81ST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNESCAP) HELD FROM 21 TO 25 APRIL 2025 IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

Agenda Item 2(a) General Debate

Statement by Singapore

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I begin by expressing Singapore's warm appreciation to ESCAP and the Government of Thailand for hosting us in the beautiful city of Bangkok.

2. The 81st Session of the Commission takes place in tumultuous times. Amidst heightened unpredictability and intensified challenges to multilateralism, the world is struggling to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. In Asia, the picture is mixed. Whilst progress has been made to improve sustainable industrialisation, economic productivity and innovation, and health, other issues such as loss of biodiversity and resilience to disasters remain a challenge. The loss of lives and damage caused by the earthquake which impacted Myanmar and Thailand on 28 March 2025 is a stark reminder of the need for such resilience, and the Singapore Government extends its condolences and sympathies to all who have been affected. It is also timely that this Session is convened under the theme "Regional Cooperation for Resilient and Sustainable Urban Development in Asia and the Pacific".

3. Sustainable and resilient urban development is an issue of importance for Singapore. This is why Singapore convenes the biennial World Cities Summit, a platform for government officials, industry experts, and thought leaders to exchange best practices to enhance the liveability and sustainability of cities. Under Singapore's Green Plan 2030, an important focus area is "Resilient Future", to start preparations now to deal with climate change impacts that will last into the next century. One key project that Singapore has embarked on is the "Long Island" project – a land reclamation initiative off the east coast of Singapore aimed at: (a) *coastal protection* by acting as a barrier against rising sea levels; (b)

water security by creating an inland reservoir to enhance freshwater supply; and (c) *urban development* by providing space for a variety of new uses.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

4. It is critical that we double-down on our efforts to foster a stable international environment conducive for sustainable development. Despite being an alternative energy-disadvantaged country, Singapore remains firmly committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. As part of our 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted to the UNFCCC on 10 February 2025, Singapore will further reduce emissions to between 45 and 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2035. This keeps Singapore on a linear path to our net-zero target in 2050.

5. Singapore is committed to providing innovative green and transition financing solutions for our region. In 2023, Singapore launched the Financing Asia's Transition Partnership, or FAST-P, a blended finance initiative, which aims to catalyse up to US$5 billion from concessional and commercial capital providers to support Asia's green transition financing. At COP-29 in Baku in November 2024, Singapore announced our commitment of up to US$500 million in concessional funding to support FAST-P. The initiative is gaining momentum, with Australia also announcing an AUS$75 million contribution to FAST-P.

6. Singapore is also committed to working with ESCAP to help fellow developing countries address common challenges. From Singapore's experience, the sharing of best practices and expertise has a multiplier effect. Under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), we have trained more than 155,000 officials in areas such as climate adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk management, and digitalisation. In 2023, Singapore also launched the Sustainability Action Package (SAP) under the SCP, focusing on resilience-building strategies, green project management and financing, and carbon market development.

7. Singapore also recognises the importance of robust statistical systems for the effective monitoring and reporting of progress on sustainable development. We are honoured to serve as Chair of the 9th session of the Committee on

Statistics at ESCAP. Singapore participates actively in ESCAP's initiatives to promote data governance and best practices. We commend ESCAP's efforts in developing a data governance framework for sharing country experiences which are valuable for national statistical offices, and appreciate the technical support by the ESCAP Secretariat to help countries improve the collection and analyses of climate change-related statistics.

8. Singapore also welcomes ESCAP's continued engagement in the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW), a key platform to advance regional energy dialogue and collaboration. One area of promise is the development of an interconnected ASEAN Power Grid (APG) to enhance energy security, affordability, and sustainability. The enhancement of key multilateral cross-border energy trade initiatives such as the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP) are important steps which will reinforce our broader efforts to realise the APG and a more integrated ASEAN Economic Community. ESCAP's support for integrated energy planning, regulatory harmonisation, and technical cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries will be instrumental in building resilient, interconnected, and sustainable energy systems across our region.

9. In closing, allow me to reaffirm Singapore's strong support for ESCAP's mandate, and its central role in helping Asia and the Pacific achieve sustainable development.

10. Thank you.

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