Statement

By Mr. Anukul Peedkaew, Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand

at the 81st session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Agenda item 3 Theme: "Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific"

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At ESCAP Hall, the United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok

Mr./Madam Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Good morning,

As the region undergoes rapid urbanization and demographic change, it is crucial that urban development goes hand in hand with social inclusion. Thailand's 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan reflects this vision, promoting sustainable, people-centered growth in line with SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda.

In response to these challenges, Thailand has introduced the "5x5 Let's Turn the Tide" policy—focusing on workforce development, inclusion of youth and older persons, the rights of

persons with disabilities, and the well-being of families—to ensure that our cities grow inclusively and equitably, leaving no one behind.

Moreover, we believe that cities should be shaped by the people who live in them. In Thailand, we put this belief into practice through inclusive housing initiatives like the Baan Mankong Collective Housing Program and Baan Poonsook for the homeless, as well as large-scale regeneration projects such as the Din Daeng redevelopment led by the National Housing Authority. These efforts reflect our commitment to empowering communities to take the lead in their own development. Genuine participation means enabling people to make decisions about their housing, social welfare, and shared future.

Likewise, Thailand is undertaking spatial-planning at all levels. We have established effective regulations, rules, and guidelines that promote participation and ensure that urban planning processes reflect the needs and voices of the people.

Moreover, the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, in collaboration with GIZ, is implementing integrated urban development initiatives in Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, and Phuket. These projects aim to promote low-carbon growth and build climate-resilient cities through multi-agency collaboration across Thailand.

Urban development across the Asia-Pacific region faces shared challenges such as climate change, migration, demographic shifts, and widening inequalities that call for coordinated regional action. Thailand values regional collaboration and is committed to engaging in knowledge exchanges and platforms supported by ESCAP and partners to share inclusive and sustainable urban development practices that reflect local needs while addressing broader regional realities.

Together, these endless efforts work towards a shared vision: cities that are not only physically developed but just, equitable, and inclusive—where no one is left behind.

Let us strengthen our cooperation to construct a future where cities uplift communities and secure the well-being of successive generations.

Thank you.