Agenda Item 3

Theme topic: “Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific”

Statement by Jayoung KANG
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of the Republic of Korea

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Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,
It is a great honor to speak on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Cities stand at the forefront of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific. As we face interlinked challenges— including climate change, demographic transitions, migration, and inequality— cooperation among cities and solidarity across borders are not optional, but essential.

In pursuit of SDG 11, Korea has implemented a broad set of urban policy objectives. These include the provision of adequate, affordable, and high-quality housing, the expansion of green mobility solutions, and the promotion of inclusive access to open green spaces.

A notable example is the development of the Administrative City in Sejong, strategically established to address overconcentration in the capital and regional disparities. Located 120 kilometers south of Seoul, this city was envisioned as a hub for balanced national growth. The National Agency for Administrative City Construction (NAACC) carefully planned and constructed the city to serve as a distinguished model of sustainable urban development.

To encourage settlement in the new regional hub, the government relocated central government ministries and ensured access to affordable housing and a livable urban environment through systematic urban planning.

Building upon this experience, Korea and NAACC remain firmly committed to supporting ESCAP's agenda for resilient and sustainable urban development. NAACC has engaged in policy exchanges with member states and other international partners—on capital relocation, new city development, and inclusive urban planning. Through these exchanges, we have observed that many countries are facing challenges similar to those we have already encountered and addressed.

As the theme study rightly underscores, no country or city can address these challenges in isolation. We will continue to reinforce both bilateral and multilateral cooperation to support the development of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities across the Asia-Pacific region.

Thank you for your attention.