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Theme: Regional Cooperation for Resilient and Sustainable Urban Development in Asia and the Pacific

Country Statement – Türkiye

Delivered by H.E. Ms. Serap Ersoy, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Türkiye to UNESCAP

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a privilege to speak on behalf of the Republic of Türkiye at this important session.

As Asia and the Pacific undergo unprecedented urban growth, the demand for cities that are resilient, inclusive, and sustainable grows stronger. With its constantly growing urban population and the megacity of Istanbul, Türkiye aligns fully with this vision. Our urban and transport policies are shaped by the principles of digitalization, inclusiveness, environmental sustainability, and international cooperation.
Let me begin with sustainable urban mobility, a key pillar of resilient urban development.

Under the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy of the European Commission and the European Green Deal, Türkiye has taken concrete steps. We pioneered the preparation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans for key cities, namely, Ankara, İzmir, Kocaeli, Trabzon, Düzce, and İstanbul, under EU-funded Sectoral Operational Programmes. We are also implementing intelligent transport systems in Gaziantep, Mersin, and Denizli.

Beyond planning, Türkiye has embraced digital transformation in road transport, a critical step toward efficiency and environmental stewardship. All transport authorizations, vehicle, and driver processes are now digitized. This shift reduces paperwork, cuts emissions, and enhances cross-border efficiency.

We are proud to be leading regional efforts on digital logistics. Projects like e-permit, e-TIR, and e-CMR streamline international road transport. Following successful cooperation with Uzbekistan, other Turkic States have joined these efforts, showing that regional cooperation can yield tangible results in lowering carbon emissions and transport delays.

Türkiye also supports electrification of transport, promoting electric vehicles through regulatory reforms. And through our "e-scooter" legislation, we are shifting urban short-distance travel toward cleaner, shared mobility.

Madam Chair,

Urban resilience also means ensuring that no one is left behind, particularly older persons and persons with disabilities. Türkiye is undergoing rapid demographic transition. We acknowledge that ageing and disability present cross-cutting challenges for urban development, and we address these with a rights-based, inclusive approach.

We base our national efforts on international frameworks (namely the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities. Türkiye's vision is clear: to build an inclusive society where all individuals—regardless of age or ability—can live with dignity, access opportunities, and participate in public life.

To this end, we have implemented comprehensive national strategies including the "2030 Barrier-Free Vision Document" and its Action Plan, "The Ageing Vision Document, focused on building an age-friendly society, widespread accessibility audits through "Accessibility Monitoring Commissions", which have issued over 3,500 certificates to date, financial and technical support for municipalities to promote accessibility, free public transport for older persons and persons with disabilities and the "AİLEM Communication Center" which ensures real-time video interpretation for people with hearing disabilities.

We believe that accessible infrastructure is not just a social imperative—it is fundamental to sustainable and inclusive urban growth.

Türkiye will continue to build on these efforts with national and international partners. We are ready to share our experiences and learn from others to achieve a shared future where cities across Asia and the Pacific are resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

Thank you.