Statement by the Republic of the Philippines

81st Commission Session of the United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)

Agenda Item 4: Special Body on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

On behalf of the Philippine delegation, we warmly greet all participants and commend ESCAP's steadfast dedication to addressing the challenges faced by Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Philippines stands in solidarity with LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, acknowledging their vital contributions to sustainable development while recognizing the barriers they face in enhancing economic, social, and environmental resilience.

LDCs often contend with economic instability due to reliance on low-value exports and limited diversification. Social progress is also hindered by inadequate access to education and healthcare, while

climate-induced disasters disrupt livelihoods and development efforts. We encourage implementation of the LDCs Doha Program of Action.

LLDCs likewise face significant obstacles to economic resilience stemming from their geographical isolation, which leads to high transportation costs and limited access to global markets. Infrastructure challenges further restrict social mobility and sustainable development. The Philippines supports the conduct of the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

SIDS are disproportionately impacted by climate-related challenges, such as rising sea levels and severe weather events. Their dependence on tourism and fisheries leaves them vulnerable to economic shocks, while high energy costs and limited access to sustainable energy sources constrain efforts to bolster resilience.

The Philippines attended the 4th SIDS Conference and strongly supports the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). As a nation committed to inclusive and sustainable development, the Philippines underscores the importance of support mechanisms that are tailored to the needs of countries in special situations, programs and initiatives that address specific requirements of different countries, and targeted capacity-building initiatives to overcome particular challenges and vulnerabilities.

Furthermore, we urge ESCAP to continue its efforts in promoting measures that go beyond GDP, facilitating resource mobilization, and addressing vulnerabilities. By leveraging its research and policy advisory services, ESCAP can play a pivotal role in shaping strategies that empower countries in special situations to overcome their challenges in

areas such as disaster risk reduction, digital trade integration, and sustainable urban development.

The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to working alongside ESCAP member states in advancing the aspirations of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. We hope to strengthen South-South and Triangular Cooperation in this regard.

Together, let us transform challenges into opportunities and build a future that is resilient, inclusive, and sustainable for all nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Thank you.