Statement of Republic of India

Agenda 5 (b): Social Development

81st Session of UNESCAP

Thank you Mr. Chair,

The global community faces significant hurdles in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, making it crucial to intensify our focus on socio-economic advancement that prioritizes people's needs and well-being.

India's approach to social development involves diverse strategies aimed at poverty reduction and livelihood security, better access to affordable, quality healthcare, and education and skill enhancement.

India has modernized service delivery systems through digital public infrastructure. We have leveraged the Aadhar model, providing unique identification number to each citizen and adopted direct benefit transfer to ensure last mile delivery of essential services to the intended beneficiary. For Global Good, India is happy to share its digital public infrastructure.

Poverty being a multidimensional issue, a range of tailored schemes are being implemented to address various dimensions of

poverty to provide access to clean energy for cooking, clean water and sanitation, and affordable housing.

India has also launched the world's largest digitally operated, cashless, and paperless healthcare initiative, known as the 'National Health Protection Scheme' or Ayushman Bharat which is benefitting 360 million people in India.

As we observe the thirtieth anniversary of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action this year, India is committed to collectively review progress, identify cross-sectional challenges, and prioritise action for accelerating progress on achieving gender equality in the 12 critical areas of concern.

In this direction, in 2023, the Parliament of India passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, “Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam”, marking a historic milestone in its national journey to foster women’s equitable representation in public life at all levels of the country’s federal structure.

India has also strengthened the ecosystem for tackling gender-based violence through legislative and schematic interventions –with survivor centric expansive laws on domestic violence, women’s safety at workplace including in the informal sector. A robust network of over 800 One Stop Centres covering entire geography have been

created to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence and in distress.

Thank you, Chair.