VIET NAM'S STATEMENT
At the 81st Session of the UNESCAP
Agenda item 2: "Current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific"

Mr. Chairman/ Madam Chair
Madam Executive Secretary,

At the outset, I would like to thank ESCAP for its insightful reports, which serve as valuable guidance for our discussion and collective efforts toward building a more sustainable and resilient future.

Our region is at a critical juncture. We are facing significant challenges threatening to reverse our hard-earned development gains. At the same time, we are presented with game-changing opportunities. Investment in technology and innovation, digital transformation, along with the development of a resilient and adaptable workforce, offer powerful avenues to accelerate the implementation of SDGs. The region's growing focus on green growth innovation and regional integration also opens new pathways for inclusive and equitable growth.

To fully seize these opportunities, there is no alternative but to strengthen multilateral cooperation, promote knowledge sharing, and mobilize resources through innovative financing mechanisms. Deeper engagement with the private sector, academia, research institutions, and development partners will also be essential in turning potential into concrete outcomes that benefit all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Viet Nam remains firmly committed to sustainable development and are doing our utmost to ensure more inclusive, resilient, and transformative development outcomes. As we prepare for a new stage of development, we have placed our highest priorities on: *First*, promoting science, technology, innovation, and digital transformation as critical drivers of progress. *Second*, enhancing human development by investing in education and lifelong learning, advancing gender equality and social inclusion. *Third*, fostering green growth to ensure environmental sustainability and strengthen our collective response to climate change.

In this regard, we look forward to ESCAP's leadership in fostering regional collaboration in two strategic areas:

First, further strengthening its advisory role and promoting regional cooperation in science, technology, and innovation. This will enable member states to harness technological advancements for sustainable development. We encourage the

development of new regional initiatives on emerging technology, including artificial intelligence and other frontier innovations.

Second, enhancing information sharing and delivering targeted technical support on emerging issues to ensure that all countries are well-equipped to respond effectively to global challenges.

Achieving sustainable development requires coordinated actions. By strengthening regional cooperation, leveraging innovation, and reaffirming our commitment to multilateralism, we can build a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Asia-Pacific region for our future generations.

Thank you./.