Item 4. Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission

(a) APFSD

Statement by the Republic of Korea
Delivered by Mr. JEON Joyoung, Permanent Representative to ESCAP

Thank you Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair. I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairperson. I am confident that under your able guidance, this session will yield successful outcomes.

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,
The COVID−19 pandemic has changed our world, slowing down the regional progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The crisis has highlighted the vulnerability and systemic weaknesses of our societies, and also the need for greater regional cooperation to address these challenges.

As ESCAP's flagship publication “Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021” acknowledges, the Asia−Pacific region has shown positive developments on certain SDG goals over the years. However, the overall progress on the SDGs still remains uneven, and with the spread of the pandemic, our hard−won development gains made in the past decades are at risk of being rolled back.

In view of this, the government of the Republic of Korea is continuing its efforts to incorporate SDGs into national policy frameworks, and further help developing countries to successfully implement the SDGs in a more inclusive and resilient way.
Domestically, the Korean government drafted the “Forth Basic Plan for Sustainable Development 2021–2040” which is the basic platform for integrated policy action on relevant and urgent issues for the next five years including the COVID–19 pandemic and climate change.

On the other hand, Korea adopted the “Mid-term Strategy for Development Cooperation 2021–2025” that sets out strategic directions, principles, as well as ODA targets based on the “5 Ps” shaping the SDGs.

And working in close collaboration with ESCAP and other international organizations, we are sharing our development experience and expertise in high demand areas such as ICT, education, energy, and health with partner countries in the Asia–Pacific region.

In this connection, the Eighth Asia–Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) under the theme of “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID–19 pandemic”, provided a timely opportunity for member states to share their perspectives on the implementation, follow–up and review of the 2030 Agenda at a critical time when the region is facing major setbacks in reaching the SDGs.

As our delegation emphasized in the statement at the APFSD, the Korean government strongly believes that broader investment in public health systems, strengthened response to climate change and multifaceted partnership are the key to accelerate SDG progress amid the COVID–19 crisis.
In this context, we hope the newly launched initiative ‘ODA Korea: Building TRUST (which stands for Transparency, Resilience, Unity, and Safety Together)’, with the aim to support countries in COVID–19 response and sustainable development, could also contribute to the Asia–Pacific region’s achievement of the SDGs.

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair,

The Republic of Korea remains committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda, and looks forward to continuing our successful cooperation with ESCAP and other member states on the process.

Thank you.