incentivize the use of solar photovoltaic systems, with the latest rates coming into effect in 2018. Furthermore, the Second Five-Year Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the MSAR has set a target of utilizing no less than 30% of the outdoor area of newly built public housing rooftops for photovoltaic panels or planting.

The MSAR Government is also exploring new ways to promote sustainable energy. At present, approximately 4% of the city's electricity consumption comes from waste incineration. To expand this capacity, the MSAR Government is undertaking the third phase of its incineration plant, which is scheduled to be completed by 2023. This expansion will increase the daily treatment capacity by 75%, surpassing 3,000 tonnes.

To further promote the use of renewable energy, the MSAR Government has launched a public tender to construct Macao, China's first organic waste recycling centre in late 2022. The centre will employ an anaerobic treatment process to produce biogas, a renewable energy source that will be used to generate electricity. Meanwhile, the natural gas network in Macao, China is being expanded to provide households and businesses with a cleaner and more convenient fuel alternative. These efforts will enrich Macao, China's renewable energy portfolio and promote sustainable development.

Promoting Low-Carbon and Green Development

The MSAR Government is taking proactive steps to reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector. To achieve the electrification of transportation, the MSAR Government is promoting the use of electric vehicles and ensuring that necessary infrastructure is in place. Newly built government and private office buildings will have electric charging capabilities, and existing government offices and public carparks will gradually have electric charging devices added to provide convenient battery recharge services. Additionally, the MSAR Government has implemented subsidy schemes to encourage the replacement of conventional motorcycles with electric ones and the early retirement of heavily polluting diesel-powered vehicles.

In addition to promoting the use of electric vehicles, the MSAR Government is focusing on energy efficiency and demand-side management to promote energy sustainability. The MSAR Government is taking a multi-faceted approach to raise public awareness about environmental protection and energy conservation, including public awareness campaigns and school education programmes. The MSAR Government also conducts regular assessment surveys to monitor energy efficiency improvements and waste reduction across different sectors. In the business sector, heavy users such as hotels and gaming facilities are investing in new technologies and management practices to reduce their electricity and resource consumption, and the MSAR Government is supporting these efforts.

To lead by example, the MSAR Government has implemented an energy conservation programme for government offices and public institutions since 2006. Several departments have established task forces to coordinate related activities such as energy-saving plans, retrofitting projects, and energy audits. Furthermore, the MSAR Government is exploring the feasibility of using carbon capture technology in future power generation units. This technology has the potential to significantly reduce

greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impact of climate change. The use of carbon capture technology is a crucial step towards reducing emissions and improving air quality in Macao, China, demonstrating the MSAR Government's active role in the transition to a low-carbon economy and its commitment to sustainable development.

Enhancing the City's Ability to Withstand Natural Disasters

The MSAR Government is taking proactive measures to enhance its ability to withstand natural disasters. In 2017, the MSAR Government established the Commission for Reviewing and Monitoring the Improvements of the Response Mechanism to Major Disasters to monitor and formulate crisis management plans for major disasters. This commission also strengthens the coordination and disseminates information on citizen protection efforts to ensure the public is well-informed and prepared.

In 2018, the MSAR Government raised and waterproofed over 100 electrical substations located in low-lying areas to minimize damage during extreme weather events. Additionally, it revised the standards for installing electrical facilities in new buildings to ensure that they meet climate-resilient infrastructure requirements.

To further bolster its response to extreme weather and climate change, the MSAR Government revamped the storm surge warning system in 2018 and the rainstorm warning system in 2020. These upgrades enhance the capacity of government departments and citizens to respond to weather-related hazards effectively. The MSAR Government is committed to ensuring that the city remains well-prepared to manage the effects of climate change and protect its residents and infrastructure from natural disasters.

Conclusion

While Macao, China has made great strides in mitigating the effects of climate changes, we recognize that these efforts alone will not be sufficient to address the global climate crisis. We believe that international cooperation is essential, and we are committed to working with other member economies to address climate change. By sharing best practices, technology, and resources, we can effectively address this challenge together.

In closing, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to participate in this session, and I wish it every success. We look forward to collaborating with our partners in the Asia Pacific region and beyond to create a sustainable and resilient future for all. Thank you.